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# FREE PRESS A

WILMINGTON, IL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER



WILMINGTON NATIVE BRENT Van Duyne is the Pharmacist in Charge at the newly opened Wilmington Pharmacy. The pharmacy at 600 W. Baltimore St. in Wilmington offers a drive thru window, which Van Duyne said is helpful during the pandemic when folks might not

### Wilmington Pharmacy provides personal touch

BY MARNEY SIMON

In the midst of a pandemic, it isn't necessarily typical to see a new business come to

getting the doors open at the new Wilmington Pharmacy on West Baltimore Street is exactly what owner do this month, a few weeks ahead of schedule.

The business opened on Dec. 7, a full service retail pharmacy with drive-thru service and free delivery avail-

"I always wanted to run my own pharmacy. I've been and the opportunity came up over the last year to be able to do this," Van Duyne said. "My grandfather used to have a pharmacy in town, Hunt's, so I always wanted to have my store here, too."

SEE PAHRMACY, PAGE 2



WILMINGTON PHARMACY opened on Dec. 7. The new pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The business is closed on Sunday.

### Park district finalizes name change

BY MARNEY SIMON

Wilmington's park district taxing body has spent much of this past year discussing plans to officially change the district's name.

This month, that name change became official.

Γ̈́he district's legal name is now Wilmington Park District. It was the final step in a plan that has been ongoing to rename the district in an effort to simplify the name that has at times been confusing for residents.

'We had already voted on this, we just needed it in a written ordinance so that it can go into the board minutes as well as anything that we need to pursue with the state, the county, they want to see actual ordinance approved," park district executive director Renee Chavez explained to the board during a meeting held on Dec. 9.

The board approved resolution to change the name back in June, but had put the official name change on hold

until grant cycles were com-

Although the park district was officially dubbed Island Park District, the name has been inconsistent over the years, including on official documentation.

Inside various documents, the district was labeled District and Island Park Wilmington District. The sign on the district's Water Street Fitness building reads Wilmington Island Park District.

Discussions on the formal name change for the district vere first brought up in April.

At that time, Chavez told the board that the name change was "kind of" brought up during strategic plan discussions — the district's legal name versus what residents

Chavez noted at that time that many people didn't realize that Wilmington was not part of the district's legal name. She also noted that the use of the word "island" did

SEE PARK, PAGE 2

### Wilmington 209-U approves tax levy

BY MARNEY SIMON

Wilmington School District 209-U has approved its property tax levy increase for the upcoming year.

The district held a public hearing regarding the levy on Dec. 14, before voting to approve the levy at the regular monthly meeting of the board of education.

property extended or abated for 2019 were \$8,178,256.29. The proposed corporate and for 2020 \$10,223,166.00. This represents a 25% increase over the previous year.

The property taxes "When we advertise in the extended for debt service and paper... a 25% increase in our public building commission

\$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.

extended or abated for 2019 were \$10,624,734.67. The estimated total property taxes to he levied for \$12,671,566.00. This represents a 19.26% increase over the previous year.

Superintendent Dr. Matt ck reminded the public purpose property taxes to be that while the levy looks like a significant increase, what the district is asking for and what they will receive are not the same things.

'When we advertise in the

**SEE 209U, PAGE 2** 

### Outbreaks continue at long term care facilities as COVID vaccines arrive

BY MARNEY SIMON **FDITOR** 

Vaccines approved for the novel coronavirus have been distributed throughout Illinois, with more set to come as the new year arrives.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were granted emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration for individuals aged 18 and older.

But while these vaccines are now being distributed, outbreaks of COVID-19 continue.

Outbreaks at long term care facilities have continued

Department of Public Health (IDPH), the 101-bed Aperion Care in Wilmington has 95 active cases as of Dec. 18, the from the department. Eleven identified at the facility since rates. the start of the pandemic are no longer active.

No deaths have been reported at the Wilmington than 4,000 doses of Pfizer's facility. The Wilmington site is currently closed to any visita-

Aperion operates 37 long term care facilities in Illinois beginning of the end of this and Indiana. According to a pandemic," County Executive statement from the adminis-

According to the Illinois tration Aperion, each of its of last week's delivery of the facilities are routinely testing staff as directed by state and local health departments and as directed by the Centers for most recent data available Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) based on the facility's additional cases that were status and county positivity

> Will County began vaccinations of healthcare workers over the past week, after more COVID-19 vaccine were delivered to the county.

Today is a great day in Will County as we witness the Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant said

first vaccines. The State of Illinois is following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control

(CDC) which is breaking up the vaccination process into four phases, focusing on "critical populations" first.

was shared among several healthcare sites, designated first for persons in healthcare settings who may have direct or indirect patient exposure.

The first shots were administered to healthcare workers at Amita St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet on Dec. 16.

the vaccine will be available in the coming weeks for residents of long-term care facilities and essential frontline workers, including first responders, grocery store workers, funeral directors, day care workers.

Will County health offi-The county's allocation cials said that while the vaccine is now being rolled out, residents are still urged to follow guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, especially during the holiday seasons when crowds and gatherings are increased.

This has been a long road for all of us, and now we enter into the next stage of our

Additional deliveries of fight against COVID-19," said Sue Olenek, executive director of the county health department. "It is great to have the vaccine out and being distributed, but it will take a long time before the general public is vaccinated. That means we must continue to wear our masks properly, be aware of social distancing, and avoid large groups and gatherings,

SEE COVID, PAGE 2





### Pharmacy

Van Duyne said becoming a pharmacist was a lot like going into the family business. A 2001 graduate of Wilmington High School, he attended the pharmacy program at Midwestern University, graduating in 2007. He lives in Wilmington with his wife Carrie and their two boys, Zander, 10, and Chance, 9. Van Duyne said his new

business is a chance to add a personal touch to pharmacy services.

"To be an independent pharmacy, you can focus more on the patients on a personal level, as opposed to what you're forced to do at the chain stores," Van Duyne said. "Having the drive-thru is going to be more convenient for people, especially with covid going on, no one wants to get out of their cars and come and be around people, so with the drive-thru they can just swing by and get their stuff and go.

Van Duyne said the opening was actually a few weeks ahead of their Jan. 1 target date. As a lifelong resident of Wilmington, he said he's already comfortable serving the community that he knows.

"I'm at the grocery store and people are asking me about their prescriptions," he said. "It's a nice thing for people to be comfortable to do And, the opportunity to

open his own business where he lives gives him the chance to pursue his dream while keeping those small town val-"There aren't many inde-

pendent pharmacies, they're all dying off," he said. "You don't drive through many towns and see one. One thing you really don't get anymore, we really know the patients and really know them as people and not just numbers. Chances are, if people come in we know them and their kids, we know their family."

In addition to his own shifts, Van Duyne employs two workers currently at the phar-

Wilmington Pharmacy is located at 600 W. Baltimore St. in Wilmington. The pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The business is closed on Sunday. The pharmacy can be reached at 815-926-1770.

Wilmington Pharmacy accepts all insurance, even Blue Cross Blue Shield.

"We're happy to have people come by and check the place out," Van Duyne said.

> Symerton approves regulating noise control

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** Notice of the Village of Symerton,

Will County, Illinois
Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/1-2-6: ORDINANCE 2020-3. AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF SYMER-TON, REGULATING NOISE CONTROL ,was approved and passed by the Village Board of Trustees on December 14, 2020

A copy of the ordinance can be viewed by contacting the office of the Village Clerk, Village Hall, 18385 W. Commercial Street, Symerton, Illinois during regular working hours at (815) 476-

Dated this 14th day of December, 2020.

Eli Geiss, Mayor Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020.

> Attorney Fisher files Wallace estate notice

#### PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of Doris A Wallace, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 829. **CLAIM NOTICE** 

Notice is given of the death of Doris A. Wallace of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 4, 2020 to Joseph J. Wallace, Jr., Patricia A. Richards, Timothy J. Wallace and Terrence J. Wallace as Independent Co-The estate will be administered with-

out court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before June 9, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10

days after it has been filed.

Dated: December 9, 2020.

Joseph J. Wallace, Jr., Patricia A.
Richards, Timothy J. Wallace and
Terrence J. Wallace, Independent Co-

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Fisher Berardi Law Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 47607635

Email: ieff@fisherberardilaw.com Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 16 and

23, 2020.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS — Brent Van Duyne, Pharmacist in Charge at Wilmington Pharmacy, takes a brief pause from his busy day at the newly opened store to take off his mask for a photo. The pharmacy at 600 W. Baltimore St. opened earlier this month.



Wilmington Pharmacy is located at 600 W. Baltimore St. in Wilmington. The pharmacy is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The business is closed on Sunday. The pharmacy can be reached at 815-926-1770.

### Camper can stay put on local property

BY MARNEY SIMON

Wilmington's ordinance and licensing committee has opted to let at least one area resident store their recreational vehicle where it can still be seen from the street, outside of the guidance of the city's ordinances on recreation vehicles.

The issue came to the committee on Dec. 8.

Residents Tracey and Jack Brownlee had petitioned the city to allow a variance for their camper, which they store on their home at Kankakee Street and Roland Avenue.

The city's code on recreational vehicles states that they must be kept in the rear vard, or fully enclosed by a building, structure, or privacy

But, the family said they've kept their RV on their side lot for more than two decades without issue, until they were given a citation in October of this year.

The Brownlees asked for consideration since their corner lot is different than other lots in town, and moving the vehicle to the rear of the lot is not plausible.

Members of the committee agreed that the RV does not hinder any passage of vehicles or cover any sidewalk passage.

Attorney Fisher files

Mayor Roy Strong spoke in favor of granting the variance, adding that he thinks that someone may have complained to the Wilmington code enforcement officer in a case of sour grapes.

This is a unique case, it's on a corner," Strong said. "It's way behind the house... I think what happened here, I could be wrong, but somebody got a ticket and they went around town and they took pictures of all the campers everywhere, and that's where this came

Strong also said he expected the citation issued in October to ultimately be thrown out.

members Committee approved the variance, but only after discussing whether such an approval would create a precedent.

But, members noted, the variance application allowed to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"If somebody wants a variance then they can come in and see us and we can look at each case separately, like it should," Strong said.

The city's code allows for a variance to be granted upon written request to the mayor and the committee. The variance applies only to the RV currently on the property, and is not transferable.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of Donnie B. Hutson, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 614. CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Donnie B. Hutson of Joliet, Illinois. Letters

of Office were issued on December 15,

2020 to Christopher Alan Hutson as Independent Executor.

out court supervision, unless under Section

28-4 of the Probate Act any interested per-

son terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a peti-

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court

at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6

months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before June 23,

2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice

from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of

1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any

claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the

Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the

representative and to the attorney within 10

Dated: December 23, 2020. Christopher Alan

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water

Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635. Email: jeff@fisherberardilaw.com Published in the Free Press

Advocate on Dec. 23 and 30, 2020 and Jan. 6, 2021.

Hutson,

days after it has been filed.

Independent Executor

tion to terminate to the clerk

The estate will be administered with-

Gladitsch estate notice Attorney Fisher files Hutson estate notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Michelle Denice Gladitsch, Deceased. Case No. 20

**CLAIM NOTICE** 

Notice is given of the death of Michelle Denice Gladitsch of Eagan, Minnesota and Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 15. 2020 to John S. Busca as Independent Administrator. The estate will be administered with-

out court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before June 23, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: December 15, 2020. John S. Busca, Independent Administrator

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635. Email: jeff@fisherberardilaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate Newspaper on December 23 & 30, 2020 and January 6, 2021.

### **Park**

not automatically make people think of Wilmington. Commissioners noted

that the name change also makes the district's name now more uniform with other districts in the area which are often simply named for the cities they predominantly serve, such as the Braidwood Park District and the Godley Park District.

Also during the Dec. 9 meeting of the park board of commissioners, the board approved the meeting list for The meeting dates are Jan.

28, Feb. 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, and Dec. 23, 2021.

Meetings are held at the Water Street Fitness Center beginning at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

> McCullum petitions for name change

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF WILL, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

WELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF
Glenda R. McCullum to Glenda Rae
Wright-McCullum. Case No. 2020MR
002690.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ersigned on behalf of herself, Glenda R. McCullum, adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 57 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom #A236 at 9:00 a.m. on the 8th day of February, 2021 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Glenda R. McCullum be changed to Glenda Rae Wright-McCullum.

Glenda R. McCullum Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, December 16, 23, and 30, 2020.

### Covid

especially during the coming Christmas and New Year's holidays. As we move through the various phases of the vaccination process we ask for the public to educate themselves and be patient.'

As of Tuesday afternoon, the test positivity seven-day rolling average in Region 7, which includes Will and Kankakee counties, is 11.7% That rate in Will County alone is 13.2%. The IDPH reported on

Tuesday 6,239 new cases of COVID-19 in Illinois, and 166 additional deaths,  $including \, four \, people \, in \, Will \,$ In the 60481 zip code, which includes Wilmington,

Symerton, Shadow Lakes, and surrounding communities, the total number of positive cases reported since the start of the pandemic is 886. The total number of

active cases inside the city limit of Wilmington as of Tuesday is 87, according to the Wilmington Police Department.

In the 60408 zip code, Braidwood, the total number of cases since the start of the pandemic is 408.

As of Tuesday, IDPH is reporting a total of 911,308 cases statewide, including 15,414 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois. The age of

cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100

As of Monday, 4,571 in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 981 patients were in the ICU and 557 patients with COVID-19

were on ventilators. The preliminary sevenday statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total

test from Dec.15 - Dec. 21 is Tier 3 resurgence miti-

gations remain in place throughout Illinois. 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 dis-

tancing remain mandatory in all public spaces.

Vaccine information can be found on the health department website at willcountyhealth.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine, and the website www.dph.illinois.gov/covid 19/vaccination-plan.

### 209U

levy, by law we have to do that. But we know in the end the most we're going to receive is 5% or CPI," Swick said. "That's what you're really receiving... 25% is not feasible, we know that, they know that, but it's part of the process.' The CPI — Consumer

Price Index — is an index published by the federal government as a measure of annual inflationary impact on a dis-

The CPI factor used for computing the amount of property taxes and related revenue for the district is the rate fixed at the beginning of the Due to tax cap legislation,

the CPI percentage increase

cannot exceed 5% in any year. A truth in taxation hearing is required when a district levies more than 5% over the previous year's extension.

District officials said the 25% increase is the average levy for District 209-U over the past several years, in order to capture all the revenue the district is due. state statute the approved levies must be filed

with the county clerk on or before the last Tuesday in

### Merry Christmas



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher Marney Simon, editor

# Winter In Wilmington in the 1880's

As the days get shorter and the air gets colder we prepare by getting the putting up the storm windows, adding antifreeze to the radiator, and getting out the coats and mittens. It also means

that we get out the winter toys, such as

snowmobiles and skis. In the could be as cold as the temper-1880's there was a different set of chores and a different set of

Heat in homes was provided two ways, fireplaces and stoves. The most common source of heat was stoves, large ones in the kitchen designed for cooking purposes, and small ones located in the parlor designed only for heating. These small stoves were

only used in the winter. When spring came they were dismantled and stored away. So the first chore of winter was to bring this cast iron monster into the house and put together the stovepipes that vented the smoke from the room.

Storm windows did not exist. Instead heavy, floor length drapes made of velvets and heavy brocades were put up to insulate the room from the cold. But in the bedroom at night, the windows were cracked open during all seasons for health reasons.

Winter clothing was very different from out typical winter gear. If you look at your closet and eliminate everything with nylon, polyester, special thermal linings, zippers, and waterproof materials and coating you would have an empty closet. The fabric of choice in the winter was wool. It was produced locally and

For men woolen underwear was a necessity as well as wool suits, overcoats, scarves, gloves, sweaters, socks, and vests. Women also wore wool and on Tuesday, January 9th,



Sandy Vasko

coats, and dress-Those who could afford it wear for its super insulating power.

clothes were worn inside the home as well as outside. Even with stoves other rooms

ature outside.

Bed warmers such as stones were heated on the kitchen stove and wrapped in towels to be put at the foot of the bed to keep that end warm. Heavy woolen nightclothes were worn, as were nightcaps to keep the other end warm.

Winter toys were confined to ice skates and sleds, or for adults, horse drawn sleighs. I'm sure that in Europe skiing was popular, but in our flat prairie environment with its numerous sloughs and bogs, cross-country skiing could be quite dangerous.

Now we will look at one particularly cold winter, that of 1882 and 1883. Some thought that the planets brought it On Wednesday, December 6th Wilmington citizens watched through smoked glasses as the planet Venus passed before the sun. Almost immediately the temperature started to drop and snow began to fall. By Thursday morning the thermometer registered 12 degrees

Editor Conley wrote in the Wilmington Advocate "If the transit of Venus is responsible for the blizzard it is consoling to know that her transits are few and far between.

We have always had a considerable amount of respect for Venus, but such pranks as Wednesday is altogether too much fun for a shilling.

The weather did not let up,

underwear, petti- 1883 the mercury dipped to 32 degrees below. Several cases of frostbite were recorded. The same week it was announced in the paper, "The ice packers were ready to begin cutting. Messrs. Cushing and Allen have a large force at work as also has Mr. Courval. The ice is said to be about 14 inches thick and of excellent quality."

For twenty more days, the temperature remained below zero. By January 26th, Mr. Courval reported that the ice in the river was 19 inches thick.

In the Advocate we read "There was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth on Sunday morning, when it was discovered that nearly half of all the house plants in town were killed by the cold night preceding.

Sleighing that year was wonderful. Every issue of the paper tells of Sunday afternoons spent sleighing up and down Water Street. This was mainly an adult pastime, but during the first week of February the school children were in for a treat.

We read in the Advocate, "Fourteen large sleighs, with prancing coursers to match were furnished on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of giving the school children a ride. Several of the sleighs changed their loads during the afternoon, so that nearly all enjoyed the treat.

The grand procession moved down Water Street while cheerful song enlivened the air. It was enough to do one good to see the ruddy cheeks of the little ones who enjoyed themselves to the brim. The parties who donated the rigs are deserving of the thanks of all.

Lastly Editor Conley wrote that he longed for the "good old days" when "the big double box-on bobsleds, half filled with clean hay and buffalo robes, and seasoned with about fifteen pretty pouting girls sandwiched between as many of the 'fellas" would



IN THE 1880'S, winters in Wilmington required a lot of ice cutters. Here is a photo of cutting ice in downtown Wilmington on the mill race.



A PHOTO OF a winter toy, the cutter, used by single individuals and were very fast.

make an evening of it, stopping by some hospitable home where "a case of oysters would find its way to the kitchen, and some fiddle box would start to

Well, gentle readers, we are about to have the most unusual Christmas we have ever experienced. Hugs and kisses, rooms full of happy people, shaking hands with

friends and acquaintances are all a bad idea. But none the less, I hope that you can find joy this year and I still wish you all a happy holiday season.

### Hey WHS: What's your favorite thing about Christmas?



**EVELYN SHEPHERD** Not being in school



APRYL PROFFITT Being together with my family



**DESTINY DODGE Everything feels so happy** 



**GLENN BOYNTON** The food



MS. CAREY Spending time with family



**LISA HOLMES** Sharing, caring, and beautiful lights

### Wilmington chamber discounts memberships through Dec. 31

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is county and state government and more. offering a \$25 discount off memberships before

The incentive lowers the cost of membership to \$100 for the year 2021 as long as payment is postmarked by Dec. 31.

The Wilmington Chamber currently includes over 90 businesses who benefit from the Chamber gift certificate program, business networking, promoting Wilmington with its web page and social media, the representative voice for small business when it comes to local, Among the accomplishments for 2020 the

Chamber started a Hometown Heroes program - had 28 banners installed through town; started a tourism & beautification program; raised funds for the Christian Help Association; launched a campaign to bring benches and flower pots to the downtown district and more.

For more information and to complete a chamber application to join visit www.wilmingtonilchamber.org or call 815-476-5991.

## We've tripled our giving!

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### If you received a vaccination for

- Influenza
- Shingles
- Pneumonia between Sept. 1 and

Dec. 31, 2020

Bring your vaccine receipt from any source, your doctor's office or pharmacy, before Jan. 4 to the Oak Knoll office at 205 South Water Street in Wilmington. (Masks required).

Oak Knoll Insurance Strategies will then donate \$5 to each of these organizations...Our Caring Closet, Kuzma Cottage, and Christian Help Association...per vaccination. That's \$15 per shot.

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### Stephen Francis

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Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

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

To voice your opinion, please go to

Merry Christmas

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

### Because he does

COAL CITY—This is in response to last week's caller about the Pritzker sucks signs. Should have told your kid plain and simple, we have a governor who has forced one in three businesses to close due to his statewide shutdown. Should have told your kid that in May Gov. Pritzker passed a budget \$5 billion out of balance, banking of a bailout by the federal government and the passage of his "fair tax" constitutional amendment of which the voters soundly rejected. Instead of manning up like a good leader would, he blames the Republicans saying he's forced to raise taxes. Pritzker should have said because the trifecta Democrats, with super majorities in the Illinois House, Senate and governor's office, have promised too good of pensions for union workers, judges and college professors. Just look at Coal City's budget where 23 percent of the yearly levy will go to pay pensions. That's what the Democrats want, big pensions, so unions help them get reelected. It's the voters who decided that Pritzker, Madigan and those in Springfield can't be trusted, not the Republicans. You should have told your kid that Pritzker defrauded the public \$320,000 by taking the toilets out of his second mansion. Sure, after he got caught avoiding the property taxes, he paid them because he was running for office. Pritzker is one of the richest guys in the state who bought his election into office. And now, when we really need good leadership, all we have is a guy who's sucking the life right our of Illinoisans.

#### Wear a mask!

WILMINGTON—It is becoming increasingly concerning to me that people are still not wearing a mask when coming out into public spaces. I have the right to go grocery shopping with my mask on and feel safe. You do not have the right to come in without one and knowingy spread a deadly virus to all in the stores. I think it's reckless and disgusting! I don't feel safe shopping in town. I don't want you near me without a mask on. This is hurting the local businesses and the mayor needs to step up to the plate and protect our town. So does the police department. There has been a real failure in this town to protect the citizens and store employees. Perhaps, someone needs to be fired for failing to protect the community. Also, I find it disgusting that there is a business in town selling alcohol and gas with the owner and his employees never wearing masks. I hope you get fined and your license suspended. Most of their patrons aren't wearing them either. I have no mercy if you catch this horrible virus. The sad part is that you're spreading it throughout the community. I'm really disappointed in the amount of people in this town who apparently failed science class. Yes, you look really dumb without a mask on. Stay home and out of public spaces if you're too dumb to simply wear a mask to protect others.

### So many on the list

COAL CITY—Read in AARP Nov. 2020, 92,000 Americans were on waiting lists for a kidney transplant. About one in three Medicare patients are dealing with end stage renal disease and are receiving dialysis. Medicare has new rules come January 2021, they will have a choice of their dialysis treatment at home. Medicare will increase the amount it pays providers of home kidney treatment to encourage the change. The move is expected to save the program \$24 million over five years according to Medicare officials. We're shocked to learn of the high numbers on dialysis. Modern medical treatments extends life for sure.

Vicious gang members

WILMINGTON—According to the Justice
Department, three quarters of MS-13 gang members indicted by federal authorities in the last four years have been living in our country illegally. The report claimed at least 749 MS-13 defendants have been prosecuted with 500 sentenced to prison and 37 given a life sentence. Many other defendants are awaiting trial including two whom the department is seeking the death penalty. Thanks President Trump for drawing attention to vicious behavior of MS-13 gang members.

### Best eating

Accepted

SHADOW LAKES—This is a compliment to Nelly's in Wilmington, I guess you could call it a fast food restaurant. They definitely have the best fast food of any surrounding community and including Joliet. I have to say the help is very nice, polite. The food is cooked the way you want it. You can have things added to your burgers, not everything but most things lettuce, tomato, onion for no extra charge and cheese of which Burger King charges you an extra dollar to have cheese on it. I think they have some of the best food around. The problem is I'm gaining weight because I'm eating there so often. Thank you. My name is Dan Hill.

### Wait until the end

WILMINGTON—With the coronavirus being distributed in Illinois, Wilmington should not have to request too many doses. With nearly 800 positive cases in Wilmington since this pandemic began, it will be easy to decide who gets the vaccine first. The self-centered no-mask wearers will not qualify for the vaccine since they ignore and thumb their noses at the Phase 3 mitigations. There should then be plenty of vaccines for the people who follow the rules and respect the health of others! From a mask-wearing senior citizen.

### Presidential pardons

WILMINGTON—Even after our President Trump leaves office in January for him and his loved ones, the news media will never end with vicious attacks on everything about him. Recently he pardoned former National Security Advisor General Michael Flynn and it's gone on and on. Yet President Obama holds the record by pardoning 2,000 convicted criminals including 330 during his final few days. President Clinton pardons are also questionable. President Carter pardoned and gave amnesty to more than 200,000 men who "dodged" the draft during the Vietnam War. God bless those men that served. Washington D.C. is full of "nasty" politics.

### Better transparency

REED TOWNSHIP—Transparency important. Last week there was a Sound-off that attempted to "call out" candidates for township office based on their attendance at meetings and then went on to state that the way municipal government and township government operate is "completely different." I couldn't agree more; the way Braidwood's City Council operates and Reed Township's current elected officials operate couldn't be more different. Braidwood's City Council has every single agenda posted online for the public to see prior to every meeting, the minutes are readily available, the meeting dates/times are posted, and I have gone so far as to Live Stream every single meeting since August for everyone to see. Regardless of your individual circumstances or availability, you are still able to stay up-to-date with what's happening in munici-pal government. Reed Township is the exact opposite. You won't find any agenda, minutes, budget, or even meeting times/dates posted anywhere online. There's no website or social media page to try to keep people up-to-date with what's happening in their township government. How can you expect anyone to show up to meetings if you don't tell them when they are? I doubt that many people even know who runs their township or what the township does; they don't post anything for you to be able to know what they do. Last week's Sound-off proves that those running Reed Township (all of which are members of the Democratic Party and most of them have never been challenged in races) are afraid of the noise that's going to be made in the next few months; they couldn't even be transparent and honest enough to sign their name to what they said in last week's Sound-off. People have the right to know what their elected officials are doing. Transparency is important...and that's exactly what our Republican candidates, including myself, are going to give the people of Reed Township. In response to our "mystery writer" in last week's Sound-off, you are correct. The two government bodies do operate very differently and it's time to make Reed Township government as, if not more, transparent and honest as our

John Guistat, Reed Township Republican Chairman and candidate for Reed Township

### Not surprised

SHADOW LAKES— Early Christmas gift to the citizens of Illinois, from the Democrat party. Quote from the Braidwood Journal, Democrats vote to end the investigation of Madigan." Did you really expect anything less? It has all been a show, headed by our beloved governor. Our Christmas present to them must be, just keep voting these people back in the office. We know the Democrat party is the people of the people, and they are there to help you. Always, Margot Lane.

### A big sell out

WILMINGTON—Let's take a look at the USA Today. Maybe people will see how much damage has been done to the American citizens with all the corruption throughout the country. First you look at our borders where people came into the USA illegally. Then our borders were closed, that helped the American citizens. Next the borders will be open again by Joe Biden. Amnesty will be given to people here illegally, by Joe Biden. We cannot forget about the Biden family deals with communist China. Just recently there were a lot of problems with

the presidential election and even with a lot of documented evidence that proved numerous crimes in the election process. The judicial system will not look at any of the evidence but decided to keep Joe Biden as the new president. So it looks like Republicans and Democrats will suffer since the judicial system is just as crooked as the politicians that cater to communist China. Sold out by the Democrat party. What happened to the laws of the USA for the American citizen?

#### Destroying America WILMINGTON—The

Revolution began because the people in this land got tired of a dictator imposing outlandish rules upon them. So some men got together and decided to revolt against the way they were being treated which brought about the sovereign laws of the USA and the separation from all dictatorship policies. Now there is a political party that is more then willing to destroy the freedom that American citizens have lost their lives willing to protect our country. Patriotic American citizens have risen through time and will rise again to help defend the USA and the American citizen from any barbaric treatment. Now the same political party in this country is more than willing to turn over the USA to a communist country with disregard for the laws of our country. A Democrat politician has warned the people of the Republican party to tread lightly or they will suffer the consequences, but all American citizens will suffer at the hands of the Democrat leadership.

### Done by semi trucks

WILMINGTON-Little wonder the sewer collapsed at Kankakee St. and Kankakee River Dr. with all the 18-wheelers driving back or to the US Cold Storage plant. They drive very slowly and usually at night, and now we have to pay for it. Maybe Cold Storage and their drivers can foot the bill.

### China loe

SHADOW LAKES—Reply to Irene D. Have you been living on another planet for the last four years? You brought up the subject of the President launching a coup. Let us go back to day one with our President. Let us go to the oval office, with President Obbumber, and his wonderful Vice President China Joe. Wasn't it China Joe who wanted to enforce the "Logan Act" to try and get rid of our President? I will not go into the next chapters of the coup from the left for the remainder of his presidency. I do not want to take up a page of white space. As you see, Irene it is now the right, who can tell you just how our elections have been fixed. What is that old saying, "what goes around comes

### **Works both ways**

WILMINGTON—Hey Trumpies, I'll care about the money Hunter got from China when you ask about the money Ivanka got.

### What to expect

ESSEX—Let's try to put politics aside for a few moments and discuss part of what the Democrat leadership has been and will be doing to the American citizens whether you are a Republican or Democrat. Riots are allowed, illegal aliens commit crimes against American citizens and are released from prison to commit more crimes. American citizens have become irrelevant to the Democratic leadership. Free speech has been censored. American citizens have been jailed for standing up for legal rights. Now we have a Democrat leader that seems to have been living out of the pocket of communist China and that has been elected by corrupt individuals who committed election fraud. They have documents that prove criminal activity of the election process that are irrelevant to the judicial system which seems to leave the American citizens without any legal rights.

### Hold them accountable

WILMINGTON—Anyone who unironically thinks the Democrats are going to implement communism is laughably ignorant. Man, I wish Democrats were as hard-core and Left-wing as pearl-clutching conservatives think they are; something might actually get better in this God-forsaken country if they were. It's a shame that Dems are just as gutless and enslaved to corporate interests as Republicans. A real slam dunk there, if I do say so myself. It's pretty great to live in a country where the two teams vying for control of the country are basically the same people. Nothing gets done, the middle class gets smaller, poverty continues to rise, and average people are at each other's throats over petty issues that have little effect on most

people's day-to-day. People want to get abortions? Fine, that doesn't affect me. People are transgender? Great, as long as they pay their taxes and let me know what to call them so things don't get awkward, that doesn't really affect me much either. Those issues matter, but we've got significantly bigger fish to fry. Might 1 suggest keeping all elected officials accountable? It's hypocritical to get mad at the other team's guy when he does shady things and turn
a blind eye when your guy has been doing shady things for a while too. No one looks good. Politicians are shady by nature. Hold them accountable. They work for us, not massive corporations. It's cruel for them to line their pockets while we get pittance. I'm frustrated because I care. We all, regardless of party affiliation, deserve a more honest and efficient government that works for us, the average Joe.

#### Never a communist

SHADOW LAKES—I just got done reading the sound-off section of the Braidwood Journal I find it interesting to see that even though president Biden's administration hasn't taken over yet there are people claiming that the Democrats are responsible for communist activities going on in the country. I can already see where things are going. Do you people who are making these statements even know the difference between a democracy and communism? Obviously not. The United States is a capitalist country. That means the economy is created by the private sector. In a communist country the economy is run by the government. The United States has a government that is elected by the people. In a communist country the same people can run the government and the country forever. In this country we have a constitution that protects the people's rights and liberties. We have three branches of government that keep checks and balances on each other. A perfect example of the working democracy in this country is what just happened with Trump trying to be a dictator who thought that his appointed Supreme Court judges were going to give him the presidency. Don't forget that the Vietnam War was a war against communism regardless of what anybody says. The United States would never ever

### be communist.

Picking the best
SHADOW LAKES—According to our constitution our government is supposed to be made up from the people they represent, but the Trump administration is made up of older white men. This country is not made up of older white men. President Biden is starting to put his administration together and now we will have a White House administration that reflects what the people of this country really

#### look like. Elections ends all

SHADOW LAKES— Anyone else notice the BLM rioting ended right after the election like they were told? Anyone else notice after the election we find out Biden's son and brother are Eddie

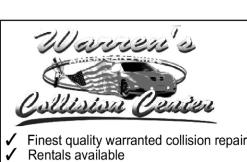
#### under investigation? I noticed. Socialism for the rich

CUSTER PARK—It's true that right-wingers hate socialism like the black plague. Why do they think hard-working Americans deserve no financial safety net? The following are chilling statistics about living conditions for ordinary citizens: Most American workers who lose their jobs aren't eligible for unemployment insurance; 20% of American children live in poverty; 10% of Americans have no health insurance; 50 million American households can't afford child care, transportation, food and housing. In contrast our government has been subsidizing the oil industry for decades and rescued the big banks by hundreds of billions after the housing crisis. Mega-businesses like Amazon pay no taxes since the Trump tax cut and corporate farmers recently got exorbitant checks in the mail. How and why? Socialism for the rich. Republicans believe that the rich deserve bailouts but the poor do not. My response to that viewpoint is "throw the bums out." That's what happened in this election and it's a good thing for the people.

Gloria W.

SEE SOUND-OFF CONTINUED ON PAGE 5





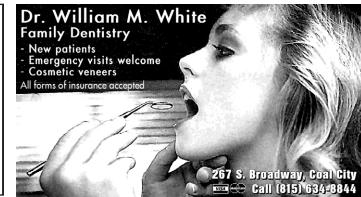
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Bridge Street.

#### gift? Do your shopping in Wilmington, support the local businesses and you can make a donation to the Christian Help Association.

Over 30 merchants in the Wilmington area are displaying collection boxes with photos of cute little elves. The money collected in these boxes will be donated to the Christian Help Association to help offset the expenses of providing Christmas gifts, foods and toiletries to approximately 250 local families.

As you check out, look for a bright painted box with a photo of a cute elf or two. Deposit your change, or a few dollars or even a check. Boxes will be displayed until January

The three "elves" that receive the most donations win a Chamber of Commerce certificate. Monetary

for a vaccine for Covid 19. But yet the Democrats were against him, the medical com-

munity which is controlled by Democrats said

that oxychlorosene was dangerous but yet it

has been used for 55 years with no problems.

And that has now been used recently by the

medical community. Why did they wait so long?

And do you think that Biden would have gotten this done this fast? Or Clinton? No, I don't

because they prefer to keep the country locked down. I am for small business, because I was

small business and small business employs

more people throughout the nation than big

businesses. And why is it you can't go to church

in a lot of these Democrat controlled states but

you can go to Walmart and Target and all the

other big stores that are really nonessential.

That includes Menards. So tell me, where is the

logic? This statement is directed to Gary

Weidner and his wife, Gloria and what in the

world has Trump done wrong? Even your retire-

ment incomes have increased dramatically

until Covid 19 which Nancy Pelosi was in Wuhan China back in November 2019. Dan Hill

Kamala Harris and Cuomo of New York refuse

to take the vaccine because it came out under

President Trump. Is this political or are all you

WILMINGTON—I didn't vote for Hunter.

COAL CITY—If you are past middle age

you may remember hearing stories many years

ago about finding Japanese soldiers in remote

areas of the Pacific who still had their uniforms

and weapons and were not aware that World

War II had ended. These soldiers remind me of

the fanatical Trump supporters who still fly

their flags and keep signs in their yards despite

the fact that more than 81 million Americans

rejected the lies, corruption, incompetence

and divisive tactics of the Russian puppet who

inhabits the White House. So it's time to stop

drinking the koolaid and accept the reality that

your hero is going back to the golf course if he

munism incorrectly by equating it with author-

itarianism or with a single party dictatorship.

So let's define our terms according to the dic-

tionary. Communism: Any economic theory or

system based on the ownership of all property

by the community as a whole. Socialism: Any of

various theories or systems of ownership and

operation of the means of production and dis-

tribution by the society or the community rather than by private individuals with all members of society or the community sharing

in the work and the products. And to those who

don't know, a dictionary is a book filled with

definitions of words and their usage. So if there

are billionaires in Russia and China it would

mean everyone is a billionaire and we know

that's not true. Ergo, these countries are not

communist but like capitalism, most of the

wealth is accrued by the elite who don't really

Penny Lane

Last week five callers used the word com-

Communism defined

GARDNER-I don't understand why

Just plain stupid

Democrats really stupid? **Hunter who?** 

A reality check

avoids prison.

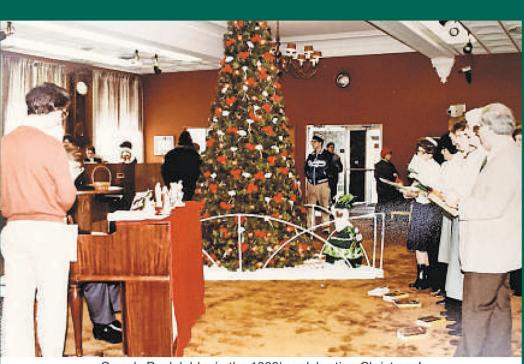
### Drop your change into an elf box while shopping local Still need a last minute donations can also be mailed struggled this year. Any size darkness; help bring a bright

to CHA at 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

donation will help make a difference. In a world that has So many families have had so much sadness and

smile to someone.

Cyndi Ragain CHA volunteer



Grundy Bank lobby in the 1980's celebrating Christmas!

# Merry Christmas from Grundy Bank

This has been a trying year for everyone...but we're not going to let the Covid-19 stop our officers, directors and employees from wishing you a very Merry

It will be a different Christmas Season for all of us. We hope you're able to enjoy this special time of year with your loved ones and good friends.

Our wish for the New Year is for life to return to normal for all of us worldwide, with renewed hope for good health and much happiness.

Wilmington and the surrounding communities of Grundy



Kevin Olson President & CEO

Christmas.

Our banks and drive-up facilities will close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, closing on Christmas Day and New Year's Day so our employees and enjoy this special time of year.

It has been our pleasure to serve you in Morris, and Will counties. We Thank You for choosing Grundy Bank for your banking needs and we look forward to a healthier and more productive year in 2021.

# Member



• 201 Liberty St. Morris 444 Bedford Rd. Morris
 120 S. Main St. Wilmington www.grundybank.com • 815-942-0130

facebook.

### Sound-off, continued from page 4

What's it costing?

BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood city officials need to come clean with how much money and time is being spent on fulfilling FOIA requests each month. A monthly report breaking down who submitted what would definitely be beneficial. That way we know just how much money some of these FOIA cheerleaders are costing us.

### Getting away with it

DIAMOND-To Sasha M. I am an independent and do not disagree with what you are saying and I am not a Trump supporter but it goes both ways. The Democratic controlled cities who allow their cities to be burned down and allow looters to destroy people's livelihoods when their businesses are destroyed is not a nice thing either. When Trump was elected in 2016 cities burned and stores were looted. do have to ask why this is not happening now that Biden is elected? I'm not against Biden but why does that side get away with destroying people's livelihoods?

John Chiqua

### Election integrity matters

BRAIDWOOD—I Pennsylvania and the Wisconsin hearings. I listened to dozens of eye witnesses tell what they saw take place during ballot counting. Hundreds more signed affidavits under threat of perjury declaring irregularities they saw take place. In many states official poll watchers were ushered out of the rooms, even shoved out the doors. I saw those videos too. Windows were covered over so poll watchers could not even see into the room. Ballot counters cheered and applauded when the poll watchers were sent away. I heard the truck driver say he transported 280,000 ballots wrapped on pallets from New York to Pennsylvania. Later his trailer disappeared. I saw the video from Georgia showing ballot counters pulling rolling suitcases from under a long table draped in black after they had sent the poll watchers home for the night under the guise that they were all leaving. The ballots they removed from the suitcases were put through the machines over and over again. They sent the witnesses home but they forgot about the video running the whole time. In Wisconsin the state Supreme Court voted not to hear the evidence of fraud. Three of the judges declared it was a shame "the court could not be bothered to hear the case." Trump got 11 million more votes this time around than in 2016. Yes he won in a landslide and yes we will keep on fighting to get out the truth. There's a new book coming out next month, "Stolen." We will tell our children and grandchildren the truth about this election. The truth will never die. Chief Justices Roberts and Breyer have been texting each other and saying "we will never let Trump be re-elected." That's why the SCOTUS would not hear any election fraud

#### cases. So much for putting aside personal opinion and partisan beliefs while on the bench. The Joe influence

SHADOW LAKES—Remember last year when the song "Baby It's Cold Outside" became a big deal for the Me too movement? It was banned on radio stations till Joe Biden was accused and the Me too movement ended. I do.

### Some kinda hero

CUSTER PARK—Margo Lane, you forgot to thank Donald Trump for not being honest about Covid-19 in January and every month thereafter. You forgot to thank him for encouraging people not to wear masks or social distancing while at rallies and parading in our streets with guns. You forgot to thank him for putting pressure on the CDC to skew numbers. And you forgot to thank him for the compassion he has shown for the 300,000 plus deaths in our country. Yes, a big thank you for your hero.

### Hanging in shame

I am a person born in the 1930s. I grew up loving our country and being proud of it and what it stood for. I am now embarrassed and ashamed by it. I'm not a die-hard Republican or Democrat, but who we now have as president representing our country is so humiliating. I want to hang my head in shame. Hopefully this new year will be better and kinder.

### Couldn't do

SHADOW LAKES-What president do you think would have done this much, this fast



### **Immediate & Convenient Care locations in:**

Channahon - Diamond-Coal City - Morris - Yorkville

Our Immediate and Convenient Care clinics are a perfect solution when you're not feeling well and your provider isn't available, or when you have a minor to moderate injury that doesn't require the advanced care of a hospital emergency department. With on-site laboratory and x-ray, we are here to help you start feeling better now. No appointment needed!

morrishospital.org/urgentcare



Expanded Walk-In Hours in Channahon, Morris & Diamond-Coal City! 8am-7pm Mon-Fri 8am-2pm Sat & Sun



Special measures are in place to keep you safe!



### Linda L. Bockman

MORRIS-Linda L. Bockman (nee 74, of Morris, passed away Tuesday,

Dec. 15, 2020, at Morris Hospital. She was born March 27, 1946, in Peoria, IL where she was raised and educated. In 1963, she married her lifelong partner, Richard and they built a home in Channahon where they lived for 30 years raising their two girls. They then built a home on 6 acres on a lake near Goose Lake where Linda loved the outdoors and entertaining and feeding friends and family when they would visit.

Linda loved to play cards and other games with her children and grandchildren, fishing for bluegills, and having the family over for large meals and gatherings. She also enjoyed antiquing and crafting. She will be terribly missed by her family and friends.

Linda is the beloved wife of 57 years to Richard Bockman; loving mother of Jackie (Jim) Jennings and Terri (Bill) Kelly; devoted grandmother of Jessica (Justin) Holman, Colton (Michelle) Kelly and Mackenzie Kelly; proud great-grandmother of twins, Feagan and Camden Holman and Dixon Kelly; dear sister of Richard (Lois) Schall, of Lakeland, FL; Judy (Lloyd) Frazier, of Magnolia; Shirley (George) Schafer Sr., of West Peoria: Ricky (Michelle) Stewart, of Morris and Peggy Hanson, of Odell and aunt to many nieces and nephews. Linda was preceded in death by her

parents, Edward Stewart and Virginia Lloyd, and siblings, Penny (Hubert) Sherman and David Stewart. Funeral arrangements for Linda are pend-

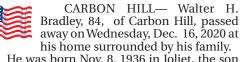
Memorials can be made in Linda's honor to the American Cancer Society.

For more information, visit her Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com where you can share a favorite memory or leave a condolence.

of arrangements.

Fred C. Dames Funeral Home is in charge

### ₋Walter H. Bradley\_



away on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born Nov. 8, 1936 in Joliet, the son of William and Mildred (nee McCowan) Bradley.

Walter graduated from Minooka High School and later served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corp. Walter married Linda Vee Decker on Nov. 1, 1958 at the New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City. He was a Machinist for Local # 124 and retired from Johns Manville. He was also a past board mem-

Walter is survived by his sons, Scott (Sally) Bradley, of Gillette, WY and Ross (Joann) Bradley, of Coal City; his five grandchildren: Bill (Teresa) Bradley, Kristin (Eric) Bauer, Tim Bradley, Evan (Stephanie) Bradley and Amy Bradley; great-grandchildren: Milana, Indira and Walter Bradley, Jack Bauer and Ember and

ber for the Carbon Hill Museum

Rowan Bradley. Also surviving are his sisters-inlaw, Mary Decker and JoAnn Decker.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Bradley; his sister, Elsie Nadler; his sisters-in-law, Louise Jensen and Joyce Sumner and his brothers-in-law; Boyd Decker, Kenneth Decker and John Jensen.

Memorial donations may be made in Walter's name to the Carbon Hill Museum, 875 N. Second St., Carbon Hill, IL 60416

At Walter's request, cremation rites will be

A graveside inurnment was held on Saturday, Dec.19, 2020 at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

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

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City were entrusted with arrangements.

### William V. Martin

MORRIS—William Martin, "Bill," 90, of Morris and formerly of Odell, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020 at Park Pointe Gardens in Morris.

Born July 7, 1930 in Pontiac, IL, William Vincent was the son of William Frederick and Ellen "Nellie" (Condon) Martin. He was raised in Odell and graduated from St. Paul's with the class of 1948. Following high school, Bill attended

Gallagher School of Business in Kankakee before entering into the United States Navv (1951-1955). Following his honorable discharge he went on to marry Patricia Ann Fraher on Nov. 26, 1955 in St. Paul Catholic Church in Odell, and together they made their home in Odell until relocating their family in the summer of 1972. Bill began his career with the United States Postal Service, where he served as Postmaster of Odell until 1971 when he took the postmaster position with Morris. He then served the Morris community for the following 19 years until his retirement in 1990.

Bill and Pat were dedicated members of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris; he was a member of Morris Country Club and the American Legion Post 294 in Morris. In addition, Bill belonged to the Lions Association.

One who was an avid sports fan, Bill took great pleasure in following the Chicago Bears, Notre Dame Football and the Chicago White Sox. Throughout the years he also enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing golf, and working in the yard with Pat. He was truly a 'Jack of all trades,' and could fix or repair anything. His number one hobby was his family, and Bill will be most remembered as a loving husband and devoted father, who was his grandkids biggest fan at their sporting and school events.

Survivors include his children: Michael (Ann) Martin, of Stamford, CT and Sheila (Thomas) Riccolo, Mary (Terrence) O'Connor and Bill (Meghan) Martin, all of Morris; seven

grandchildren: Caroline Riccolo, Peter Riccolo, Sean Martin, Brendan Martin,

Caitlin O'Connor (Ben Wollam), Eileen (Cameron) Berner and Erin O'Connor (Matt Wiehl), and numerous nieces and nephews. Bill was preceded in death by his

parents; son, Mark W. Martin; wife, Patricia Martin; sister, Ruth Mobus and granddaughter, Regina Martin. The family will receive friends for a

COVID observant and walk through visitation on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020 between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 E. Washington St., one block east of Illinois Route 47, in Morris. 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.

Funeral services will follow at 12 noon in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 600 E. Jackson St. in Morris. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Jason Stone presiding.

Those wishing to participate in Bill's funeral service online are welcome to join the livestreamed service beginning at 12 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. This virtual service is

Burial will be in St. Paul Catholic Cemetery in Odell, where Bill will be laid to rest with his late wife, Pat.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bill's memory to Immaculate Conception School or Immaculate Conception Church.

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

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

### Lester A. Leves

MARSEILLES— Lester Alan Leyes, 67, Marseilles, IL, formerly Wilmington, passed away Saturday, Dec.12, 2020 at his home. Born August 11, 1953 in Joliet, IL the son of Lester F. and Dorothy (nee Stehl) Leyes.

Lester married Kathy Paulsen on July 26, 2013 in Ottawa, IL.

Lester retired from Akzo Nobel in Channahon, IL, following 35 years of employment. He enjoyed riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Surviving are his wife, Kathy Leyes of Marseilles; daughter, Sandi (Tim) Stallard of Wilmington; step-son, Scott (Nikki) Boundy of Morris; step-daughters, Megan (Rob) Ragland of Gardner and Rachel Boundy of Morris; one

grandson, Rylan Stallard; three stepgrandchildren, Madison, Mackenzie, and Colton; and two sisters, Linda (Victor) Cuputi of St. Charles, IL. and Becky Burkett of Murphysboro, IL.

Lester was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers; and 3 sis-

Cremation rites will be accorded. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to

www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com Patterson Funeral Home and Crematory, 401 E. Main St. Bradwood, is in charge of arrange-

### Daniel Willis Sr.

TUSCOLA-Daniel Willis Sr., 72, of Tuscola, IL, formerly of Braidwood, passed away Monday, Dec. 14, 2020 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana,

Born May 29, 1948 in Braidwood, he was the son of Vern and Stella (nee Lasley) Willis. Dan worked as a laborer in construction for many years. He enjoyed watching old western movies,

especially John Wayne. Surviving are his close friend, Barb Wiborg; children, Alan Hopping, Janis Lee, Darin Hopping, Judy Broussard, Jody Patton, Aaron Willis and Patrick Willis; 28 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, siblings: Roy and Gary Willis and Betty Harden; numerous nieces

and nephews and too many friends to name.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife of 49 years, Beverly Jean (nee Leonard) Willis; children, Doug Hopping and Daniel Willis Jr. and his siblings: Maxine, Farena, Pete, Rudy, Les, R.A. and Coy. Cremation rites have been

accorded. Private services will be held at later date.

For more information and to visit online guestbook, log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com find them on Facebook.

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

### Jeanette Lewis\_

WILMINGTON-Jeanette Lewis, 88, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, Dec.

Born Oct. 23, 1932 in Wilmington Jeanette Rose was a daughter of Alfred and Olive (Hundley) Kuriger. She was raised in Wilmington and graduated from the Wilmington Public Schools with the class of 1950. Jeanette worked for many years at Braun Sales and went on to retire from the First National Bank in Wilmington.

Survivors include her two children, Kathleen Lewis, of Morris and Jack (Kristine) Lewis, of Wilmington; grandchildren: Tanya (Brian) Funk, of Morris and Jill VanDuyne, Brett Lewis, Kyle Lewis and Kaden Lewis, all of Wilmington; great-grandchildren: Mike Funk (fiancé-Olivia Aimone), Nina Funk, Brianna Funk, Hunter Funk, Jackson VanDuyne and Brady VanDuyne; great-great-grandsons: Hudson and Henry Funk, and one sister-in-law. Norma Kuriger, of Coal City, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Jeanette was preceded in death by her par-

ents, husband, Jack in 2001; sister, Betty

(Joseph) Peterson; brothers: William Kuriger, Alfred (Lorraine) Kuriger and twin brother, James (Cona) Kuriger; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Frank and Mary Catherine Lewis and three

Cremation rites have been accorded, and a private family inurnment will be held in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington, where Jeanette will be laid to rest with her late husband Preferred memorials may be made as

gifts in Jeanette's memory to the Alzheimer's Association or to a charity of the donors choos-Family and friends are encouraged to sign

the guest book, upload photographs and share Jeanette's memorial page online through social logging www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Jeanett e-Lewis

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

### \_James Helsing.

BRAIDWOOD—James Helsing, 16, of Braidwood, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020.

Born June 29, 2004 in Joliet, James Allen was a son of Jeremy Allen and Deborah Denene (Murphy) Helsing. He was a junior at Reed Custer High School where he excelled in wrestling and was a true class act of a sportsman who remained dedicated to his team mates. An 'old soul,' James was a true friend

to all who had the privilege to know him. Known for his big warm hugs, he never passed anyone who he loved without an embrace. He was considerate to all, and always respective of his elders. James had a contagious smile and was always surrounded by countless friends.

From an early age, James always proved himself to be selfless. He would give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. He was truly genuine in character and never wished to burden anyone. He wanted for nothing, but the simple things in life, and will be remembered for his constant khaki and hoody style.

In addition to being a true friend, James also had a fearless demeanor. He had a passion for the outdoors and truly enjoyed camping, fishing and rock climbing, as well as biking and running. A true survivalist, he cherished his time spent in Colorado, and though he could be labeled as a minimalist, James was one of the pickiest eaters who wouldn't touch a condiment unless it was ranch, and passed on spaghetti.

James served as a life guard at the Braidwood Recreation Club, and also took a position with the kitchen staff at High Point Golf Club in Essex. During this past year, he also took up playing the piano, and his musical skills and abilities soared. James could recite every line from "The Office" and possessed every quality of a great friend; a caring heart, respectful attitude and a little bit of wit.

James left behind a lasting footprint every day in someone's life. His hugs spoke volumes, and with his jovial personality and unending smiles, he brought great joy to those around him. James' kindness and spirit of giving will forever be in the hearts of all those who knew him. May you be reminded of this genuine soul within playful monkey, a soaring eagle or a force of nature. Never forgotten, always remembered. Survivors include his parents

Debbie

Helsing, of

Jeremy and

Braidwood; one brother, Murphy, of Coal City; one sister, Madison Helsing, of Braidwood; his grandparents: Gary Helsing, of Dwight; Kathleen Reynolds, of Fairbury; Pamela Alioto, of Arlington Heights and Mary Ann Oko, of Braidwood; great-grandmother, Rose Bonarigo, of Michigan and three uncles including Steve Murphy and Tony DePaulo who

was like an uncle to James. Not to forget, James leaves behind the countless friends too many to mention, as well as the Wrestling Family at Reed James was preceded in death by his papa and nana, Joseph and Wylo "Dee" Alioto and his

uncle. Mike Murphy. The family will begin to assemble Saturday morning, Dec. 26, 2020 at Reed Custer High

School at 12 noon for a procession and escor

which will depart at 12:45 p.m. to Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. First St. in Braidwood. There will then be a COVID observant visitation in the church from 1 p.m. until time of funeral service at 5 p.m. Pastor Jeff Whittum will officiate and cremation rites will be accorded following the services. Those wishing to participate in the services

virtually, are welcome to join the live streamed services beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday evening, Dec. 26, 2020. A link is available on his memorial page. In lieu of flowers, the family requests dona tions to support the services and memorialize

James. Contributions may be made directly through the appeal link on his memorial page. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share

James memorial page online through social logging www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/James Helsing

Funeral services and cremation arrange ments have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in

### Leand E. Myers



BRAIDWOOD-Eugene "Lee" Myers, 71, of Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020 at Morris Hospital. Born

March 26, 1949 in Littlefield, TX, he was the son of Arvle Leand and Colletta Pearl (nee Palmer) Myers. Lee married his high school

sweetheart, Bonnie Watkins on July 2, 1967 in Rover, MO. Veteran of the United States Army, serving in Vietnam from Jan. 1, 1970 to March 11, 1971. He was a police officer with Will County, Braidwood, and Wilmington. Lee also worked at Celotex, Personal Products, and Flint hills Chemical Plant. He retired in December 2009. Lee enjoyed camping, hunting, and fishing with all his grandchildren and good friend George Powers.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years Bonnie Myers; two daughters, Melody (Neil) Hayden of Braidwood and Michelle Myers-Shiner of Piper City, IL; six grandchildren, Nicolas (Natalie) Hayden of Joliet, Jacob (fiancé Jazmin Williams) Hayden of Braidwood, Lucas (fiancé Katy Koch) Hayden of Diamond, Joshua Hayden of Braidwood, Katarena (fiancé Erik Mugnolo) Shiner of Coal City, and Hannah (Kyle) Crickman of Salina, KS; one great grand-child, Logan Arroyo; and two more great grandchildren expected; three brothers, Douglas (Brenda) Myers of Rover, MO, Joey (Susie) Myers of Havana, AR and Arlie (Jackie) Brinkley of West Plains, MO; one sister, Kathy (Bobby) McClanahan of Alton, MO; and numerous nieces and nephews.

ents, sister, Wanda Wolfe; son, Darrin Myers; and granddaughter, Madison Hayden. Funeral services were held at the Island

Preceding him in death were his par-

City Baptist Church, Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. Pastor Jeff Logsdon officiated. Private interment with military honors will

be at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Island City Baptist Church or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For more information and to visit his

online guestbook, log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook. R.W. Patterson Funeral home and

Crematory in Braidwood was in charge of

### Linda K. Schultz

ESSEX-Linda K. Schultz (nee Monroe), 72, of Essex, passed away Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. She was born Feb. 27, 1948 in

Pontiac, IL to David and Dorothy Louise (nee Haag) Monroe. Linda graduated from Reddick High School with the class of 1966. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Goodfarm Twp. She retired from J.R.'s Crop Service in Reddick after working there

for over 30 years. Linda enjoyed flowers, and she especially enjoyed crafting and getting together with her friends.

Surviving are her husband of 36 years, Ronald Schultz, of Essex; one daughter, Ladena (Patrick) Appel, of Minnesota; three stepdaughters: Cari (Scott) Pierard, of Coal City; Michelle (Dan) Fennel, of Streamwood, IL and Vikki Morrical, of Indiana; nine grandchildren: Kameron Dohnansky, Abby Navikas, Zack Pierard, Reagan Morrical, Mike, John and Maddie Fennel; Rachel and Kellen Appel; two great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Eleanor Navickas; one brother, Gerry (Judy) Monroe, of Essex; one niece, Jenne (Wade) Kilman and one nephew, Ryan (Catie) Monroe.

Preceding her in death were her Visitation for Linda will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home and Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 from 11a.m.-1 p.m., with a funeral service commencing at 1 p.m. All attendees are required to wear face coverings, follow social distancing guidelines, and due to the capacity requirements, please be brief with

your condolences to allow other guests to pay their final respects. Interment will follow at North Cemetery in

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in

her name may be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, 515 E. Stonewall Rd., Dwight, 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

is in charge of arrangements.

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The rebirth of classic cocktails over the last decade has led a new generation to appreciate both the cocktails of yesteryear and the spirits that fuel these classics. Let's face it, whiskey as a category is probably bigger now than it has ever

whiskies are basking in the glow of craft cocktail boom, while other whiskies are being excluded. One such whiskey is literally the crown jewel of whiskies from our neighbors to the north, the legendary Crown Royal.

First a brief history lesson. Crown Royal is a specially blended product from the Seagram's line that was created in 1939 to commemorate King George VI and Queen Elizabeth's visit to Canada. This was the first time that a reigning monarch had visited Canada, and Seagram's blended over 50 whiskies for the high level of production?

and designed the now iconic bottle for the occasion.

Canadians may have forgotten the royal visit, but they remembered n. the whiskey. The Bourbon, scotch, and Irish new blend from Seagram's was an instant success. The Crown Royal blend

gained popularity finding its way to the US in the

Shortly after introduction became the top selling Canadian whiskey. Sales of Crown Royal were still growing as of 2019, a year in which nearly 7 million cases were sold in the United States alone.

What kind of resources does it take to turn out such a



**Brian Rung** 

with nearly 1 million gallons of water. The whiskey is then

barrels across 50 in Canada before eventually unique warehouses, each of which adds a little something different to the complex blend. Some warehouses may store to the US market, Crown barrels that have been charred, some allow more or less fluctuations in temperature, and so

This wide variety of variables used in the aging process gives the distillery nearly endless options when blending.

The end result is a highquality, approachable blended whiskey that doesn't require much (if any dilution) to drink

Think of Crown Royal as what the automotive market refers to as "affordable luxury". It is a quality blend that will stand on its own as a sipping whiskey, but one that can be mixed into a wide variety of cocktails without overpowering the drink. Crown Royal performs

well as a mixer when substituted for other types of whiskey in classic cocktails, and the "Crown and Coke" is one of the most popular mixed drinks on the planet. The Old Fashioned, Manhattan, and Whiskey Sour can all be made with Crown.

In addition to the classics, there are a few cocktails that the brand has shared through their website that are best made with Crown Royal. One such cocktail is the light, sweet, and refreshing Crown Royal

The Crown Royal Flush is one of two cranberry cocktails promoted by Crown Royal, the other is the Crown Royal Red Snapper. Crown is unique in the whiskey world in that it mixes well with cranberry

Vodka or gin are most commonly paired with cranberry juice, but Crown's light mix of fruit and vanilla notes are a perfect complement to juice and/or fruit

Other than Crown and cranberry, the Crown Royal Flush calls for peach schnapps. Peach schnapps is the unsung hero of several contemporary cocktails, including the Jolly Rancher and the Fuzzy Navel.

If you have options when shopping for peach schnapps, choose Bol's or DeKuyper. There are a few cheaper options, but the less expensive options are of a lower quality and have a dominant "artificial" taste to them.

In the mixology world, when a drink calls for cranberry, the drink calls for Ocean Spray Cranberry. Ocean Spray Cranberry is found behind nearly every commercial bar around the globe. Make sure that you pick up the standard unsweetened variety, avoid blended and artificially sweetened juices.

Ćrown Royal Flush preparation is straight forward: shake with ice, strain into glass, serve. The blend of Crown and cranberry is a nice departure from Crown and Coke, or Crown and 7. You probably have a bottle of Crown from last Christmas party in your liquor cabinet, why not give this one a

The Crown Royal Flush is built in a shaker, and served in a rocks glass.

> Combine in shaker: 1 1/4 oz. Crown Royal 1/4 oz. peach schnapps

3 oz. cranberry juice Shake with ice, strain into ice-filled rocks glass

Garnish with orange peel Until next week, enjoy responsibly.





### **Button worth \$637**

ARE YOU the lucky winner? Whoever owns button number 544 in the Wilmington Chamber's 2020 button drawing will receive an early gift. The winning number was drawn Monday and the split the pot winnings are \$637! To claim the award the owner must present the button at the Free Press Advocate office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. Button owner 544 has two weeks to claim their prize before a second number will be drawn. Chamber president Steve Evans thanked everyone who purchase a button, noting that the other half of the drawing proceeds will be used for beautification in downtown Wilmington.



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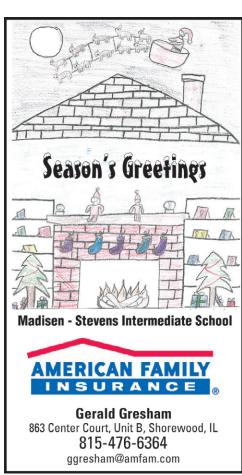
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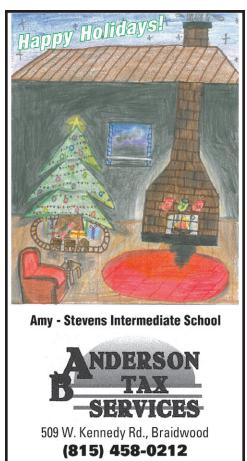
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Saturday - Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Holidays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Closed Christmas Day and Easter

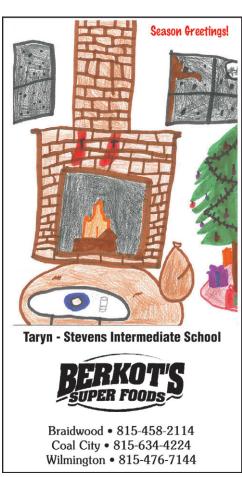


#### WWW.FREEPRESSNEWSPAPERS.COM

# These merchants wish you a Merry Christmas with artwork drawn by local students

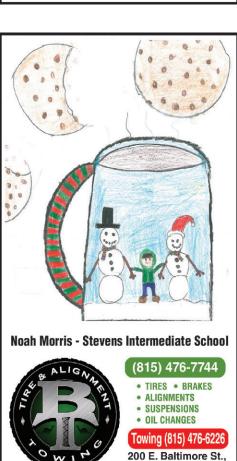








**Merry Christmas!** 

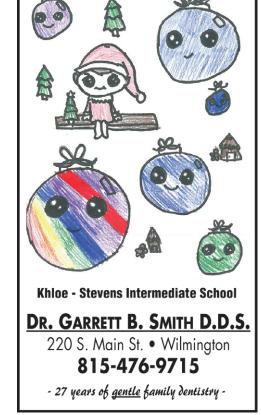


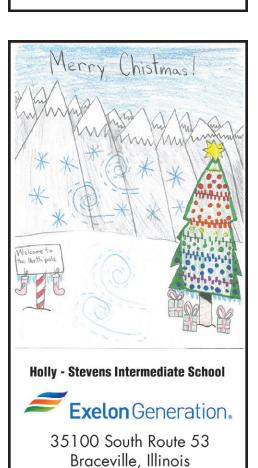


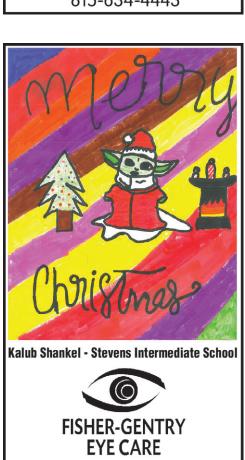


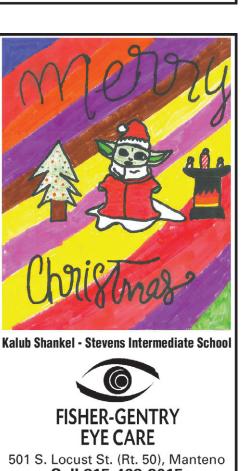
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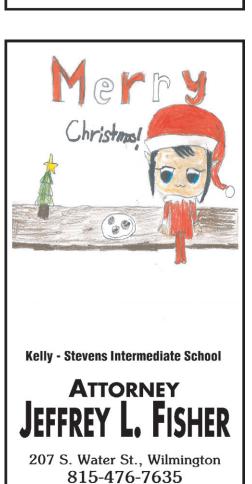


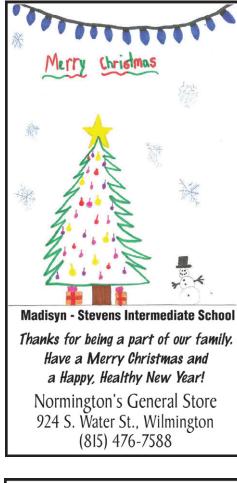


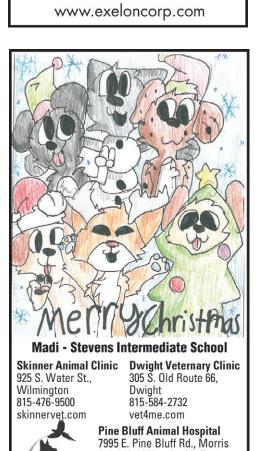










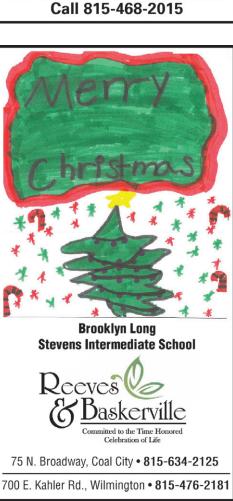


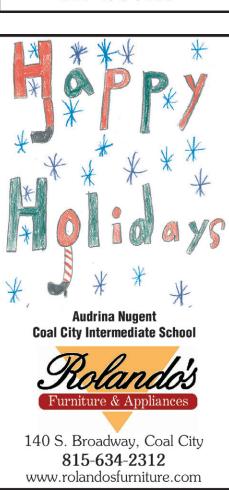
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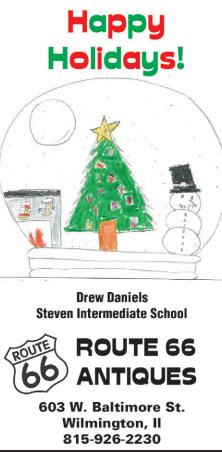
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**Lakewood Animal Hospital** 

1301 Lakewood Dr., Morris

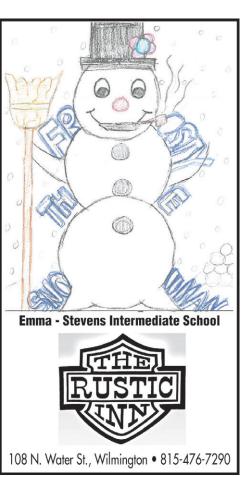


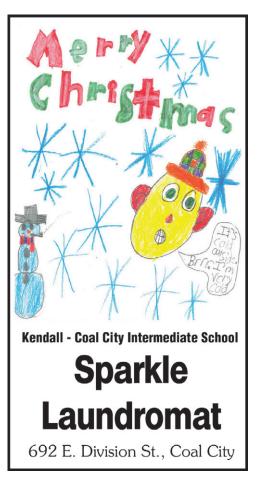


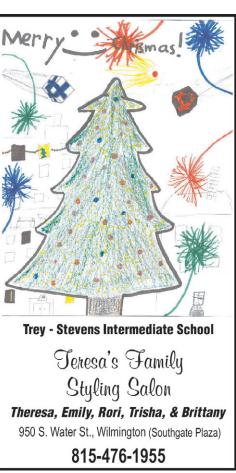


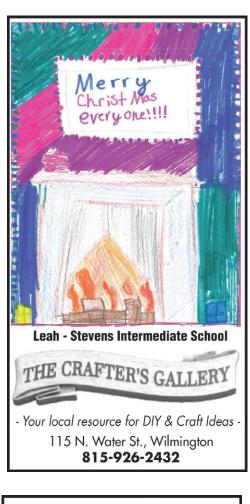
#### The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, The Coal City Courant, Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, page 9

### These merchants wish you a Merry Christmas with artwork drawn by local students

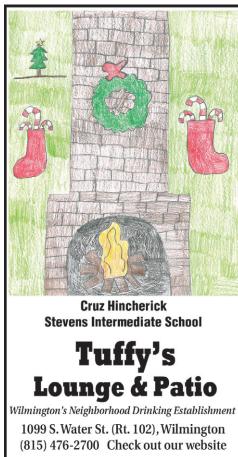




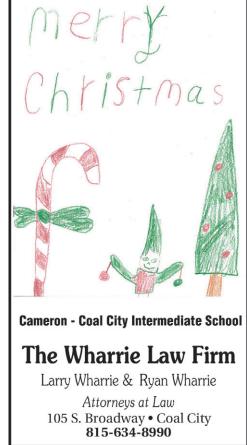








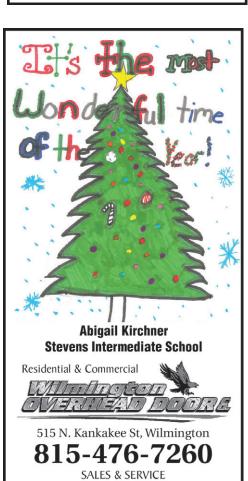


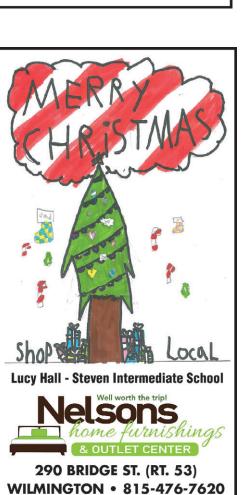


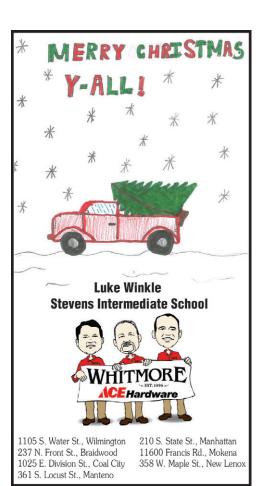


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## Don't know what to give a teen? How about giving a good book

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Although this year has been challenging, The Wilmington Public Library District and the Wilmington High School Library are both open. Students can now check out books to read over winter break.

Around this time every year, The Wilmington Public Library sees an increase in books checked out over winter vacation which starts Friday. Many people have time off of work and school, which gives them more time to cozy up by the fire and read a good book.

However, due to the pandemic, the library has seen an increase in digital reading. "Any reading of any nature is extremely beneficial," commented Maria Meachum, the public library's director.

Books can be checked out inside the Wilmington Public library, or can be picked up from their contactless pick up locker. WHS students can also check out books from the WHS library before they leave for winter break.

The WHS librarian, Ms. Turner, and the WHS sophomore english teacher, Ms. Keane, compiled a top 10 list of books they think students would enjoy, to keep them reading over break. Books on this list would also make great Christmas gifts.

- Throne of Glass by Sara Maas • Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard
- The Program by Suzanne Young • Between Shade of Gray by Ruta
- Sepetys
- •They Both Die at the end by Adam Silvera • The Amulet Series by Kazu Kibuishi
- •Scott Pilgrim Series by Bryan •One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus
- It by Stephen King

•Naruto by Masahi Kishimoto

Here are some additional book recommendations from Sue Eckhardt, the youth services manager at the Wilmington Public Library District.

 The Mortal Instruments Series by Cassandra Clare

Genre; Contemporary Fantasy, Urban

Book 1: *City of Bones* 

Synopsis: In New York City, a seemingly ordinary teenager named Clary Fray (Lily Collins) learns that she is descended from a line of shadowhunters - half-angel warriors who protect humanity from evil forces. After her mother (Lena Headey) disappears, Clary joins forces with a group of shadowhunters and enters Downworld, an alternate realm filled with demons, vampires and a host of other creatures. Clary and her companions must find and protect an ancient cup that holds the key to her mother's future. • The Great Gatsby by F. Scott

Fitzgerald

Genre; Historical Fiction, Tragedy

Synopsis: This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story is of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his new love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on LongIsland at a time when The New York Times noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

• The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Series by Douglas Adams Genre: Science Fiction, Humorous

Synopsis: In this collection of novels,

Arthur Dent is introduced to the galaxy at a large when he is rescued by an alien friend seconds before Earth's destruction, and embarks on a series of amazing

adventures, from the mattress swamps of Sqornshellous Zeta to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe.

•The Princess Bride by William Goldman

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy, Comedy Synopsis: This tale of a handsome farm boy who, aided by a drunken swordsman and a gentle giant, rescues a beautiful princess named Buttercup comes with a slyly humorous, metafictional edge: Goldman claims to have merely abridged an earlier text by one "S Morgenstern" (actually a pseudonym) and peppers his text with clever commentary.

•The Curious Incident of the Dog in *the Nighttime* by Mark Haddon Genre: Crime Fiction, Fantasy

Synopsis: Despite his overwhelming of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically gifted, autistic boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secrets about his mother. •My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Genre: Domestic Fiction, Women's Fiction, Tragedy Synopsis: Conceived to provide a

bone marrow match for her leukemiastricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures, and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body. • The Inheritance Cycle by

Christopher paolini Genre: Science Fiction, Fantasy

Fiction, Dystopian Fiction Synopsis: The series that began with

Eragon follows poor farm boy Eragon as he grows into a master swordsman who fights alongside his dragon, Saphira, to help save the Empire from evil and dark-

### Coloring contest underway for those ages 3-6

Wilmington VFW Post 5422 Auxiliary is sponsoring a patriotic coloring contest for boys and girls ages 3 through 6.

Entry forms to be colored by youngsters from Wilmington and Braidwood can be picked up at the VFW, W. Baltimore Wilmington.

Winners of the local contest will be entered into a District competition. The name, age and address of child must be written on the back of each entry.

Deadline to enter is Jan. 15, 2021. For more details call Kathy at 815-823-4324 or 815-926-2651.

the past week, averaging \$2.26/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are

Vaccine optimism

driving up gas prices

12.0 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 24.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. According to GasBuddy

price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.94/g while the most expensive is \$2.83/g, a difference of 89.0 cents per gallon. The national average

price of gasoline has risen 4.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.21/g. The national average is up 9.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 34.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"The sudden spike in gas prices last week was brought on by a continued rise in the price of oil, which jumped last week to nearly \$50 per barrel, the highest we've seen since March, when prices collapsed

Illinois gas prices have due to COVID-19," said Patrick risen 8.7 cents per gallon in De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. 'While last week's gas

price surge isn't likely to repeat this week, it could be a sign of things to come in the year ahead," said De Haan. 'A weakening U.S. dollar

and vaccine optimism continued to push oil higher last week, along with stock markets. While some are wrongly pointing to the coming shift in the White House as driving up prices, I can assure motorists that what we're seeing has nothing to do with such a change and everything to do with market optimism that demand will rise, and the weaker dollar which makes oil cheaper to anyone holding non-dollar currencies, putting upward pressure on demand.

GasBuddy's updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering 150,000 stations nationwide the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country.

bar of soap

Go with a

Here is a tip to reduce waste related to soap and shampoo. Use bars instead of liquids because they are easier to use completely, have less packaging and save the cost of transporting water, since you supply that when you lather them at home. Soap bars last longer if

you allow them to dry between uses. If a soap dish holds water, consider placing

# a bottle cap under the bar to

### State Police bust driver hauling pot If an Ohio man thought Route 47 in Morris after

cannabis was now legal in Illinois, he learned real quick that it's not when you're carrying 103 pounds with the intent to sell it.

An Illinois State Police (ISP) District 5 unit conducted a traffic stop in Grundy County Tuesday that resulted in multiple felony charges and the seizure of three firearms (1 stolen), 103 pounds of cannabis and \$20,259 cash.

The State Trooper pulled a passenger vehicle over on milepost 112 just south of tracking-More than 5,000

observing a traffic violation. Probable cause to search the vehicle was then established.

A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in three carryon bags containing 103 pounds of cannabis, three firearms and a fourth bag with \$20,259 cash.

Henry O. Umpierre, 33, of Cleveland, OH was arrested on multiple felony including, attempt to manufacture/deliver cannabis-more than 5,000 grams (a Class X Interstate 80 eastbound at felony); Attempt cannabis

grams (Class 1); Possession of cannabis-more than 5,000 grams (Class 1); Conspire/possession of a weapon by convicted felon (Class 2); Possession of a stolen firearm (Class 2) and Armed violence (Class X).

Umpierre is being lodged at the Grundy County Jail and has been formally charged by the Grundy County State's Attorney.

Umpierre's bond was set at \$150,000 (10% applies). All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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# Wilmington Pharmacy

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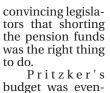
### Pritzker could have done the responsible thing to balance the budget

quite accurate, but I don't think it's a stretch to say that Gov. JB Pritzker had the opportunity and most probably the votes to balance the state budget with an income tax hike during 2019, his "honeymoon" year with the General Assembly.

Instead, the governor came into office and proposed what was essentially a pension payment holiday and other magic budgetary solutions.

I was told in early 2019 by a high-level administration figure with influence over the budget that the Pritzker administration would not take the "easy" route of raising taxes and wanted to instead focus on the "hard" choices.

But hiking the flat tax to balance the budget ahead of a hoped-for 2020 change to the state constitution to allow for a graduated income tax would not have been the "easy" route. A pension holiday was the easiest route he could've possibly taken. There was nothing "hard" about that, except for



tually saved by an

receipt boost in

the spring which eliminated the

immediate need

for a pension holi-

day, budget cuts or

a new revenue

unexpected

CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

infusion. And then came 2020, the now almost half over. mother of all lousy years.

tax

The international pandemic has punched all states and local governments in the fiscal gut. But the lack of preparedness hit Illinois even

The state's current revenue situation isn't that bad in state with a \$1.9 billion or so comparison to last fiscal year, partly because the state income tax filing deadline was moved from April to July, which is in the current fiscal

the governor's Fair Tax failed, and because the current fiscal year's budget depended upon those new revenues plus a nearly \$5 billion federal bailout from the federal government, the state budget office last month projected a \$3.9 billion deficit for the

current fiscal year, which is

The immediate deficit projection has been lowered by \$2 billion because the state is borrowing that money from the Federal Reserve, less than half the \$5 billion it was eligible to receive. That borrowing leaves the

hole to fill by June 30th, and Gov. Pritzker outlined \$711 million in unilateral cuts last

\$75 million of those reductions relies on an agreement

with AFSCME, and the union tax hike to balance the budget make more cuts than the \$711 appeared to reject the notion out of hand. Bruce Rauner's attempt to wipe AFSCME out of existence backfired so badly that the union has been strengthened to the point where even asking for minor concessions is beyond diffi-The governor pointed to

the failure of his Fair Tax proposal as a big reason for the need to make cuts, and AFSCME countered by saying it was also all-in on the graduated income tax. But while Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden lost Sangamon County to President Donald Trump by just 4.3 percentage points (down from Trump's 9-point winning margin in 2016), the Fair Fax lost AFSCME's home-base county by a whopping 26 points. Heckuva job.

We can't go back and change history and it's often maddening to engage in the exercise. But, if the governor had just done the responsible thing in 2019 and used a flat

when he could've drawn on an almost infinitely deep well of goodwill among his supermajority legislature, we wouldn't be in nearly this mess right now. And he could've then painted the 2020 constitutional amendment vote as a very real and substantial income tax cut for 97 percent of the populace instead of the few dollars he ended up promising.

I'm only writing this now because when I laid out this very scenario in an early 2019 meeting with that high-level Pritzker person who has significant budget influence, I was laughed at and waved off with "We're not taking the easy way out with a tax increase, Rich.'

Also, the governor said that he'll need the General Assembly's cooperation to

million he outlined. That's not totally true.

Under Rauner, the vast majority of the state's budget was put on auto-pilot, either by statute or by judges. A big chunk of that money falls under various consent decrees entered into by the state. The administration could attempt to change those consent

decrees without any help from the legislature. But doing so would bring enormous heat on the governor because those consent decrees involve things like minimum funding and staffing levels for the state's care of

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



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### Exelon employees give over \$2.9 million

Generation employees live and work will receive more than \$4.4 million to support critical needs, thanks to the nuclear power plant employees and the Exelon Foundation.

The nuclear power plant employees pledged more than \$2.9 million to over 2,000 different charities in their surrounding communities this year. And for every dollar pledged by employees, the Exelon Foundation donated 50 cents to their local United Way, bringing the total donation to more than \$4.4 million.

At Exelon's three area generating stations: Dresden, Braidwood and LaSalle, employees pledged more than \$470,000 to 440 charities during this year's Employee Giving Campaign.

Organizations supported include Special Connections of Grundy County; Grundy Area Pads; Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago; Community Care Center (Braidwood Food Pantry); Kuzma Care Cottage Community; Joliet Area Community Hospice; National

communities where Exelon Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); We Care of Grundy County; Midwest Veterans Association; Illinois Valley Food Pantry; Gary Sinise Foundation; and more.

You can feel that giving back is embedded solidly within the Exelon culture, and employees do that in so many ways - through donations but also by giving their time and talent in the form of labor and volunteerism," said Karen Nall, executive director of the United Way of Grundy County. "It's truly feels like neighbors taking care of neighbors."

"This has been a challenging year for

many, and our nuclear power plant employees answered the call for help, giving to charities and causes that mean the most to them," said Bryan Hanson, Exelon chief generation officer. "Our people have strong bonds with the communities that surround our nuclear plants. Their generosity will bring resources to organizations that need them, along with hope and relief for the people who rely on them.'

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If you found quality work boots for \$350 and they lasted you for more than 5 years, you would save time, money and reduce waste. You may choose to donate the quality boots and further reduce waste.

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Vanfab.

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# YOUR HOMETOWN for the Holidays

Merry Christmas from the dedicated employees who bring you the local newspaper, in print and online, every week. It's been a challenging 9 months for all of us but we are thankful to all of you who still believe in supporting local journalism. May your family be safe and there be peace on earth . this holiday season.

. The Free Press Newspapers

Coal City Wilmington

### Text help line opens for teens in Wilmington, Braidwood

BY MARNEY SIMON **FDITOR** 

The community coalitions in Wilmington and Braidwood have made it their missions to combat substance abuse and provide a healthy and safe community for local youth.

Wilmington Now, the Coalition for Healthy and Braidwood Healthy Area Community Coalition another have resource to offer local teens a "Text-A-Tip" line where youth can access help for free.

Wendy Hill of the Wilmington coalition explained the program during this month's BAHCC meeting on Dec. 14.

"It's really a help line," Hill said. "It's not, let me report something, it's a text to 'I need help' line, mental health for

The line works by texting a code to 1-844-823-5323. Youth in Wilmington can text the code "476-HELP" while in

Braidwood the code is "458- substance abuse, self harm,

Those codes are unique to each community. If someone is not sure of their code, they can text "hello" and within minutes, a live mental health counselor will respond.

All messages are sent using SMS number masking technology that keeps the communication and identifying information anonymous.

Teens can use the hotline when they are struggling with difficult issues such as anxiety, grief, bullying and substance

Texters will reach a licensed counselor who will respond immediately.

"We are partnering with LEAD, it's an established help line, they rolled out across northern Illinois, Florida and California, and we're just joining in their already established and well functioning program," Hill explained.

According to data from LEAD, the line is used by teens anxiety, relationship conflicts, Foundation of Will County.

suicide, peer pressure, bullying, and other needs.

LEAD stands for Linking Efforts Against Drugs. Since 1991, the non-profit organization has been dedicated to its mission of preventing substance abuse and other risky behavior by youth.

"They'll also refer to local organizations too, if people need additional follow up," said Pete Dell'Aquila, project coordinator with BAHCC.

The Text-A-Tip line is available for anyone in need of emotional support. While intended for teens in crisis, those who have concerns about a friend or loved one are also encouraged to use the

Texters are anonymous, and the service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition have sponsored the service, with dealing with depression and funding from the Community



A NEW BILLBOARD advertising the Text-A-Tip service for youth was placed along Route 53 in Wilmington this week. The service allows local youth to text for free, anonymous help from licensed

## Sunshine Award winners from Bruning Elementary School



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BRUNINGS SUNSHINE AWARDS for Mrs. Langusch's kindergarten class go to (left to right): Hailey, Lane, Mckinley, Sarabella, Patrick



BRUNING SUNSHINE AWARDS for Mrs. Bojeski's class go to (left to right): Gwennie and Malia



BRUNING SUNSHINE AWARDS for 1st trimester of PM class go to Grace and Noah.



BRUNINGS 1ST GRADE class with Mrs. Furbee proudly annouces the sunshine awards to (from left): Julian, Seamus, Killian and



BRUNING SUNSHINE AWARDS for Mrs. Morris's kindergarten (left to right): Thomas, Rocky, Gracelynn, Eva



SUNSHINE AWARDS for Brunings 1st grade class with Mrs. Walsh go to (from left): Amelia, John, Cheyenne and Maia.



BRUNINGS 1ST GRADE sunshine awards from Mrs. Harris class (from left): Kinley, Bennett, Noah, and Lucy.



SUNSHINE AWARDS for Bruning's 1st grade class with Mrs. Horrie goes to (from left): Mason, Lilly and Charlotte.



BRUNING SUNSHINE AWARDS for Mrs. Natyshok's kindergarten class go to (left to right): Mackenzie, Weylen, Ray



WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL is thrilled to release the November students of the month. The faculty and staff decide two students from each grade level who performed random acts of extra kindness or stepped up to help in a big way. Seniors Ellen Dooley and Brandon Russell were named November students of the month.



WHS SOPHOMORES, Abby Pitts and Ryder Meents, were proudly chosen for November students of the month.



FROM THE JUNIOR class at Wilmington High School are Anna Liaromatis and Madison Berman who were named students of the month. Teachers are thankful to have students in the school in order to witness their random acts of kindness.



THE STUDENTS OF THE MONTH from the freshman class are **Emily Cockream and Andrew Dedo.** 

### WILDCAT SPORTS

### Basketball Lady 'Cats were smartest in the state

SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington High School girls basketball team is really smart and now they have

a plaque to prove it. The Lady 'Cats were awarded first place in the entire state in academics, meaning they had the highest cumulitive grade point average in the in Class 3A

Girls basketball coach Eric Dillon couldn't be happier and he's not the least bit surprised.

"We stress the academic portion off the court," said 'We're always doing grade checks and everything like that. I mean it's never been an issue as far as grades go on the girls side. I knew I had a group of girls who were very hardworking and very bright.

Dillon notes all his players last year were high honors. "I think every one of those

girls have gotten All-Academic All-Conference each year they've played on varsity. That means they had to have had a 3.5 GPA or above all year. It definitely makes me very proud to say they take their studies and their academics very serious-

That's going to help all those girls out for life and set them up nicely with the best colleges. Most student-athletes are not set up this well with their studies and with their

something we always push. Let's face it, there's a very low percentage of student-athletes that move onto the next level in college. So if they're not putting the



SMARTEST IN STATE-The Wilmington girls basketball team was earned a first place plaque for their efforts inside the classroom. As a team, the 'Cats achieved the highest grade point average of any team in Class 3A. Wilmington coach Eric Dillon holds the plaque joined by seniors McKenzie Marcum (left) and Halle Haga (right).

effort in to work on their aca- fair across the board," said demics, they're setting themgoing into the next step of their thing for them to achieve that.' The state divided the

teams into a class group like GPA. the ones that are used to play basketball and selected the top with the highest unweighted GPA. Wilmington where they have more opportunity for honors classes. That would not have been fair, says

'They had to omit the it.' unweighted GPAs to make it

Dillon. "I think some schools selves up for a loss but also not are maybe more honors heavy than other schools so I think life. It's absolutely an amazing that's why they did it so they took the unweighted GPAs. It was somewhere around 3.80

Dillon notes every girl on the team was above a 4.0 GPA. That's hard to do.

There were some that didn't go against every class had almost perfect scores," Dillon. "That commented means that they had to have taken every honors class that you could have and got an A in

studying mechanical engineering at the University of Iowa, was close to a perfect GPA. There were around nine others that were all close to the top of

"That is a very intensive academic major. That's just the point. They were all very bright and very hardworking on the academic side.'

Megan Mann, Chloe Sanford, Claire Rink, Michelle Gramlich, Halle Haga, McKenzie Marcum, Liaromatis and Reents were honored after the winter girls basketball season for their Jordyn Reents, who is expertise in the classroom.

### Lady 'Cat coaches select talent, hard workers for dream team

BY SHAWN LONG

SPORTS WRITER

Thank goodness there was a desire to bring girls soccer back to Wilmington

In 1972 Wilmington was one of the first conference schools to launch a girls only soccer program. The trial run lasted five years before the program was shut it

Then in 2007, with the urging of a couple of volunteer coaches, the athletic department polled students to see if there was enough interest to restart soccer. The response was convincing enough that the school board approved and volunteer coach Cecilia Storbeck stepped in. She reignited the Lady 'Cats for two seasons (2007-09) before the program took off on

Had there not been a volunteer effort 13 years ago it would be impossible to come up with a dream team of players. Thankfully, these Lady Cat's made the

Storbeck singled out a couple of players from those first two years. Amanda Smith (Kulpa), was arguably the best girls soccer player in the program's history,

She was the leading goal scorer when she was there, knocking through 27 goals.

"She was a forward," said Storbeck. "She could play outside forward and inside forward. She was very good, tall and had the leg strength to manipulate the

### Tara Spell

Spell played in the goal for Storbeck and she could stop almost anything. Spell had over 100 saves for Storbeck in 2008.

Tara was one of the best keepers. She saved us quite a few times even though we lost quite a few games. She'd save us a lot. She was a good player.'

Myriah Mauer Mauer was one of the top scorers next to Kulpa but didn't score as often. Where

Kulpa finished with 27, Mauer had 10. Myriah played forward and even though she didn't want to go to the left side because she was right footed, she was really good at hooking it in the corner of the goal.'

After Storbeck came volunteer coach Josh Macharia, who coached the longest up to that point with five years under his belt. He led the Lady 'Cats to three winning seasons from 2009-14.

Kulpa was a consensus pick and actually a senior when Macharia took over the

program.

'She was a really exceptional player," said Macharia. "I was coaching at Wilmington the same time I was coaching at Olivet (Nazarene University) and I recruited her to play for me at Olivet. Amanda was the top scorer for a long time for us. She scored almost every game.'

### Sarah Coleman

Coleman, who was a defender on the girls team in his first year, led by example. "Sarah was a great leader and a great captain. She was a fantastic defensive player. Played great in the midfield and she was irreplaceable.

### **Alexis Casey**

His next selection, Casey, was a sophomore in his first season. She was a forward with good footwork.

"She was a fantastic player and great with the ball," added Macĥaria. "She was a very crafty player.'

#### **Becca Tulley** Tulley was another pick and she had

soccer intelligence that couldn't be matched. "She was a great leader, fantastic player, fantastic kid and very smart. She was another kid I recruited to come play for Olivet. She did fantastic there and she's

done well anywhere she has gone.

### Morgan McCormick

McCormick is selected too for her

"Amazing player and she had great speed. I don't think I've seen a kid who is as athletic and as fast as Morgan. She's very fast. Great leader and great work

Morgan went to ONU to play soccer but instead joined the cheer team.

She came to Olivet and was going to play soccer but she also was in cheer competition at Wilmington so when she came to Olivet, we had just started our cheer program and she chose to tryout for cheer, and they loved her. She, in her freshman year, became captain of the cheer team and between her junior and senior year, she was helping coach her team. I'll take Morgan for any sport any day because of her work ethic.

### Renee Enz

Enz, who also played volleyball in the fall, was an excellent player.

"She was the quiet leader of our team," Macharia commented. "After Amanda left, Renee caught up with her in goals and Renee went past her. She was a

fantastic soccer player. Enz also went to ONU with the help of Macharia but she earned a starting role on the volleyball team that was too good to

pass up. "She also tried out for volleyball there and she got a starting place on the volleyball team. She was a captain for three years. Amazing kid. All of these kids were successful at high school and had success at the collegiate level which is nice to see as a coach.'

And it's a good thing she did make go with volleyball because she recorded the fifth most assists in school history with 4,008 sets.

### **Haley Hooper**

Hooper was a keeper for Macharia and she was one of the best.

'She was a great goalkeeper. She had so many injuries and worked through so many other issues but she was a fantastic goalkeeper. She was probably one of the best goalkeepers Wilmington has ever had because great talent and great work ethic.

She went on to play keeper for Trinity International University but wasn't able to play due to an injury.

"She was done then and wasn't able to play anymore but she still helped with the team and fantastic kid. When I'm in town in Wilmington, these are kids I look forward to seeing.

### Tiffany Nugent

Nugent played goalie when Hooper went down and she did a great job. She was also very versatile. Wherever Macharia needed her, she'd be.

"She was well mannered and worked hard. Every team needs leaders and she was willing to do anything and everything for the team.

### Nicole Neagle

"Nicole played goalie for me sometimes but she played mostly in the field when we had Haley. She was a very hardworking kid and very vocal. She was very driven and she was very good at goalkeeping for us," Macharia said.

#### **Kaylie Davis** Davis was another player who could

fly down the soccer field. She would be a great addition to the dream team. 'She was a speedster," Macharia

commented. "She was a very hardworking kid. She was quiet but she got down to doing the work. I didn't have to worry about her or any of the other girls with their grades either."

#### **Kelsey Saxton** Saxton, who was another top goal

scorer, would also be on the dream team. Saxton finished with 15 goals.

"Kelsey was very fast," added Macharia. "Kelsey was more of a goal scor-

er, very raw talent but she had great speed. Kelsey was one of my best players who struggled with other stuff a lot. She was hard to defend. She was very quick and once we found that through ball, she was

Mauer is another consensus pick. "She was a short kid and very feisty. She was really good. Great leader and great personality. She was very helpful

with the team and great with fundraising. Macharia had two games that really stood out to him. and he was able to remember them like they happened yesterday. One of the games was at a tournament where an injured Lady 'Cat came

break to "We went to a Moline Tournament and we were playing three games out there," Macharia explained. "In the third game, we were playing a good team in the tournament and we were playing a team with two of our players injured and Tiffany Nugent got injured in that game as well. So we're playing down one player. It is 0-0 and we get a free kick. Nicole came up limping, 'I'll take the free kick' and we won that game 1-0.'

The other moment was a showdown where the Lady 'Cats stood tall holding

"I coached all 11 players from Manteno in Club. They had all promised me that week that they would destroy us so we figured out a way to play with them. In that game, we scored first. They equalized when the ball hit the player and went out. The ref gave a corner kick and I was arguing it was not a corner kick and he gave me a yellow card. The only yellow card I've ever gotten. It was 1-1 with Manteno the year they won state. It was 1-1 until the last 40 minutes where they scored four goals to beat us 5-1. We felt like we had won the World Cup." David Blackburn coached the Lady 'Cats from 2014-18. He picked a few players of his own to fill in on the dream team.

### **Angel Boynton**

His first pick was Angel who played midfield.

"She was the motor of our team," said Blackburn. "She just kept going. She was all over the field, pesky, good intelligence on the field and she was a great leader and able to keep the girls motivated on the field as well."

### Alicia Enz

Enz, who played forward for Blackburn in 2016, would make a great addition to the dream team.

"She was very athletically talented," commented Blackburn. "She could move the ball over the field. She was great at setting long balls up top to stretch field a little more.

#### **Rachel Wandless** Wandless, who is the senior goalie at

Wilmington, is one of the better goalies in Lady 'Cat history. "She is one of the top keepers I've

ever had the ability to coach. She was getting noticed around the conference as a freshman keeper. She was even talented enough to come out of goal. She scored the game winning goal against Reed-Custer in the first round of the playoffs her freshman vear. Wandless has collected 366 saves to

this point and has a chance to add on to that if the 'Cats get a chance to take the field this spring or summer. Brianna Boynton

Angel's sister, Brianna would be another pick because she was great defender.

"She was probably the most intelligently aggressive player we had on our team," added Blackburn. "She always put her body in the correct position to slow down that defender and steal that ball."

### IHSA provides sporting guidelines

BY SHAWN LONG SPORTS WRITER

If and when high school black as well. sports resume, it will be up to each individual school to decide whether they will allow spectators under guidelines issued last week by the Illinois High School Association.

If fans are allowed, there will be strict guidelines they will have to follow.

Everyone will have to wear a mask and social distance so forget about sharing high fives in the stands.

Spectators will

assigned to designated areas,

a minimum of 12 feet away from the court or field. In tournaments with multiple teams extra time will be allotted to clean and

sterilize the bleachers and

playing equipment before

the next contest can begin. In basketball, fans must be kept in separate groups with home spectators on one side and visitors on the other. breaking tradition at Reed-Custer, who usually has all spectators on the west side of

the gym. In cheer or dance competitions, fans will enter as one group of 50, watch the perfomance then be asked to

#### **Spectators in theaters**

The IHSA also put out guidelines for spectators of plays and musicals.

Fans are required to wear face coverings except when The crowd will be limit-

ed to immediate family only. In addition, indoor theand performing arts/activity spaces should operate at 50% capacity; outdoor theater can operate at 20% of overall space. Spectators must reserve their seats. It will be up to administrators and venue operators to post a link for registration.

Before attending, spectators will be expected to call to check for available capacity. Temperature checks will be taken at the door.

If applicable, it is also suggested that fans order tickets online instead of at the door to avoid closed contact with people.

### Uniform requirements

The IHSA also set new guidelines for game officials. Their whistles must be covered or the use of electronic whistles is preferred.

Officials will be required to wear face coverings when they're not actively exercising are subject to change.

and performing their officiating duties.

Masks should be solid

Officials are allowed to wear gloves and long sleeves. It's not a requirement. If they so choose to wear gloves or sleeves, the gloves must be either clear or black and the sleeves must be black. Officials must maintain

social distancing during pregame. It's suggested the pregame conference be moved to the center of the court with everyone spaced out three to six feet. The pregame conference

cial, a head coach from each team with one captain from each team. Exchanging

should be limited to one offi-

shakes, fist bumps, ect. with players or coaches will not be

#### Scorer's table

Seats will be limited at the scorer's table to one home team official scorer and a scoreboard operator properly spaced out. Visiting team personnel will need to find a different location.

The scoreboard operator and scorer will be masked.

#### **Preparation for** game day

Officials who don't feel well should not officiate. They should also notify their assignor ahead of time giving them enough time to find a

replacement. Officials will be asked as a precautionary measure to take their temperature when they wake up and before they come to a game.

Some officials may be vulnerable individuals (people 65 or older with underly ing health conditions) will have to check with the Centers of Disease Control before returning to work.

In baseball and softball, face coverings are required when umpires cannot maintain social distance. If umpires and coaches cannot maintain a social distance during the pregame meeting, umpires must wear a mask Plate umpires won't be required to wear the mask when they are actively offici-

No jump ball will take place, social distancing during free throws and throws ins are also required during basketball games.

All of these restrictions

### IESA far short of funds to continue

BY SHAWN LONG SPORTS WRITER

It's been two weeks since the Illinois Elementary School Association appealed to the public to support a 'Go Fund Me' page to keep the organization operational. If the IESA doesn't get financial help by April, it will be forced to close.

As of Monday the Go Fund Me page reached \$22,200, far short of their \$500,000 goal.

While there's no telling what will happen if the IESA dissolves, all Wilmington School Director Curt Hansen can do is continue to remain optimistic on the matter. "Although we haven't had

any conversation yet as to

what the next step would be, if

the IESA closes up we are remaining hopeful that they can continue to provide services to our middle schools,' said Hansen. "Athletics are such an important aspect of the midschool experience. Athletics teaches so many

valuable life lessons such as team work, hard work, accountability and more." Hansen thinks they will try to coordinate a season

"If the IESA were to close, I think our conference, the Illlinois Valley Conference, could still work together to provide athletics, clubs and activities for our student-ath-

within the conference.

What's been the impact of having a statewide organization that puts on state tournaments for 7th and 8th grade experience the workings of the IESA is Nick Dziuban, who has couple wrestlers to the state doing that."

tournament and he says they their tournaments

extremely well. 'The IESA has been pretty good during my years being involved coaching," said Dziuban. "The year I did wrestling at the middle schol level they were in their first year of using the new twoclass system and the tourna-

ment ran extremely well." who had Dziuban, Landon Dooley capture the state title two years ago, says it means a lot to these kids to be

able to go. "I know getting down to state is huge to these kids," Dziuban commented. "If you ask a lot of them their goal, it is just to get to state. The excitement and accomplishment of earning a spot in the state tournament is good enough for a lot of them, let alone winning a medal or championship. I remember the feeling the first time I made it down there as a wrestler and it all came back to me when I took our kids to state at the middle school level. It was awesome to be lucky enough to be able to say I coached a wrestler that achieved winning the state title as well."

Even with all that is going on with the coronavirus, the IESA was able to put together a fall sports seasons for baseball and softabll and Dziuban couldn't express his appreciation enough because the kids needed it.

'This year with all the back and forth with COVID and government regulations, they adapted and worked with us well, making it possible for athletes? One of the best to us to salvage having a shortened season and it was nice to be able to have the kids out had the pleasure of taking a being active. They all missed