



McPherson in the Senior Spotlight

Three of eight Comets place at PIT



BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL .COM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Business, residential development on the agenda for 2023

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Braidwood faces some potential changes this spring, with four of five seats on the City Council being contested in the April consolidated election.

But while the outlook for the makeup of the City Council is in the hands of voters, city leaders are not taking a wait and see approach when it comes to planning for the city.

City administrator Tony Altiery said the goal for 2023 is growth.

"We're going to continue to keep bringing businesses to town and keep people's taxes from going up. Then we're going to keep using tax money to give people of town more amenities, like the dog park. We're looking into a splash park. We're looking into a little bit of everything. Taxpayers pay the money, so we're trying to do everything we can to get the things that they would like to have," Altiery said.

Altiery said the biggest goal for 2023 is to add more businesses.

"With the car dealerships coming in this next spring, our goal after that, which we're talking with people right now, a restaurant and a hotel. More amenities. We'd like to get another coffee shop in, we'd like to get more places to eat so people can stay in town, they don't have to go far," Altiery said.

The administrator did note that certain businesses are unlikely to pick Braidwood for development of new storefronts, such as large chain grocery stores, simply because the city does not have the rooftops and traffic counts that suggest they could support a large store.

But, there is still a benefit for Braidwood when it comes to location.

"One of the benefits we have is the traffic count that goes down the highway. Having two interchanges with over 33,000 cars per day going by, we have an average of about 6,000 cars that come off the highway and either go toward Diamond or Braidwood. It's attracting the businesses, and the more businesses we bring here, the more

that want to come here," Altiery said. "The amount of traffic is a big deal. Businesses need traffic in order to make money. So then each business feeds off each other. So, the thousands of people that the car dealership will bring in attracts food places. We have multiple lots sitting ready for fast food or sit-down restaurants."

Altiery also said that while some folks might complain about filling up the vacant buildings already in town, there aren't as many vacant storefronts in Braidwood as people may think. City leaders said for some of the vacant spots in town, the size, location, or cost can make those empty properties undesirable.

"We can't control the amount of rent that somebody wants. If the rent is too high, that's why these places are empty," Altiery said. "We have lots of people who call after checking those buildings out. The problem is, when you go to a specialty store, a Dunkin', a Starbucks, any of these, they

SEE 2023, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

TWO NEW HOMES along Western Street in the Townes of Braidwood subdivision are among more than two dozen new homes under construction in 2022. City leaders said residential and business growth will continue to be the focus for 2023.

BPD to offer Citizens Police Academy

STAFF REPORT

As promised, the members of the Braidwood Police Department have kicked off the new year by announcing additional efforts at community outreach programs.

On Jan. 9, Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons announced that the department will create a Citizens Police Academy, with classes set to begin next month.

The department is accepting applications for the inaugural academy, which will kick off on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at City Hall, with plans to make it an annual event.

"The Citizens Police Academy is designed to give citizens a working knowledge of law enforcement, and give participants insight into police work," the department noted in a press release. "Students in the Citizens Police Academy will get hands on experience with real police equipment and role playing scenarios. Students will be instructed by Patrol Officers, Detectives and guest speakers."

Topics to be discussed will include vehicle stops, shoot and don't shoot situations, crime scene investigations, laws and ordinances, use of force case law, a K9 demonstration, and an overview of the role of other emergency responders, such as the fire department and emergency medical services/ambulance.

The purpose of the Citizens Police Academy is to

SEE BPD, PAGE 2

Yes we can!



Photos by Marney Simon

THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD started its new garbage pickup contract with Environmental Recycling and Disposal last week, much to the chagrin of some residents who spent much of the past week voicing their concerns and frustration on social media. The city switched services effective the end of December, with the first pickups last week. However, residents needed to leave their old Waste Management cans at the foot of their driveways, while waiting for Environmental to deliver the new ones. The several days long process left some people losing their patience. But that said, city officials said that as of Monday, everyone in the city should have received their new garbage cans, and Environmental was now out delivering the recycling cans. Anyone who has not received a can, or who has not had their Waste Management cans picked up, should contact City Hall. Once the recycling cans are delivered, Environmental will begin distributing yard waste cans. The new contract with Environmental runs through December of 2025. The monthly price of the new service will be \$23.20 for 2023, \$23.12 for 2024, and \$24.04 for 2025. The service includes one spring clean up date and one fall clean up date. The pickup also includes one free bulk item per household per month, with a \$35 charge for each oversized item after that.

Braidwood City Council passes annual tax levy

City to seek \$1.8M in property taxes

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Braidwood is seeking \$1.8 million in property tax dollars as part of their annual levy, which was passed unanimously by the members of the Braidwood City Council on Dec. 27.

All taxing districts have until the end of December to file the annual levy with the Will County Clerk's office.

A portion of the estimated taxes will be applied as follows:

- Admin — \$369,510
- Zoning — \$42,954
- Streets — \$157,012
- Police — \$742,001

In short, this is specifically where your tax dollars are going.

The estimated expenditures by the proposed levy represent only a small portion of the total amount the city will spend, with other funding coming from sources outside of property taxes. Which is to say, local property taxes alone do not fund the city, but rather support the city's overall budget.

The property tax levy is only a portion of the funding that taxing districts raise for operations. State funds, federal funds, grants, loans, fees, and other funding sources make up the remainder of the operating budget.

The total budget for the city across all funds is \$7.6 million, which means \$5.8 million of revenues are generated from other sources.

The city's largest single expense is police protection, which is included as part of the general fund.

The police department's total budget is \$2.1 million,

Summary of Levy Funds

GENERAL FUND	\$569,476
POLICE PROTECTION	\$742,001
MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT	\$43,725
SOCIAL SECURITY FUND	\$132,893
MEDICARE FUND	\$29,855
AUDIT FUND	\$18,600
LIABILITY FUND	\$285,465
TOTAL	\$1,822,015

which includes \$1.7 million in salaries and wages, and the remainder earmarked for contractual services, commodities and supplies. However, only \$742,001 of property taxes are allocated for the police budget, which means \$1.4 million comes from other sources.

City Hall administration has a budget of \$953,161, with \$583,651 in revenues coming from sources outside of property tax funds.

In the streets department, the budget is \$405,018, with near one-quarter million dollars of that budget coming from funds outside of property

SEE LEVY, PAGE 2



BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

SALE VALID 1/11-1/17/23

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272
COAL CITY 815-634-4224
BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD AT BERKOTFOODS.COM

99¢ LB - 60¢ LB
39¢ with loyalty

Berkot's Farm Fresh Chicken Drumsticks

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

\$19.99 EACH

Boost Original Chocolate High Protein 24 pk

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

Entenmann's Donuts - 15-17.5 oz Reg Price: \$6.59

2023

have specific designs they need for a building. So, they won't go into the units we have empty. They're small units... We really don't have that many empty. But we do have many small businesses come in here and look at these empty spots."

Altiery said the city still saw several empty spots fill up in 2022

"We've filled four of the small units this year, with smaller businesses coming in. But, the businesses we're looking to bring... they can't fit in these ones, they have a specific size and their specific areas," Altiery said. "Just like Dunkin'. Dunkin' doesn't want to be out on Kennedy Road. Dunkin' comes in, they need to be around the intersection. They have their corporate rules and regulations on where they will go... They need the traffic count, and our highest traffic count is on Route 53 in the middle of town."

In addition to expanding business growth, Altiery said the city will also focus on new residential in 2023. Altiery

noted that the city saw residential growth last year, and hopes to continue that trend. In the 2022 calendar year, approximately 25 building permits for new homes were issued.

"Our housing is up from the past," Altiery said. "Our taxes are affordable."

And, he added, business and residential growth are two sides to the same coin.

"Businesses need residential," Altiery said. "We've had a lot of land that has sold lately, six lots on Main Street just sold, the Townes of Braidwood well sold, there's a road and 28 more lots that can be added there. The average house out there right now is about \$295,000, that's what they're selling out there now and I believe they sold nine of them [in 2022]. There are four or five more being sold right now."

Altiery said Braidwood has a unique offering, being closer to the interstate than some other local towns, but still close enough in proximity to Chicago and the suburbs to attract commuters who would call Braidwood home.

"Everybody wants to be in a small town close to a highway. So when they go to work

in Chicago, Joliet, wherever, you jump on the highway and boom you're there.

As far as cleaning up the roads, Altiery said that while there was little work completed in 2022, the roads remain in good shape, with plans to address areas of concern if and when the cost becomes more affordable.

"There are only a small percent of the roads that need to be touched up or repaired," Altiery said. "The issue is that last year, the cost of the materials and doing roads, if we had done them last year we would have been able to do one mile of roads. If the prices come back down to where they were, we'll be able to do three miles of roads. We actually could not get people to bid the roads, we called multiple companies.

"The roads will all be reviewed, but if it's not affordable, we can't do them. But, we don't have that many roads that are that bad," he continued.

As far as amenities for residents, the dog park is the only item that is currently in planning stages, however Altiery said there is a continuing wish list of items to be reviewed. The city has currently

approved the purchase of fencing for a dog park, and is working on an intergovernmental agreement with the Braidwood Park District to have that park constructed at Old Smokey City Park.

"We're just going to keep on moving forward. We're going to try and do stuff for the community that local people want as much as anything," Altiery said.

Altiery also noted that the city is working to bring in businesses and residential developments in an effort to keep up with its financial commitments, while also giving the people what they want.

"Every year we give people raises [by contract], and if it costs us \$100,000 in raises, somewhere we need to make that up," Altiery said, adding that Braidwood's portion of property taxes only brings in a small amount of what it takes to keep the city afloat. "Our goal is, if we can get some businesses in to help make up that tax money, then we can keep taxes down for the citizens in Braidwood. And that's our goal. We don't want to be the town where your taxes go up and up and up. So, in order to do that, we bring in amenities."

Levy

taxes. Property taxes are not utilized for the water/sewer fund. Instead, those revenues are generated by fees for services.

The Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) fund is also not included in appropriations by property taxes.

MFT funds come from the state and are taxes on what the state calls "the privilege" of operating motor vehicles upon public highways, as well as the operation of recreational watercraft on waterways within the state, based on the consumption of motor fuel.

The taxes are charged at the pump and held by the state, then later delivered to the governing bodies for use on roadway projects.

The city was required to submit the levy by the end of December. However, the actual amount to be collected will be determined by the county in the

spring. The levy represents the funding the city seeks by way of property taxes, and not true figures, which will not be calculated until spring.

Funding is based on the equalized assessed value (EAV) of properties within the city's corporate boundary. EAV is determined by the local and county assessors and used for determining and allocating the extended property taxes.

What the city can actually collect is limited by the consumer price index (CPI).

The CPI is published by the federal government as a measure of inflation, and is the factor used to compute the fixed rate for the amount of property taxes and related revenue available from the beginning of the year.

Due to tax cap legislation, the CPI percentage increase cannot exceed 5% in any year.

The levy applies to the 2023 fiscal year, which ends on April 30.

Wilmington PD earns recognition from NCMEC

STAFF REPORT

WILMINGTON — The members of the Wilmington Police Department have completed training that will give officers a boost when it comes to investigating time sensitive reports of children who have gone missing.

The WPD is now a member of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Missing Kids Readiness Program. The

NCMEC developed the Missing Kids Readiness Program to promote best practices for responding to calls of missing, abducted, and sexually exploited children.

WPD is now among dozens of law enforcement agencies and 911 call centers nationwide that have been recognized for meeting essential training and policy elements and demonstrating preparedness for responding to a missing child incident.

To meet the requirements

of the program, personnel with the WPD worked with NCMEC on their missing child policy to ensure it met the critical elements of the model policy for law enforcement agencies.

All sworn law enforcement officers must complete multiple Missing & Exploited Children training modules in order to gain the recognition, and supervisors and criminal investigators/detectives must complete the additional modules.

The recognition means the WPD has adopted the NCMEC Law Enforcement Model Policy and Procedures for Reports of Missing and Abducted Children, developed with the assistance of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The WPD is just the second law enforcement agency in the state of Illinois to earn membership in the Missing Kids Readiness Program.

"This is a big accomplishment," city administrator

Jeannine Smith said. "The second in the state to achieve this, so I just wanted to say thank you to the chief for pursuing this and for your excellence."

Membership in the Missing Kids Readiness Program is valid for a period of four years. At that time, the agency must provide documentation that they continue to follow certain criteria in order to maintain that membership. Membership is free.

According to the NCMEC, the recognition demonstrates to the public the member agencies' further excellence in public safety services and helps reinforce the public's faith and confidence in the commitment of member agencies to safeguard children from abduction, sexual exploitation and other risks.

More than 300 law enforcement agencies and call centers are recognized by the Missing Kids Readiness Program, and more than 367,000 professionals in the United States and 33 other countries have been trained by NCMEC.

BPD

improve communication between citizens and police through education.

"As part of it, we are going to incorporate our firearms simulated training during the eight weeks, to help citizens understand how quick officers have to make decisions where deadly force may be applied," Lyons said.

The chief noted that the department, like other departments in the region, has been actively working toward community engagement in an effort to let the public know that law enforcement officers are not just here to make arrests—they are also active members of the community.

Last month, the City Council lauded the department with a year end list of activities and efforts of officers to commit to community outreach. In addition to participating in National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, and Blue Santa, as well as community events such as Summerfest and the annual Christmas parade, members of the department were also lauded for assisting the public with day to day tasks, including helping kids with problems with their bicycles, utilizing social media to help track down the owners of lost pets, and engaging in a Christmas movie contest via Facebook.

Applicants for the academy must be at least 21 years old, and reside within the Reed-Custer School District.

Sessions will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. from Feb. 2 through March 23. Class size is limited.

Applications are available at the front desk at the police station during business hours, and will also be made available through the city's website. Applications should be turned in by Friday, Jan. 28 at the Police Department. Anyone with questions can contact Officer Colavecchi at 708-712-3530 or Chief Lyons at 815-458-2342 ext. 214 for more information.

The Citizens Police Academy is free to attend.

Attorney Wysocki files Zelinski estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THEODORE J. ZELINSKI, Deceased; No. 22 PR 735

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of THEODORE J. ZELINSKI. Letters of Office were issued to Steven J. Zelinski whose address is 1808 Ardmore St., Joliet, IL 60431 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 28th day of June, 2023 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Theodore J. Zelinski, Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Published in the Braidwood Journal, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Attorney Wysocki files Ware estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY T. WARE, Deceased; No. 22 PR 709

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of SHIRLEY T. WARE. Letters of Office were issued to Hugh J. Ware whose address is 1624 Heiden Ave., Crest Hill, IL 60403 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 28th day of June, 2023 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Shirley T. Ware, Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Published in the Braidwood Journal, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Warren petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Toby Dwain Warren to Toby Dwain Taylor, Case No. 2022 MR000425

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself/herself, Toby Dwain Warren adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 17th day of February, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Toby Dwain Warren be changed to Toby Dwain Taylor.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 11, and 18, 2023.

Custer Township schedules meetings for 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF MEETINGS UNDER OPEN MEETINGS ACT

NOTICE IS hereby given that Custer Township shall have regular meetings of its Board of Trustees on the following dates for the year, January 1, 2023- December 31, 2023.

- These meetings shall commence at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.
- Tuesday, January 17, 2023
- Tuesday, February 21, 2023
- Tuesday, March 21, 2023
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023 (7:00 p.m. or directly after Annual Meeting)
- Tuesday, May 16, 2023
- Tuesday, June 20, 2023
- Tuesday, July 18, 2023
- Wednesday, August 16, 2023
- Tuesday, September 19, 2023
- Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023
- Tuesday, December 19, 2023

The Annual Meeting of the Town Electors for this Township shall take place on April 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Custer Township Hall.

Notice of any special meetings of the Board of Trustees or the Electors shall be given as required by statute.

Any questions concerning meetings of the Board of Trustees or the Electors shall be directed to Christine Olson, Township Clerk, 23125 McGuire Rd., Wilmington, IL (815)458-2756 or e-mail chrissolsoncuster@willcountyil.gov
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Elder estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL 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 LINDA ELDER, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 494
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of LINDA ELDER, of Frankfort, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued August 19, 2022, to JAY ELDER, whose address is 3304 Yellowstone Dr. SW, Grandville, MI 49418 and MOLLY KUBA, whose address is 21 W. Avenue F, Lewistown, IL 61542, Independent Co-Administrators, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the day of June 28, 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Kimberly A. Clark, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Linda Elder, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Kochel 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 CLARENCE F. KOCHEL, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 749
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of CLARENCE F. KOCHEL, of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued December 12, 2022, to KIMBERLY A. CLARK, Independent Administrator, whose address is 230 Lee St., Manhattan, IL 60442, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the day of June 28, 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Kimberly A. Clark, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Clarence F. Kochel, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Bush estate notice

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

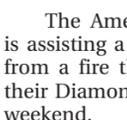
In the Matter of the Estate of CAROYL BUSH, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 692
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of CAROYL BUSH, of New Lenox, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued December 9, 2022, to BRADLEY BUSH, Independent Executor, whose address is 1714 W. Thorndale Ave., Chicago, IL 60660, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the day of June 28, 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

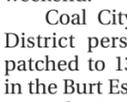
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Bradley Bush, Independent Executor of the Estate of Caroyl Bush, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Are you invested properly? Get a second opinion.



Dean A. Shepherd, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
311 W Baltimore St
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-6856



Member SIPC
www.edwardjones.com



The Braidwood Journal
USPS No. 550-940
Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
Periodicals postage paid at Wilmington, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
The Braidwood Journal, P.O. Box 327;
Wilmington IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$43 Grundy & Will counties; \$50 other Illinois counties and \$57 out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:
• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002.

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon
E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2022 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G.W. Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G.W. Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

A week in the life of a coal town

I often think about what it would be like to live in the 19th century. Most often I write about a single event, or a series of related events. Today I randomly pulled up a week from my Braidwood file to see what was going on in a typical week in 1875. Set the way back machine for September 10.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

The following was printed in the Braidwood column of the Wilmington Advocate:

"A strike was threatened at the Eureka shaft on Monday." Well, that was not news. Strikes were a constant part of working in the coal field.

"The old school house at Eureka was sold on Wednesday for \$158.00 (\$4,050). Work has commenced on the new School House at Eureka." From the description given of the old school house, it was little more than a two-room chicken coop. A little over 10 years old, it became, not surprisingly a real chicken coop.

"Cholera infantum, is the prevailing disease, and the doctors are having all they can do." Of course, germ theory had not been discovered. With outhouses and wells next to each other, and a high water table, cholera had a perfect

breeding ground, and the babies were the most vulnerable.

"Business is improving. Only thirty men watched a merchant hoeing out his gutter this morning." Summer in the coal fields in 1875 was a time of slack work for everyone, and the next blurb didn't help matters. "The population in our city is rapidly increasing by constant immigration, and from other sources." Less work and more mouths to feed spelled poverty for most.

"Pay day" is a day of rejoicing in this vicinity. How suggestive of the time of reward in all things." Yes, pay day was a great day. It was the day you went to the company store to pay off your bill. Then, hopefully there was a few pennies left for beer.

"Broadie's Shaft is cleared of water, so that some coal has been raised. It will soon be in running order, and under the present competent management it will be made to pay." This shaft was not owned by the major coal companies. Unfortunately, the water problem was never solved, even with pumping, so it "went under" so to speak.

"A few evenings since, as

Mrs. P. Curry was rubbing herself with some inflammable liniment, it ignited from a pit lamp standing near, burning her severely." Open flames were always a problem, one trip, one candle knocked over, and it could all go up in smoke.

"We learn that J. McKernan, principal of Lower Braidwood school, will open an evening school in Lower Braidwood school house, on Monday evening Sept. 13. J. McKernan was the first in the coal field to be concerned about the education of both the miners and the children. We know that many children went to work in the shafts at the age of 12. McKernan's night school was the answer to that problem. We do know that his school was popular, but with strike after strike, McKernan moved on to a more peaceful environment.

"Among the temperance institutions of the State the Braidwood Lodge of Good Templars, known as the "Miners' Friends Lodge," is not excelled. The officers and members are chiefly Scotch." Among the first immigrants to Braidwood were the Scots, Welsh, and English. This gave them "founding fathers" status in town and the Good Templars held a high place in the social circles.

"Married - On the 28th ult., by D. P. Hendricks, J. P. John Nell, of Braidwood, to

Fannie Smith of the same place." John Nell was an entrepreneur who not only owned a saloon, but several buildings in town, one of which, Nell's Hall, was known for its low-class entertainments, and dances where fights were likely to break out.

"A sister inducing her brother to leave a card table in one of our saloons constituted at 1 o'clock in the morning scene on Saturday night."

"A Bohemian wedding, in Lower Braidwood, was the primary cause of lively times in that end of town last Tuesday night week."

High times in the old town, no surprise there.

"Two corn shellers have been running near the depot for the last ten days. The small boys and old women get up a corner on cobs." Now this is not as peculiar as it may seem to you. Corn cobs were very useful things back in the day. They could be used in the outhouse, cooked up and made into corn cob jelly, ground up and fed to the chickens/pigs/horses etc. and even added to bread dough to extend the dough and provide nutrition.

Well, as a typical week goes, it was pretty good. No one got killed or even shot. That was the 1870's. Next time we will pick a week from the 1880's.

Fossil Ridge Library News

Fossil Ridge Public Library has a book sale happening through Jan. 31 during our normal hours. Fill a bag of books for \$5 or all books, DVDs, and CDs will be \$1 each. Support the library by purchasing used books, CDs, and DVDs.

Adult Programs
Jan. 17-Cook the Book, 6-7 p.m. Join us for our cookbook-meets-potluck. Each member chooses a recipe from the same cookbook and brings a dish to share at the following meeting.

Child Programs
Jan. 17-Play-Doh Playdates, 10:30-11 a.m. Play-Doh and tools provided all you need to bring is your imagination.

Jan. 19 & 26-Toddler Time, 10-11 a.m. Bring your toddlers and explore with various toys and sensory materials each week. They'll

improve their gross and fine motor skills, as well as their social interaction and language skills.

Jan. 19-Kids Can Cook 5:30-6:30 p.m. This instructor lead program introduces children to the basic skills of food preparation and cooking, while also teaching children the joys of cooking nutritious and delicious food.

Jan. 21-STEM Saturday - Marshmallow Igloo, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. What do hot cocoa and igloos have in common? Marshmallows, of course. Take this winter STEM challenge and build an igloo out of the white squishy candy as a fun way to explore the winter season.

Registration is required for all programs. For more information call 815-458-2187 or e-mail help@fossil-ridge.org.

High winds, below zero temps recorded in Dec.

STAFF REPORT

Snow, high winds and below zero temperatures were recorded in Grundy County during in the final month of 2022.

Grundy County's Emergency Management Agency's weather data division reported 2.8 inches of snow fell on Grundy County in December, bringing the season total to 3.5 inches. The county also had 2.32 inches of rain last month, the highest 24-hour period recorded at .97 inches on Dec. 15. There were six days in the month with measurable rain and four with measurable snow.

Total liquid precipitation for 2022 was calculated at 31.82 inches.

The county's monthly climatological data listed the average monthly temperature at 29 degrees with a high of 60 degrees on Dec. 29 and a low of minus-9 degrees six days earlier on Dec. 23.

Peak wind gust recorded in the county was 46 mph on two separate days—Dec. 3 and Dec. 23.

The report is based on weather data collected and kept on file at the GCEMA office at the Grundy County Administration Center in Morris.

McPherson in the Senior Spotlight for January

The Reed-Custer High School Senior Spotlight winner for the month of January is Jake McPherson.

Jake is the son of Richard and Elizabeth McPherson.

During his high school career, Jake was involved in Safe School Ambassadors (SSA), National Honor Society, was on the High Honor Roll, and was on the Football, Basketball, and Baseball teams. In Football and Baseball, he was named to the All-Conference team (Jr/Sr), Academic All-Conference team (Jr/Sr), and All-Area team (Jr/Sr). In Football, he was named to the All-State Academic team (Jr/Sr), and was Honorable Mention All-State (Sr).

His future plans are to continue his academic and athletic career at a 4-year university to potentially study business and play baseball.

Here are a few thoughts from Jake's teachers.

Mrs. Arsenneau says that "it has been so fun to watch Jake grow up from a little freshman in my Comet Time! He has always been such a respectful, light hearted, cheerful student. Although it has been a while since I have had him in class as a student, it's just nice to see him in the halls and catch up. I look forward to seeing all he accomplishes outside of RCHS in his athletics and career!"

Mrs. Morrissey appreciates that Jake "is always so willing to help with anything and everything."

Mr. Evans acknowledges that "so many young kids across our community look up to Jake, and for good reason. He's a natural leader who possesses the ability to lift up those around him. He's a dedicated student-athlete who excels both on the field and in the classroom. He displays tremendous character and always does the right thing. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to coach and teach Jake going all the way back to when he was in the 8th grade. I thank



him for being a great representative of Reed-Custer High School and for embodying what it means to be a Comet."

Ms. Baron believes that Jake "is a positive and polite student. I don't think I've ever witnessed Jake come to class in a bad mood! He's helpful, not afraid to ask questions, and engages with all students to make them feel included. Jake sings a song in Ceramics class almost every day and we call it 'Jake's Song of the Day!'"

Mrs. Leveille is glad that she "had Jake when he was a freshman, and I remember that he had an energetic personality and a positive attitude. He worked hard in class, lots of effort and was respected by his peers."

Mrs. Redwitz says that Jake is "one of the kindest kids I have encountered. He talks to everyone and is always smiling. He is a hard worker and is respectful to staff and his peers. (He even includes the freshmen in his conversations!!)."

Mrs. Eltrevoog thinks that Jake is "a natural leader who brings energy and enthusiasm into the classroom. He is not only a positive role model in the classroom, but also for the school community. He cares

about his academics and always does his best. It has been a pleasure to have him in class and get to know him this semester."

Mr. Johnston believes that Jake is "a perfect example of what it means to be a Comet. He is a tremendous athlete, student, and leader. Jake has a great connection with so many students, because he makes it a point to reach out to others and include them in many activities. RCHS is lucky to have Jake!"

Ms. Meents is thankful that Jake is "a great role model for underclassmen not only because of his athletic ability and the success he has in the classroom, but because he genuinely treats everyone around him with the utmost respect and kindness from his heart. Jake will most definitely be missed here at RCHS when he graduates!"

Mrs. Lee thinks that Jake is "a great person! He always has a smile on his face and goes out of his way to say hi to everyone. Jake is an extremely hard worker and will continue to have great success!"

Mr. Wolf believes that Jake is "a generational athlete who is so much more than that. He is one of the most caring, giv-

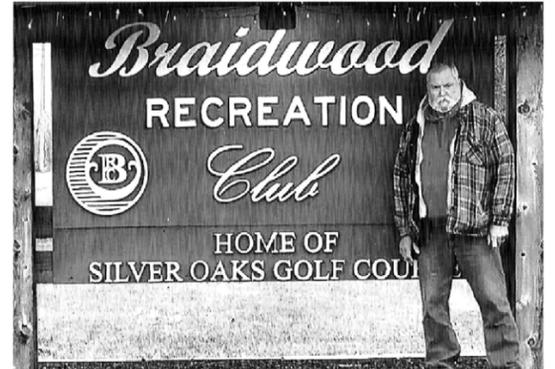
ing students to ever walk the halls of RC. Don't let his boisterous and sometimes aloof demeanor fool you. He is also very sincere, paying attention to the things that matter, like the well-being of his fellow classmates. His infectious laugh reveals his love for life and desire to make others happy. Jake is very deserving of this recognition, and he is an example for us all."

Mr. Gleixner says that Jake is "an outstanding student, athlete, and person. Jake's zest for Reed-Custer and the people around him is unmatched. He brings a great energy every day and is admired by future Comets."

As a final thought, Jake's advice to younger students is, "Your time flies by in high school, so make the most of every day."

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, congratulations to Jake McPherson as the January winner of the Senior Spotlight.

Re-elect Rich Bolatto



I am Rich Bolatto and I'm running for re-election to the Braidwood Recreation Club board of directors on Saturday, January 14, 2023. I have been a member of the board for 15 years and have had the privilege to serve on many of the councils of the club throughout that time. I know what it takes to continue to make our club one of the finest in the area and I would very much appreciate your vote in the upcoming election.

Re-elect Troy Ehringer

Hello,
My name is Troy Ehringer Sr. The Braidwood Recreation Club Annual Board of Directors Election is on Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the club office and I am seeking re-election. I have been on the Board for the past 3 years and enjoyed assisting the board.

In my first year on the board, I was the director of the beach. During this year, we relocated the outside shower to a safer location. We also painted the beach wall and repaired and replaced the fence with a cedar split rail fence. Although we battled with the Covid pandemic, we were able to keep the beach operating per state's guidelines.

My second year on the board, I was the director of camping. We replaced the playground sets and landscaped it with rubber mulch in Coyote and in the Pines. I also assisted in repairing the well in Deer Park. We maintained, serviced and replaced several service boxes in the various campgrounds. I added a new campground at Bass Lake.

My third year on the board, I was the director of the gate. We kept the gate operating with safety and security of our club. At the 2022 4th of July celebration, I organized a safe and convenient entrance and quick exit in and out of the club.

I am seeking re-election to further assist and improve our club. I have enjoyed working with the Board of Directors the past three years and we have accomplished several projects as a group. I would love the opportunity to serve another term to continue to help our club grow and improve. I would appreciate your vote and look forward to serving the members for the next 3 years.

Sincerely, Troy Ehringer Sr.

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

Geo's PIZZA

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 37 years!"

37TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$28.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 01/31/23.

Gift Certificates Available

Order online at www.geospizza.net

634-8858
 715 S. Broadway • Coal City

MasterCard VISA

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

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

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-

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

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

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

Just trying to survive

WILMINGTON—Has anyone ever seen a deer with three arrows stuck in its side, still trying to survive after a human, with their belly full, went out for a joy hunt with the family on an unarmed creature, who is, truly just trying to survive off the land? Man!

Million\$ spent

DIAMOND—U.S. tax payers foot \$324 million annual health care bill for illegal aliens. Sharon

Misusing the word

WILMINGTON— OK Dan here we go again. Get a dictionary and look up Communism because you continue to misuse the word. For your information it is legal to be a Communist and there is a Communist party in America. Democrats have their own party and it is not Communist. The problem here is you use the word as a pejorative to insult people who don't agree with your views. I don't agree with any of your positions that wreak of racist and fascism but I'm not going so low as to call you names. Get your facts together before you open your mouth again comrade.

Revival in faith

Our nation needs a revival in faith. We know the recipe. God gives it to us in 2nd Chronicles 7:14. "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray and seek my faith and turn from their wicked ways then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Cause of it all

WILMINGTON—After watching the debacle of Republicans choosing a leader can we all agree it is not the Democrats causing congressional gridlock?

Destroying America

DIAMOND—If you really wanted to destroy the U.S. then... First, surrender energy independence. Kill the Keystone Pipeline. Make war on coal and nuclear power. Drain strategic oil reserves. Demonize frackers and horizontal drillers. Declare internal combustion engines and fossil fuel generations dangerous to the environment. Second, print trillions of dollars new currency. Keep all interests low. Inflate prices to a 40-year high. Spread the wealth, pay workers to become unemployed. Damn the rich in open but court them in secret. Third, end America's physical boundaries. End all differences between citizen and resident. Allow 3 million illegal aliens per year. Destroy public trust in elections. Render election day irrelevant. Normalize ballot harvesting and curing. Make auditing 110 million early votes impossible. Urge leftist billionaires to infuse riches to media to insure correct turnout. Blast anyone who disagrees with final counts as insurrectionists, deniers, Democracy destroyers. Fifth, redefine crime. One is rich man's crime but poor man's necessity. Let those in need exercise free entitlement. Exempt oppressed to take as atonement to racism. Sixth, encourage each tribe, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation to ban and oppose white privilege. Green light statue toppling, vandalizing, cancel culturing, ostracizing and Trotsky rising. Erase the past but control the present. Seventh, render U.S. just one nation abroad. Leave behind thousands of Afghanistan allies. Abandon some military to certain death. Leave billions of dollars of equipment. Leave a billion dollar embassy. Abandon largest air base in Central Asia. Re-enter Iran nuclear deal. Trash then beg Saudi Arabia to pump more oil. Eighth, Looter first amendment. Enlist Silicon Valley monopolies to silence free speech. Use Big tech mega profits to warp elections. Declare free expression as hate speech, Criminalize contrayion social media. Ninth, Demonize half the country as semi fascist, insurrectionists and potential domestic terrorists. Change inconvenient ancient rules. Seek to pack the court. End the Filibuster. Bring in two more states. Twice impeach a president who stood in the way. Tried President Amiridis just as a private citizen, raid his home, seek to indict a future rival to Biden. Ten, Never mention origins of CCP Covid-19 virus. Never blame China for release of CCP Covid virus. Exempt investigations of U.S. health officials who subsidized Chinese gain oppression research. Ignore Bill of Rights/mandate vaccinations, masking and quarantine. Our present government has done all ten of these. It would be difficult to imagine any planned agenda to be anymore injurious to America and it's people than what we have already endured the last two years. Sharon

Crisis at the border

COAL CITY—I read Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers can't locate records of 378,000 illegal immigrants from Alternatives to Detention program. In November alone there were 283,740 illegal migrant encounters along the southern borders reported by U.S. Customs and Border pro-

tection. Report released Dec. 24 it's a crisis! Now Chicago Mayor Lightfoot wants millions of dollars to care for 1,500 illegals. Mayor of New York received \$9 million so far to care for illegals shipped there.

Social Security increase

COAL CITY—If you received an increase in your Social Security check don't credit President Biden, it was a written law stating an increase was due for cost of living for those on Social Security long ago. Eight million new claims were filed for benefits last year, 59 percent were for retirement benefits, 31 percent were for survivor benefits and 10 percent were for disability benefits. Three million children get Social Security benefits, about \$1.3 million get survivor benefits from a deceased father or mother's Social Security record. Another one million are minor children of some one getting Social Security disability benefits. The remainder are children of retirees. More than \$1 trillion was in the S.S. program revenues last year. Ninety percent came from payroll taxes.

What a shame

COAL CITY—In Dec. 2022 all Confederate statues building signs street signs etc. were removed from West Point Academy in New York. Robert E. Lee graduated from West Point. More U.S. history put in garbage.

To get their way

WILMINGTON—After watching the four day Speaker of the House election on C-SPAN (Fox News was too busy talking about the college murders and border concerns), I learned that the House Republicans want to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security now that McCarthy is Speaker. They also hint at a government shutdown if they don't get their way. If that happens, Congress should pass legislation that states that members of Congress cannot collect their salaries while any shutdown is in effect. I also noticed that these four days showed that the minority truly rules.

Looks trashy

BRAIDWOOD—There has been a bicycle with a bunch of junk attached to it chained up to the Rt. 66 Park pavilion next to the "Zoo" in Braidwood for over 3 months now. When is the city of Braidwood or the Braidwood Police Department going to remove it? There's absolutely no way that they haven't seen it. Talk about making our town look trashy, or is that what our city council wants for the look of our community?

Trash talk

BRAIDWOOD— The city of Braidwood administration has once again kept the residents in the dark about the new waste service contract. There is lots of speculation going around about how much the cost is going to go up over the life of the contract. How about the city put the entire document on their Facebook page or website for the public to read it. They probably won't because they want to see who is looking at their information and know who to target if the information gets leaked out. They said they stuck it on a countertop in the hallway of city hall, but did they make any public notice to the residents that it was available for viewing? The answer is no. Talk with a few other communities who use this new company and find out what they think about them.

Town is thriving

BRAIDWOOD—You are going to see a lot of fictional negative posts and mailings about this administration because that is all the old administration has to run on in the next election. How can saving citizens \$100,000 for the new garbage disposal contract and bringing in three new car dealerships be bad for Braidwood? This administration has cut frivolous spending and increased revenue, while improving the image of Braidwood. This town is thriving. Please do your research. Don't believe the negative soundoffs. You can tell when reading them it's obvious that it's always the same author.

The next meeting

COAL CITY—In regards to the upcoming Coal City Area Club meeting on Jan. 18th, I encourage as many as possible members to attend. I have heard dues are being raised on members. Also, an substantial increase on dues being paid by senior citizens. I also heard senior citizens are not permitted to join as new members. I'd love to see their upcoming meeting agenda published in the Coal City Courier, front page! I know they are a private club and they can make their own rules, however, the members deserve better. Maybe a better alternative would be to vote the present Board out and start over.

Three-day siege

BRAIDWOOD—There are a few who write into soundoff that white males get favorable treatable consideration. Fortunately "The Week" magazine free offer showed me a comparable thing to what it and people are currently saying about the Jan. 6 insurrection of the capital that blacks would not get. "Whoa." Early 1977 "Black Muslims" took control of three Washington DC buildings, killed a reporter, held 150 people hostage and shot Marion



Barry, a future mayor of DC. My being an old man of 76 years, I don't recall it. I do recall the nation of Islam movement. Oh, it was a three-day siege. Check "The Week," Dec. 23, 2022 page 20.

All for votes

SHADOW LAKES—I know Dan Hill can be a little extreme at times but he was spot on about LBJ and the New Frontier. It was the start of the welfare system that is still used to get votes almost 60 years later. It gave us fatherless families that led us into crime, gangs and drug addicts. This was all done to get votes and we will never recover.

Eddie

Praying for St. Rose

WILMINGTON—I feel very bad for the parishioners of St. Rose Parish and the fact that the Joliet Diocese has started to renew my church program. I know people whose parishes were in the Chicago Archdiocese and went through the renew my church program and had their church close and worked with another parish. It's a very long and drawn out process. They hold meetings and basically dangle a carrot in front of your nose. You walk out of the meeting knowing as much as you did when you walked in, absolutely nothing. They take many things into account, the size of the church building, how many people the sanctuary can hold, how much the church is in debt and how much the church takes in so basically the bottom line is it's all about the money. I know St. Rose is struggling financially. They are not meeting their weekly offering goal so this is something the diocese will definitely take into account, a fact my friends who have gone through it have talked about with their parishes. So I pray for the people of St. Rose and asking God to intervene won't do any good. It's going to be up to the Joliet Diocese so I wish you the best of luck in this very long and drawn out process.

Speaker promises

WILMINGTON—I hope you Republicans know that whatever McCarthy promised those right wing know-nothing extremists you are going to pay for it. He is literally playing with House money. So much for winning hearts and minds.

Lawmaker pay raise

COAL CITY—It disgusts me what the lame duck Illinois Democrats did. They gave themselves a \$12,000 pay boosts on the eve of a new session. What a sham for taxpayers. The Democrats mapped out the state so they could keep the majority going and then gave themselves a pay raise. Just another case of politicians taking care of themselves before taking care of the middle class working men and women.

Better things

COAL CITY—Surely, there are more important things we need in our school than turf for the football field. Keep the focus on education, not frivolous things. There are a lot of things that I would like to have but my good old common sense tells me that I must live within my means. If the school district has that much to spend, give it back to the taxpayers instead.

Investigating Hunter

WILMINGTON—Apparently investigating Hunter Biden is going to lower inflation and high prices and fix the border. Penny Lane

That's on them

WILMINGTON—Republicans can't blame Democrats for the Speaker fiasco. They let an angry 10% take their party hostage. That's on them. Had they really wanted to elect the first black speaker they could have voted for Jeffries.

Close the border

MORRIS—So I see where Mayor Lightfoot in Chicago demands that Colorado stops busing immigrants to the city. While first they are illegal immigrants, anybody can claim asylum in the state of Illinois and Chicago as a sanctu-

ary city and state. They want them here so what is she complaining about? She should tell her big boss in Washington DC, our illustrious President Biden, to close the border, put up a wall and stop that. He hasn't even been down to the border. He was going down to the border Sunday but it's a big joke. Biden and Harris are the worst president and vice president of the United States. Lightfoot and Pritzker want these immigrants so let them stay at their houses.

Twisted words

WILMINGTON—It is very sad what is happening with the Historical Society. I'm sure that the people who worked many years ago to get this project started are rolling over in their graves. The problems are stemming from two people on the board, the president and the treasurer. In a soundoff on Jan. 4 someone made a comment that someone was put on the board and has never attended any of the meetings. There was a person who was chosen to be a trustee and a few months ago that person had the president read a letter at a meeting which I attended stating that because of health issues they felt they could not give the time needed to serve as a trustee so they were resigning from the board. The president twisted the words around and said that they resigned as a member. The following month at a meeting I also attended this person had the vice president read a letter stating that under no circumstances were they quitting the museum as a member. They were only resigning from the board. The secretary said this person deserves an apology. The president said nothing. In the past the former president always had the secretary send the members e-mail reminders of meetings and also the agenda and when we came to the meetings on the table were the agenda, the minutes from the previous meeting that we would approve or amend if necessary and a financial report from the treasurer. When we attend meetings now there is absolutely no information available and when you ask the president he ways says if you want an agenda, attend the meeting. So this is where the problems with the Historical Society are coming from. I hope that the president will resign.

Elvis event rocked

WILMINGTON—I would like to thank Maria, our librarian, and her staff for showing the movie "Elvis" on Friday, Jan. 6. It was a very nice afternoon. When the movie played here in town unfortunately I got sick and had to leave the theater and missed over half of the movie and never got a chance to go back and see it so it was really nice to see it on Friday. A friend of mine from where I used to live came down and saw the movie as well and I had my first peanut butter and fried banana sandwich and I could see why that was Elvis's favorite snack. Thanks again for a wonderful afternoon. I know everyone who was there truly enjoyed the movie. If that young man doesn't win an Oscar for best actor there is definitely something wrong in Hollywood.

Calling them out

COAL CITY—I know it's political posturing but thank you State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) for calling out lawmakers after they passed a supplemental spending bill, Senate Bill 1720, which contains a pay increase for Illinois legislators and gives the Governor \$400 million for a so-called "business closing fund" with little oversight. Rezin said, "This supplemental spending bill is appallingly irresponsible. Not only does this bill give legislators a \$12,000 salary increase after they already voted to increase their salaries this spring, but it also gives the Governor nearly half a billion dollars to use with little oversight on how he chooses to use it. Far too many people in our state are struggling to keep up with the staggering increase of the cost of living for us to be giving ourselves a raise and the Governor hundreds of millions of dollars for his pet projects." I hope more people pay attention to where this money is going to be spent.

CLASSIC ROCK
Wicked Vic
performing
NO COVER SATURDAY, JAN. 14 9:30 pm - 1:30 am
TOFFY'S WILMINGTON, IL
Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment
1099 S. Water St. (Rt. 102), Wilmington • (815) 476-2700

YOUR NEW HOME DESERVES THE BEST PROTECTION
American Family Insurance is proud to be named Best Homeowners Insurance of 2021 by Forbes Advisor.
Contact me today and get the protection you deserve.
AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364
863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404
teamgresham@amfam.com
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

warrencollisioncenteril.com
WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
860 E.Z. St., Braidwood 815-458-3300
✓ **Finest quality warranted collision repair**
✓ **Rentals available**
✓ **Certified technicians**
✓ **All insurance accepted**
✓ **Completed in a timely fashion**
WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

Check Out These Hot Winter Deals!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!



Experience the Berkot's difference
Fresh. Friendly. Focused on you.

Sales valid 1/11/23-1/17/23 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM
ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Great On The Smoker!
Fresh, All-Natural Boneless Pork Collar
\$2.99
LB

Berkot's Own Corned Beef
\$3.99
LB

USDA CHOICE USDA Choice
Angus Beef Top Sirloin Filets- 5 oz portion (sold in 3 pk for \$11.97)
\$3.99
EACH

Berkot's Farm Fresh Whole Chicken
88¢
LB
WITH LOYALTY
W/OUT LOYALTY \$1.49/LB
LIMIT 6

Berkot's Fresh, Medium-Size, Restaurant-Quality Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
\$3.99
LB

Berkot's Farm Fresh Chicken Drumsticks
99¢ LB
-60¢ LB
39¢ with loyalty

GREAT FOR SALADS!

\$3.99
LB
-\$1.00
LB
\$2.99 with loyalty

All Natural Fresh Pork

\$3.99
PER LB

Great Grocery Deals to Fill Your Basket!

Smart Ones Entrees 6.49-10.25 oz Reg Price: 2/\$4

DIGITAL COUPON
2/\$2
when buying 2 with \$2 digital coupon
must clip coupon at BERKOTFOODS.COM

Jimmy Dean Fully Cooked Sausage Patties 16 ct, 19.2 oz

\$3.99 EACH

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Entenmann's Donuts- 15-17.5 oz Reg Price: \$6.59

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

Rao's Marinara or Tomato Basil Sauce 24 oz

\$4.99 EACH

Absopure Purified Water 24 pk

4 FOR \$11

Era 2X Regular or OxiBooster 154 oz (Select Var.)

\$8.99 EACH

Boost Original Chocolate High Protein 24 pk

\$19.99 EACH

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

BELLATORIA ULTRA THIN CRUST PIZZAS SELECT VARIETIES 12.76-21.71 OZ

SALE PRICE **\$5.99** EA
DIGITAL COUPON **-\$1.00** EA
FINAL PRICE WITH DIGITAL COUPON **\$4.99** EA

1/11-1/17/23 While Supplies Last
Limit one coupon/pizza per loyalty member

Miller 64 12 pk 12 oz btls or cans

Busch Light, Busch or Rolling Rock 30 pk 12 oz cans

\$6.99 EACH

\$14.99 EACH

Buy 1, Get 1 Bag of Always Save Pretzels 12 oz for a Penny!

99¢
PRODUCE
sale

99¢
PER LB
WITH LOYALTY

Brussels Sprouts W/Out Loyalty \$1.49/lb

99¢
EACH
WITH LOYALTY

Driscoll's Blackberries- 6 oz W/Out Loyalty \$1.99 Each

99¢
EACH
WITH LOYALTY

Crisp California Head Lettuce W/Out Loyalty \$1.49 Each

99¢
PER LB
WITH LOYALTY

Michigan Honeycrisp Apples W/Out Loyalty \$1.99/lb

99¢
PER LB
WITH LOYALTY

Snow White Cauliflower W/Out Loyalty \$1.49/lb

99¢
EACH

Extra Large Red or Green Peppers

WE'RE HIRING!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Apply today at [Berkotfoods.com!](http://Berkotfoods.com)

Due to shortages across the supply chain, availability limited across locations. No rainchecks at this time.

A cocktail recipe for "Dry January"

Welcome to the 2023 installment of "Dry January", a month-long break from consuming alcoholic beverages. On average, one in seven Americans will take part in the trend that began as a public health campaign in the United Kingdom in 2012.

Dry January brings great opportunities to test your willpower and brush up on your non-alcoholic "mocktail" game. There's a mocktail that I look forward to in Dry January, and it's the classic Southampton.

As limiting as Dry January may sound, you have some delicious options. Non-alcoholic versions of the Daiquiri, Mojito, Pina Colada, and Margarita are delicious, though they are probably not part of the diets that many of us are trying to start the New Year.

Back to my all-time favorite mocktail. I assume that the drink originated in Southampton, but don't know for sure. Very little is known about the origin of the Southampton yet the drink is served all over the world. How did the world learn of this amazing mocktail?

The answer is on a bottle that can be found in nearly every bar on the planet, the

iconic Angostura Bitters bottle.

I read labels. Perhaps it started when I was a kid reading cereal box labels at breakfast. A few years ago I was enjoying a Manhattan when I noticed that there were several recipes printed at the bottom of the Angostura Bitters bottle in very fine print. There was a Daiquiri, a Manhattan, and this non-alcoholic drink called the "Southampton".

The Southampton recipe was simple: tonic water, lime juice, and a few dashes of Angostura Bitters. I figured that I would give it a shot as I had all of the ingredients handy.

It was love at first sip. The Southampton instantly became my favorite mocktail. It's crisp, refreshing, and satisfying to drink.

The non-alcoholic options at most bars are usually limited to flat Coca Cola or Sprite from a soda gun that is badly in need of calibration.

The Southampton gives designated drivers and those abstaining from alcohol the opportunity to enjoy a deli-



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

cious drink to enjoy with their friends.

Do you have a bottle of Angostura Bitters? Add one to your home bar immediately if you do not. You don't even have to make a trip to the liquor store to pick up a bottle, most grocery stores carry Angostura Bitters.

These "bitters" are not actually bitter, they are a mix of herbs and spices that can be added to everything from an Old Fashioned to pumpkin pie. There are even claims of medicinal properties for the legendary aromatic bitters.

It's difficult to describe the taste of Angostura Aromatic Bitters, but it's unmistakable and you wouldn't have much of an Old Fashioned without the proprietary blend of herbs and spices.

Let's celebrate Dry January with our very own Southampton.

Start with a glass, preferably a tall glass. Fill that glass with ice.

Next, squeeze in some fresh lime juice. How much? That's up to you. I would say no less than a wedge, no more

than half a lime. It all depends how high your sour tolerance is.

Next, fill the glass to nearly full with tonic water. Make sure it's fresh tonic water, not "flat" tonic water leftover from Thanksgiving dinner. If you haven't tried Fever Tree tonic water, pick up a bottle and give it a shot. Canada Dry and Schweppe are also great, whatever you have in your bar so long as it's fresh.

Add three dashes of your Angostura Bitters, stir, and serve. A "dash" is not an exact science, 3 dashes from one bottle may be 4 dashes from another. Either way, the deep reddish bitters should leave your drink with a slight pink hue.

Give this one a shot even if you're not celebrating Dry January. Odds are you'll like it. Here's to trying new things in 2023!

The Southampton is built and served in a Collins (tall) glass.

Fill glass with ice
Squeeze in 1 lime wedge
Fill glass with tonic water
Add 3 dashes Angostura Bitters

Stir and serve
Garnish with lime wheel
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



Courtesy photo by Paul Dacko

HIKE TO SEE bald eagles gathered along the Des Plaines River during the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Eagle Watch on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon. Live bird shows featuring an eagle and owls will be presented inside the facility.

Eagle Watch planned this Saturday at Four Rivers Center

The Forest Preserve District of Will County's annual Eagle Watch will feature many ways to celebrate a species that was once on the verge of extinction but is now thriving.

The free event is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, located at 25055 W. Walnut Lane in Channahon.

Hike the trails to see bald eagles fishing and hunting for waterfowl on the open waters of the Des Plaines River.

Warm up inside Four Rivers by a crackling fire and view eagles from afar with a spotting scope manned by a bird expert. Or meet Victor E., a bald eagle that will be part of live indoor raptor presentations.

Forest Preserve staff have their fingers crossed for frigid weather because the colder the temperatures, the more likely eagles will gather around the open waters of the Des Plaines River near Four Rivers.

And when they do gather, it's a wonderful sight to see these massive birds soaring around the Four Rivers area, said Jess McQuown, a Forest Preserve program coordinator.

"They're one of the few birds that can coast in the air," she said. "And they're so distinct because they're big and they're ferocious predators. They dive and catch fish with their feet and watching it is pretty magical. It's like watching an adventure movie."

If the weather is warmer, "You're guaranteed to see an eagle one way or another because of the bird presentations," McQuown added.

Eagle Watch activities
Victor E., the bald eagle, and four owls will be part of

the bird presentations offered by Milton, Wis.-based Hoo's Woods Raptor Center. Two 45-minute bird presentations will take place at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A 20-minute "meet and greet" is set for 12:30 p.m. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

In addition to the bird presentations, Eagle Watch attendees can join 40-minute guided hikes to search for and learn about eagles at 11:50 a.m., 12:55 p.m. and 2:20 p.m. Or they can hike the McKinley Woods site on their own.

Also, three 15-minute Talon Talks will be offered. The times and topics are: noon, Eagles of the World; 1 p.m., Eagle Eyes and Other Awesome Adaptations; 2:30 p.m., Comeback Kid - The Bald Eagle's Road to Recovery.

Other activities include family crafts, an Eagle Eye Scavenger Hunt and food available for purchase from Lil' Deb's Mobile Eats.

Bald eagles have rebounded from a low of around 400 breeding pairs in the early 1960s to an estimated 316,000 today in the lower 48 states, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

And the Illinois Department of Natural Resources states that Illinois hosts more wintering bald eagles than any other state outside of Alaska. There are an estimated 3,100 eagles wintering in 27 Illinois counties each year.

Eagle Watch is supported by funding from Alliance Pipeline, a joint venture of Enbridge and Pembina, and through the assistance of The Nature Foundation of Will County. This is an inclusive program, welcoming individuals of all abilities.

Ag industry producing more with fewer workers

BY TIMOTHY EGGERT
FARMWEEK

Agriculture remains a top employer in rural parts of the U.S. but who worked in the industry has changed during the past three years, according to new data released by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS).

In its annual report, "Rural America at a Glance," ERS found overall population growth in rural or "nonmetro" areas "took a dramatic upswing" between July 2020 and July 2021 when it increased 0.3% to 46.1 million total residents.

It marked the first time since the mid-1990s that nonmetro areas grew at a faster rate than metro areas and was largely because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the report.

Specifically, as COVID-19 infection rates increased, more people moved into less densely populated areas at a faster rate than those who were leaving them.

But despite those positive shifts, rural America is becoming older, with people 65 years and older making up more than 20% of the nonmetro population in 2021 — the first time in history. The size of the working-age population also declined in 2021, with 58% of rural residents aged 18 to 54.

"Declines in the working-age population may make it harder to meet labor demands in some rural industries and local labor markets," the report's authors noted. "At the same time, many rural areas lack sufficient health care capacity, broadband service, community centers and other services to address the challenges associated with an aging population."

While data for 2021 wasn't

available, the report found that as of 2019, the strongest rural job gains came in the real estate, administrative services, education, professional services, health care/social assistance and finance/insurance industries.

And in 2019, the four industries in rural America with the highest employment were government, manufacturing, retail and health care/social assistance.

Those industries dovetail with the next highest employed industry — agriculture — as "families on small- to mid-sized farms often depend on nonagricultural jobs in their local economies as off-farm sources of income," the report noted.

Here are three other ways the report found the rural ag industry has changed:

Top rural industry
Agriculture remains a primary source of employment for rural America, as 7% of all nonmetro jobs in 2019 were related to the industry, compared to 1.1% of all metro jobs. The report said that disparity in employment can largely be attributed to comparative advantages, like the availability of resources and land costs.

Rural ag becoming more diverse
The rural ag industry continues to feature more white workers than workers of color, but the share of minorities employed in the field has improved, the report found.

As of 2019, Hispanic workers performed 14.4% of rural jobs in agriculture, while 2.4% of the rural ag workers were Black. American Indian and Asian workers each made up less than 2% of rural ag jobs.

Jobs down, productivity up
While ag still accounts for a higher share of rural jobs compared to other industries, the total number of jobs in agriculture has gone down, according to the report.

Specifically, the total number of rural ag jobs in 2020 was about 89% of the total number that were available in 2001. That long-term decline in industry jobs, however, has aligned with a long-term rise in agricultural productivity.

Since 2012, the labor productivity, or output per worker, and the total output, or gross domestic product, of the ag industry have both increased by at least 50%. And both measures have nearly doubled since their 2001 levels.

"Due to advances in technology and capital deepening, the rural agricultural industry has thrived," ERS economist and report co-author James Davis said during a webinar about the report. "This industry produces a lot more with the same or fewer workers."

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

Essex Township Request for Proposal for Cemetery Mowing and Trimming

Essex Township is requesting proposals for cemetery mowing services at the two township cemeteries for the period April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024. The two properties total 4.5 acres combined.

Please supply quote on a per-time basis to include mowing, trimming, small debris cleanup, and blowing clippings off markers/monuments. All services will be done on an as-needed basis, not to exceed 3 times per month. Also supply quote for spring and fall cleanup as well as outlining any additional costs or fees. Provider must include proof of liability insurance with proposal.

Quotes due no later than January 30, 2022

Mail quotes to:

Essex Township Supervisor
PO Box 309, Essex, IL 60935

For any questions call: 815-351-3554 or email: supervisor@essextownship-il.org

Dropoff string lights, electronics Jan. 12

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Jan. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Holiday string lights that are no longer working may be dropped off for recycling. This is for string lights only, no stand alone LEDs, CFLs or other fluorescent lights.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff

to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions (limit 2), monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable

receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month. An ID showing Will County residency may be required.

Gas prices rise second straight week

Area gas prices stayed below the statewide average despite a 13.9 cents per gallon increase in the last week.

The average price on Monday was \$3.38/g according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 8.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 5.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.59/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.99/g.

Locally, Braidwood stations were charging \$3.17/g Monday while in Wilmington the price ranged from \$3.19 to \$3.28/g. Coal City stations were at \$3.29/g, Monday while in Morris, Joliet and Bourbonnais the lowest price found was \$3.19/g.

"Last week, the rise in gasoline prices continued, still due to previous refinery outages caused by the cold weather the week of

Christmas. However, I'm optimistic that as refiners get back online, we could see the increases slow down as we head into the time of year when gasoline demand is at its weakest," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.1 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.64 per gallon, according to GasBuddy price reports. "While gasoline prices have rallied, average diesel prices continue to drift lower, which certainly bodes well for the overall economy. As long as refiners are able to get back online soon from previous cold-weather outages, we could see supply start to recover at the same time demand is weak, which could bring gas prices down again. The window of opportunity, however, is shrinking, and by late February or early March, we'll likely kick off the seasonal rise in gasoline prices."

Go green: Switch to cloth towels

Paper towels are viewed as convenient and clean but cloth towels can be just as handy, and as clean when washed; while also being far more economical.

Annual spending on paper towels is around \$24 per household but by switching to

cloth towels you would get by with \$21 in a decade.

Paper towels are usually made from trees and often are not as absorbent as cloth, resulting in more being needed for a clean up. Most brands are not made with recycled content and go to the landfill.

Cloth dishtowels, many made from cotton, can be recycled with textiles after being used for 10 to 30 years! Be sure to have at least 7 so you can toss one in the laundry each day. They make excellent gifts

2023

Desk Calendars

ARE HERE!

\$8.00

each



Great for writing in all those important dates for doctor's visits, family events and more. Featuring phone numbers for area carryouts.



111 S. Water St., Wilmington
271 S. Broadway, Coal City

Final voting begins for photo contest

It's time to vote for your favorite pictures in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's 2022 Preserve the Moment Photo Contest now that December's winner has been chosen.

The contest began in May and all eight monthly winners will now vie for overall contest honors via voting by members of the public on the Forest Preserve's Facebook page, Facebook.com/WillCoForests.

Voting will begin at noon Tuesday, Jan. 10, and end at 11:59 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13. Once all the votes are tallied, winners will receive gift cards of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place.

Three contest participants chosen at random will receive \$75 gift cards. Monthly winners received \$75 gift cards. All prizes are funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County, willcountynature.org.

December winner
Chad Morsch of Romeoville won the month of December by snapping a shot of a fox squirrel at McKinley Woods in Channahon.

Morsch said he was walk-



Courtesy photo by: Chad Morsch

THIS SQUIRREL SHOT snapped at McKinley Woods in Channahon won Romeoville resident Chad Morsch the month of December in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest. Voting for the overall 2022 contest winners begins at noon Tuesday, Jan. 10, on Facebook.com/WillCoForests.

ing back to his car when he saw the squirrel enjoying a meal of smashed hedge apple from an Osage-orange tree. Judges selected the top five photos from submissions in December, and members of the public chose the squirrel shot as the best photo of the

month via Facebook voting. "The squirrel was so pre-occupied with its meal that it allowed me to get relatively close," Morsch said in an email after being notified of his win. "It was quite amusing watching it try to dissect the hedge apple into small enough

pieces it could hold on to. I spent several minutes watching it eat and took several shots. When it was finished it simply ran back to the grass and we both went our way. The squirrel had a full belly, and I had some nice photos."

The other December finalists were:

Jennifer Mathews of Joliet for her shot of a curved wooden boardwalk and water illuminated by the sun at Rock Run Rookery Preserve.

Greg Winkelmann of Romeoville for a yellow warbler with its wings stretched out in flight at McKinley Woods and also for a ring-billed gull snaring a fish in the water at Rock Run Rookery.

Thomas Hahn of Mokena for clouds reflected in the water at Hickory Creek Preserve.

To see all photo entries for the 2022 contest, visit the Forest Preserve's Flickr account, Flickr.com/WillCoForests.

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

Circle jam on Saturday

There will be a circle jam Saturday (the second Saturday of the month), from 5 to 8 p.m. in the hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy. The free event is open to

everyone including musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more. For more information call Randy Kiefling at 815-237-8139.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

State Farm

"Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years"

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond

(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry

- New patients
- Emergency visits welcome

All forms of insurance accepted including Meridian and Dentaquest

267 S. Broadway, Coal City
Call (815) 634-8844

Pritzker signs bill giving state pay raises

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Officials at the highest levels of state government will receive substantial pay raises this month after the House and Senate passed a budget bill that also advances a \$400 million business incentive fund proposal pushed by Gov. JB Pritzker.

Under the bill, lawmaker salaries will increase to \$85,000 annually, up from approximately \$73,000 – a roughly 16 percent increase to their base salary. Lawmakers also receive per diem reimbursements and stipends for leadership positions. Additionally, the measure adds new leadership positions within any caucus that maintains a supermajority – which Democrats currently do – that are eligible for stipends.

The state's constitutional officers are also slated to receive raises, which created a frantic timeline for lawmakers in the

General Assembly to send the bill to the governor to sign before 11:30 a.m. Monday, when those officers are scheduled to be sworn in to their new terms.

Shortly after the measure was filed Friday night, Democrats pushed the measure through the Illinois House over Republican objections. It received a Senate committee hearing late Sunday afternoon before being approved by the full chamber later in the evening. Pritzker signed it Monday hours before the new statewide officers were sworn in at a Springfield convention center.

Under the pay schedules outlined in the bill, salaries of the lieutenant governor, comptroller and treasurer will increase from \$143,400 to \$160,900; and the attorney general's and secretary of state's from \$165,400 to \$183,300.

The governor's pay would increase to \$205,700 from \$181,670, although Pritzker, who has a net worth exceeding \$3 billion, does not take a salary.

Top state agency directors and some of their deputies will also receive raises. That includes a salary of at least \$200,000 for Department of Children and Family Services director Marc Smith, up from \$182,300.

Several other agency heads, including that of the Department of Corrections (to \$200,000), Department of Agriculture (to \$180,000) and the Department on Aging (to \$165,000), will also see raises. The raises generally range from 10 to 15%, and the governor will have the authority to up those salaries under the measure.

Senator Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, faulted the measure for including the automatic raises, calling it "bad policy." He noted that lawmakers already effectively received a 2.4% pay bump in July, as Democrats declined to negate the automatic cost-of-living increase laid out by state law.

Illinois lawmakers agree on assault weapons bill

Bill clears Senate, awaits House action on final day of lame duck session

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Negotiators in the Illinois House and Senate have reached agreement on a bill to ban the purchase, sale and manufacture of semi-automatic assault weapons and large-capacity magazines while still allowing people who already own such weapons to keep them.

On Sunday, the House and Senate seemed to be far apart, both on the weapons ban and a bill expanding access to reproductive health services, two of the biggest items being considered in a lame duck session that was to conclude Tuesday.

But by Monday night, House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, announced that they were all in agreement on a final proposal.

One of the key sticking points concerned a requirement that people currently owning such weapons register them with the Illinois State Police. Those individuals

would be required to disclose the make, model and serial number of the specified weapons to obtain a special endorsement on their Firearm Owners Identification, or FOID card. The House had included that in the bill it passed shortly after midnight Friday morning, but an early draft of a Senate plan reportedly proposed dropping it.

The final version of the bill, contained in a package of amendments to House Bill 5471, includes the requirement but extends the deadline for compliance to Jan. 1, 2024, instead of 180 days after the governor signs the bill into law, as the House had proposed.

The Senate bill also clarifies that any device that makes a semi-automatic weapon fire more rapidly – whether it converts the weapon into a fully automatic one or merely increases the rate of fire – will be illegal. And it defines large-capacity magazines as those capable of holding more than 10 rounds for a long gun or 15 rounds for a handgun.

The Senate version also does not change the age limit to obtain a FOID card, meaning people between the ages of 18 and 21 will still be able to obtain one with the consent of a parent or guardian. The House had proposed eliminating that exception.

In an effort to ease concerns of hunters and sports-

men, the bill also contains a provision authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to adopt administrative rules exempting weapons used only for hunting that are expressly permitted under the Illinois Wildlife Code.

That, however, was not enough to quell the opposition of gun rights advocates who argued that the weapons to be banned are "commonly used" weapons in American society and thus, under standards of recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings, will likely be deemed unconstitutional.

"I think folks at home need to know, and folks here in the chamber, that many of the commonly used semi-automatic shotguns will still have to be registered as assault weapons," Senator Terri Bryant, R-Murphysboro, said during debate on the floor of the Senate. "So even though some may come off, we're still going to have many commonly used shotguns that will be listed as assault weapons."

The bill passed the Senate, 34-20, and was sent to the House, which is expected to vote on whether to concur with the Senate changes.

The outcome of that vote, however, seemed a foregone conclusion when Harmon, Welch and Pritzker issued a joint statement Monday evening praising the bill's passage.

OH YES YOU CAN.

Open an account Online today!
#joinsocu

Membership subject to eligibility requirements. Federally insured by the NCUA.

SOCU 815.416.1170
1544 CREEK DR.
MORRIS, IL 60450

JOIN HERE

SCAN ME

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

Sponsored by Gymshoe Art

Be Kind

Help us express kindness! Create!

Email submissions or if you have questions contact: GymshoeArt@gmail.com

BE nice

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAKE 2023 THE YEAR YOU PLAN YOUR ESTATE

Last Will and Testaments, Trusts, Durable Power of Attorney and Health Care Power of Attorney are serious concerns that need to be addressed while you are living. Gain peace of mind knowing your affairs are in order by calling for an appointment in taking care of these important life decisions.

FEM
FISHER MEENTS LLC

207 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-7635

OBITUARIES

Warren B. Brown

 CREST HILL—Warren B. Brown, 87, of Crest Hill and formerly Coal City, passed from this life on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

He was born July 21, 1935 to the late Edith (Wharrie) and Norman Brown in Coal City where he was raised and educated. He was a United States Navy Veteran who was honorably discharged in December of 1957 after completing his final assignment at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Oakland, CA. This assignment led to his employment with Metropolitan Life Insurance working out of the Chicago, London, Kansas City and San Francisco Office. He was the Manager of Auditing out of the San Francisco office for the majority of his career.

His last years were spent at Rock Run Assisted Living in Joliet. He received excellent



care and made many friends with the staff, nurses and residents.

Warren is survived by his niece, Janet Brown; two nephews, Norman (late Beth) Brown and Richard (Joey) Brown and two stepsisters, Judy (Richard) Kreiter and Joyce (Robert) Zanello.

He is preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Marilyn (late Leroy) Brown; one brother, Norman (late Mary) Brown and one stepsister, JoAnne (Tony) Danosky.

As it was Warren's wish, cremation rites have been accorded and there will be no services.

For more information visit his Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com to share a favorite memory or leave a condolence.

Fred C. Dames Funeral Home and Crematory was entrusted with arrangements.

Charles Brian Smith

CHICAGO—Charles Brian Smith, 58, of Chicago, and formerly of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 at Ascension St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, IL.

Born July 2, 1964 in Evergreen Park, IL, Charles Brian was a son of William Thomas and Ida Lucy (Campana) Smith.

Raised and educated in Wilmington, Charles was a 1978 graduate of St. Rose School, and a 1982 graduate of Joliet Catholic High School.

Survivors include his two brothers, Tony Smith, of Chicago and Tom (Gretchen) Smith, of Tampa, FL and formerly of Wilmington, and one nephew, Matthew Smith, of Tampa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Ida Smith, and his sister-in-law, Sandra



Toussaint Smith.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and the family gathered for a graveside service on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 in Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington, where he will be laid to rest with his parents. Rev. Sebastian Gargol from St. Rose Parish presided.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Charles memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main Street, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Charles memorial page online.

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

David Huston

 WILMINGTON—David "Butch" Huston, 78, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Feb. 5, 1944 in Peoria, David was the son of John and Clara (nee Walker) Huston. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and Braidwood. David served in the United States Army with an honorable discharge in 1970. On March 6, 1971, he married Bonnie Jean Blazer in Decatur, IL, and together they would make their home and raise their family in Wilmington.

David served First Baptist Church in Wilmington as a deacon and trustee. Later he served Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington on their Benevolence committee and as a Deacon Emeritus. He worked for the Wilmington 209-U School District for over 20 years as a custodian and also provided custodial services for the Presbyterian Church. Other employers included Caterpillar, Uniroyal, and PCI. David was an avid reader, die hard Chicago White Sox fan, and he especially enjoyed Celtic music along with Bonnie's piano music.

He was a bit of an agitator, but he had a gentle nature and a truly sweet heart. David was a proud family man who loved his family immensely. He was a devoted father to his two sons who he loved unconditionally. He cherished his grandchildren and fondly had nicknames for each. David's love of life and family has left a lasting legacy that will be carried on by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie Huston, of Wilmington, with whom David would have celebrated 52 years together on March 6, 2023; two sons, Matthew John (Miranda) Huston, of Kennewick, WA and Mark David Huston, of



Louisville, KY; four grandchildren: Jonah Michael, Libby Jayne, Samuel David and MacKenzie Joy; his twin sister, Suzanne (James) Johnston, of Wilmington; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Gary Underwood, of Stockton, IL; Phyllis (the late Joe) Armstrong, of San Diego, CA; Beverly (David) McGlade, of Mt. Zion, IL and Joyce (Lynwood) Langer, of Aurora, CO; as well as several cousins, numerous nieces and nephews, and his two grandpups, Ivy and Charlie.

David was preceded in death by his parents, his step-father, John Watling Sr.; father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Dorothy Blazer and his brother and sisters: Donald E. Barnes, Marilyn (Mick) Collier, Charlotte (Loran) Barr, Joanna (Jim) McGraw, and Sharon Underwood; granddoggies, Roxie and Aspen.

Cremation rites are being accorded, and the family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 at Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine Street in Wilmington from 1 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 4 p.m.

David will privately be laid to rest with full military honors at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made as gifts in David's memory to Island City Baptist Church or Wilmington 209-U Foundation for Excellence.

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

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

David A. Ashley

COAL CITY—David A. Ashley, 68, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born on March 8, 1954 in Morris, to George and Docia Mary (nee Shain) Ashley. David grew up in Minooka and graduated from Minooka High School class of 1972. He was an operator with Local #150, retiring after 35 years. David married Debra Goode Phillips at the Park Street Congregational Church in Mazon on May 24, 1997.

A man who took pride in his home, David spent much of his time landscaping, gardening and caring for his house. He enjoyed puttering around in his shop. At 1 p.m. though, Dave would take a break from his chores to watch The Maury Povich Show and after Deb's retirement, he was happy that she would join him to watch. Most of all, Dave was devoted to his family and especially appreciated being "Papa."

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Debra; his daughters, Mary Ashley, of Minooka and Elizabeth (Jeremy) Russell, of Morris; his sons: Justin Ashley, of Minooka; Matthew



(Angie) Phillips, of Coal City and Adam (Christine) Phillips, of Goose Lake; three grandchildren: Tristen, Tanner and Tyler Phillips; one sister, two brothers and his brothers-in-law, Ronald (Lonnie) Goode, of Dwight and James (Melanie) Goode, of Morris.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Docia Ashley; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Erlene and Lucille Goode and his sister-in-law, Darlene Franklin.

Memorials may be made in David's name to the Coal City United Methodist Church.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A Memorial Visitation will be on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 12 noon at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City. Rev. Dr. Jay Regennitter will officiate.

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

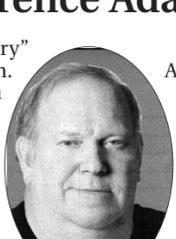
Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Terrence Adams

DWIGHT—Terrence Lee "Terry" Adams, 71, of Dwight, passed away Jan. 4, 2023 at OSF St. James Hospital in Pontiac, IL.

Terry was born Jan. 6, 1951 in Streator, the son of Charles and Marion (Sipe) Adams. He married Lorene Burton on Sept. 20, 1969 in Indiana. She survives in Dwight.

He attended local Dwight Schools and owned and operated Terry Adams Plumbing & Heating in Dwight for more than 22 years. Terry enjoyed woodworking, photography, fishing and making jokes. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him.



Also surviving are his children, Terry Adams Jr., of Dwight and Charles (Tammy) Adams, of Forrest, IL; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, a sister, Marianne Decker, of Dwight; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers: Mike, Charles, David, Jim and Tommy.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Services will be held Jan. 12, 2023 at 3 p.m. at Hager Memorial Home in Dwight. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the services.

Memorials in honor of Terry may be made to the Livingston County Humane Society.

John Frederiksen

COAL CITY—John Frederiksen, 73 of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023 at his home.

Born March 28, 1949 in Streator, IL, John Lee was a son of Betty Jean (nee Irvin) Vilt and the late Earl Leroy Frederiksen. He moved to Coal City in the third grade; graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1967, and went on to attend both Joliet Junior College and DeVry Institute of Technology. On Nov. 1, 1969, John married Sue Togliatti in the Coal City United Methodist Church and together they made a home and raised their family in Coal City. In that same year, 1969, John gained employment with Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet, where he went on to work as an Electrician for the following 34 years, when he retired in 2003. Following his retirement, he returned to work at CAT with various other subcontractors for an additional 15 years.



He was a member of the Coal City United Methodist Church, where he participated in the United Methodist Men's Group and served as a Trustee. He also belonged to the Coal City Area Club. John enjoyed fishing, camping and running, and took pleasure in gardening and tending to his roses. Many memories were made traveling on alley adventures and taking off on random cheese runs. John drew roads on the map before they made print, and in his travels he could almost always find a fellow Caterpillar employee to visit with. He was a true storyteller, could strike up a conversation with anyone he encountered, and as a jokester, enjoyed making others laugh. He bowled in years past, but in more recent days took pleasure in classic television and could often be found enjoying his popcorn drizzled in Bagna Caualda. Gone from our sight, John Frederiksen leaves behind a wonderful legacy that he built alongside his family and those who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Sue;

three children: Amy (Tom) Borchelt, Amanda (Steven) Burns and Erik (Alanna) Frederiksen, all of Coal City; five grandchildren: Jacob and Natalie Borchelt, August and Victoria Burns and Nolan Frederiksen; his mother, Betty Vilt of Dwight; step-mother, Lois Frederiksen, of Arizona; five siblings: Maryann (Jimmy Dean) Krug, of Coal City; Doug (Cheri) Sutton, of Texas; Cinda (Michael) Conroyd, of Arizona; Lark (Deb) Frederiksen, of Verona; Leann Havekost, of Arizona and Michelle (Don) Wilson, of Shorewood; two aunts, Ethel McConnell, of Ottawa and Marie Frederiksen, of Aurora; two brothers-in-law, Dave (Donna) Togliatti, of Coal City and Marc (Merikay) Togliatti, of Morris, and numerous nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his father, Earl Frederiksen; brother-in-law, Vince Hodgson and two nephews: Kevin Togliatti and Craig Holmes.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 from 3 p.m. until the time of funeral service at 6 p.m. Rev. Jay Regennitter will officiate, and cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

John will be laid to rest in the Braceville-Gardner Cemetery Columbarium.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in John's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, IL 60416.

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

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

Gwendolyn Panici

COAL CITY—Gwendolyn Joyce Panici (nee Dierking), 89, of Coal City, passed away Friday, Dec. 16, 2022 at Goldwater Care Nursing Home in Pontiac, IL.

Born Jan. 17, 1933 in Beecher, IL, she was the daughter of Emil and Louella Mae (nee Burns) Dierking. She was a graduate of the Crete-Monee High School with the class of 1951. Gwen formerly owned and operated Mr. Softy Ice Cream in New Lenox and Sugar Cone Ice Cream in Richton Park, IL. She enjoyed sewing, making quilts, cooking, and most of all loved spending time with her family. She was hardworking, kind, loving, devoted, and overall a good person, who will be greatly missed by many.

Surviving are two daughters, Suzan Panici-Hakey, of Braidwood and Laura (Greg) Pearson, of Orland Park, IL; one son, Bruce Panici, of Wisconsin; one step-daughter, Lana (Rich) Bogden, of North Carolina; 15 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, sister-in-law, Beverly Dierking, of New Port Richey, FL and numerous



nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband, Emanuel Angelo Panici, (1982) who she married in 1953; step-sons, Robert Panici and Joseph Panici; brother, Richard Dierking; and sister, Shirley (Harold) Parkinson.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial visitation for Gwen will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 from 3 p.m. until the time of memorial services at 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

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

Bruce Trotter

 GOOSE LAKE TWP.—Bruce A. Trotter, 85, and a life-long resident of Goose Lake, Township, Grundy County, passed away Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Aug. 30, 1937 in Goose Lake Township, Bruce Anthony was a son of Robert Winston and Anna Marie (Baudino) Trotter. He attended the Coal City schools and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1955. Following high school, Bruce entered the work force before going on to serve in the United States Army and United States Army Reserves from 1960 until 1966. On Dec. 18, 1970, Bruce married Deanna "Dede" Savage in the New Hope Church in Gardner, and together they settled at the home in Goose Lake Township, where they started their family.

Bruce spent his career in construction, and retired from Local 130 in 2000. He served the Township in various capacities over the years, but most notably as road commissioner for over 30 years, retiring in 2018. Bruce was a member of the Coal City United Methodist Church, and will be remembered as one who always kept active and busy. He was willing to help anyone in need; he loved animals, and his family was always his first priority.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Dede; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Cathy



Trotter, of Yorkville; two granddaughters, Morgan and Lauryn Trotter; one brother, Robert (Elizabeth) Trotter, of Morris; his aunt, Catherine Baudino, of Morris; sister-in-law, Brenda (Col. Thomas) Boyd, of Moline, and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, sister and brother-in-law, Jean and Louis Naretto; one sister in infancy, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Dean and Helen Savage.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. Funeral services will be Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at 10 a.m. in the funeral home with Reverend Jay Regennitter from the Coal City United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will follow.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bruce's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 East McArdle Road, Coal City, IL 60416 or to Lightways Hospice.

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

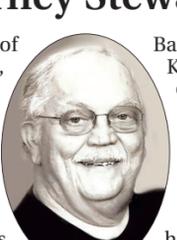
Funeral services and arrangement have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Barney Stewart

COAL CITY—Barney Stewart, 78, of Coal City, and formerly of Chicago, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 at his home.

Born June 23, 1944 in Chicago, Barney was a son of Hugh Stewart and Emily (Joseph) Smolka. His career was that of a Stationary Engineer and he was a member of IUOE Local 399. Barney worked at various places throughout the years, but most notably at The Chicago Tribune and the Hotel InterContinental. He was a member of the Coal City Area Club, which aligned with his love of the outdoors and fishing. He took pleasure in gardening, trees, rocks and landscaping, and enjoyed science fiction both literary and on television. In addition, Barney was a woodworker and could often be found tinkering in the shed with his tools. He also had a great love for animals, particularly dogs. Gone from our sight, Barney leaves behind a legacy of great pride for his home and most importantly, his family.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy (nee Harvey), who he married June 9, 1972 in Chicago; two daughters: Elizabeth (Stephen) Scofield, of Bristol, England and Debbie (Rich) Carollo, of Aurora, CO; six grandchildren: Andi Stewart and Chris Fischer, who were raised by



Barney and Nancy; George Carollo and Kevin, Thomas and Anthony Stewart; one very special great-granddaughter, Lizzy Marie; two brothers: Chris (the late Harriette) Smolka, of Hawaii and Joey (Carol) Smolka, of Colorado; one sister-in-law, Linda Harvey-Knight and numerous nieces and nephews.

Barney was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Troy Stewart; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Roland and Victoria Harvey, and two brothers: Douglas Stewart and John Smolka.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 8, 2023 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City. Rev. Jay Regennitter from the Coal City United Methodist Church officiated. Burial followed in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Barney's memory to PAWS Chicago.

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

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

Immaculate Conception to hold benefit for local family

Immaculate Conception Church Braidwood is holding a multicultural fundraiser to help a church family in need.

Lazara Yanira Carrasco, age 35, was hospitalized on a ventilator for seven months due to COVID. She is currently on a waiting list for a lung transplant.

She, her mother, and brother Enrique are struggling to pay for her insurmountable medical bills. Lazara also has two small children.

The fundraiser is a multicultural potluck Saturday, Jan. 21, in Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School St.

Food will be served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with carry outs available. Doors will open at 4 p.m. for anyone wanting to help by donating a heritage dish to pass.

A freewill donation for dinner will be accepted to help offset Lazara's medical bills. Please call Tami Favero 815-458-6802 for more information.

Morris Hospital offers CPR and First Aid Training

The power of CPR AED training was never more evident than during the Jan. 2 incident involving NFL player Damar Hamlin.

Hamlin, a safety with the Buffalo Bills, went into cardiac arrest after a tackle during the nationally televised Monday Night Football game. The quick actions of training staff and immediate use of life-saving resuscitation efforts were universally praised as the reason behind Hamlin's remarkable recovery.

This incident is an important reminder to all about why CPR AED training is vitally crucial to saving someone's life. With that in mind, Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers is offering the American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR AED & First Aid Training

course on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 4-8:00 p.m. at Shabbona School, 725 School St., Morris. Participants should enter through Door #26 on the southwest corner of the building near the gym.

The course is for anyone interested in learning skills that could save the life of a loved one, friend, co-worker, or community member. Participants will learn the skills needed to perform high quality CPR, proper use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), relief of foreign-body airway obstruction, and basic first aid. The cost is \$110 and includes American Heart Association materials.

Register online at www.morrishospital.org/even ts. For more information, call 815-705-7360.

U.S. dairy poised to grow

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

Milk demand is projected to grow by 21% globally between 2020 and 2030, according to Matt Daley, president of GEA Farm Technologies.

And he believes much of that demand could be met by U.S. dairy farmers.

"With more people, more dairy is consumed," Daley said this month at the Agricultural Bankers Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. "What's amazing is we're doing it with fewer cows."

"A dairy cow in the U.S. produces two to three times more milk because there's more sunshine and greater access to grains (than other parts of the world)."

The world population reached an estimated 8 billion people as of Nov. 15, a new milestone in human development. The rising population and a growing middle class in some areas likely will drive increased demand for dairy products.

But with tighter environmental regulations in Europe, dairy output could actually decrease in that part of the world. Daley believes dairy expansion is also unlikely in New Zealand.

"Who's slated around the world to produce more milk? It's us in the U.S.," he said.

Technology and automation will be critical for U.S. farmers to continue to boost milk output with fewer cows. GEA manufactures about 25% of robotic milking technology in North

America, according to Daley.

"As long as we can expand processing capabilities, we'll produce more milk, because the world needs it," he said. "As labor continues to get tighter, more automation will come."

GEA is quoting plans for new dairy plants in Nebraska, Kentucky and Georgia and three new whey distilleries are going up in the U.S.

DEA is also building more concentration facilities, which separate the milk and can lower shipping costs by 70%.

A strong appetite for dairy is also driving local demand, which bodes well for small dairies looking for niche markets.

"The last four or five years, we've never put in so many small cheese plants," Daley said. "The craft cheese industry is booming. A lot of dairy farmers are making their own cheese and selling it locally."

If you've never heard of DEA Farm Technologies, chances are you've eaten food produced with its technology or at a plant it built. DEA is one of the world's largest system suppliers for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical sectors.

"We do food on a small and massive scale," Daley said. "Every third chicken nugget in the world is produced with GEA technology. If you eat cheese, GEA technology likely sliced it and put it in the package."

About a quarter of processed milk in the world comes from GEA or is processed with its equipment.

It will be months for court to decide on SAFE-T Act

Kankakee County Judge Thomas Cunningham set off a chaotic chain reaction Dec. 29 with his ruling that the General Assembly overstepped its constitutional grounds when it voted to eliminate cash bail. Cunningham essentially said that a cash bail requirement, even though not specifically mentioned in the constitution, could be inferred; and that the General Assembly had exercised powers that properly belonged to the judicial branch.

Judge Cunningham's ruling only applied to the jurisdictions where 64 lawsuits had been filed to block implementation of the law on January 1, without regard to the fact that some cities are in multiple counties. Aurora, for instance, is in four counties, including Kane and DuPage counties, which did not sue to stop the law from taking effect. Aurora is also in Kendall and Will, which were plaintiffs. Naperville straddles DuPage and Will counties.

Some county leaders who were not part of the lawsuit added to the confusion by filing for local Temporary Restraining Orders, often giving minimal or even no warning to the attorney general's office. Some counties actually filed for TROs without giving any notice at all to the AG's office, including Alexander, Lawrence, Pike and St. Clair, according to the office.

It seemed to some that a few counties may have been coordinating their efforts to thwart the attorney general's efforts to dispute their TRO demands. In Menard County, for instance, the AG's office asked for a one-hour delay while they argued in another county. The request was ignored, and the state's attorney reportedly entered the

TRO without any ability for the state to respond.

Finally, on Dec. 30, the Democratic state's attorney for Kane County, Jamie Mosser, and the Republican state's attorney for DuPage County, Bob Berlin, filed an emergency motion for a supervisory order from the Illinois Supreme Court. Mosser had supported the push to eliminate cash bail and Berlin helped work behind the scenes to get the revisions in place during veto session.

The two pointed to the massive jurisdictional issues and the TRO filings and asked the court to "enter an order sufficient to maintain consistent pretrial procedures because without such an order, defendants in different jurisdictions will be subject to different treatment upon arrest and throughout pretrial proceedings, creating an equal protection problem for citizens across the state."

The Supreme Court complied within hours, staying the effective date of the SAFE-T Act's cash bail provision during an expedited appeal process and effectively stopping the chaos from spreading further.

When asked by reporters last week, Gov. JB Pritzker said he expected the Illinois Supreme Court to decide what to do about the state's cashless bail law "sometime in the next few months."

That could well be, but the top court won't even hear oral arguments in the case until March.

A joint motion filed with the Supreme Court by the state



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

and the county plaintiffs set out an agreed briefing schedule and the Supreme Court adopted it. Opening briefs will begin in late January and will run through the end of February. Oral arguments will be held during the court's March calendar.

From there, it'll be up to the Supremes to hash out their decision and draft their opinion(s). So, it could possibly be a while.

Meanwhile, a poll taken November 15-20 by Impact Research found that 32 percent of voters had a favorable view of the SAFE-T Act, which included the elimination of cash bail, while 40 percent had an unfavorable view. The super-controversial law was the subject of millions of dollars in campaign advertising, not just statewide, but also in state legislative districts.

So, it's not surprising that those who had a strongly unfavorable view of the law out-

numbered those with strongly favorable views by 20 points (34-14). Even so, 28 percent had no position on the law. Criticism of the law didn't seem to ultimately harm Democrats except maybe in a couple of legislative races.

The poll of 800 likely 2024 voters with a margin of error of +/-3.5 percentage points was taken for a group called Giffords, a gun control organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords.

The poll also found that Gov. Pritzker's favorables were 51 percent, while his unfavorables were 46 percent. 29 percent had a very favorable view of Pritzker, while 40 percent had a very unfavorable view of the incumbent.

And 41 percent of those polled said they had a positive view of the National Rifle Association, while 53 percent had an unfavorable view (46 percent said they had a very unfavorable view).

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

Mobile food pantry coming to Wilmington

Catholic Charities of Joliet will be hosting a mobile food pantry at Kumza Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Participants need to line up in the St. Rose Church parking lot by entering on the Main Street side. The mobile food pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute

food. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle.

Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Everyone is welcome. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

A Note of Thanks from the Wilmington Lions Club

The Wilmington Lions Club would like to thank all the community organizations and businesses for your part in making the Island Christmas Walk held on the North Island a success again for 2022. We are grateful for your efforts. We acknowledge the following for their part in the Walk: Wesley 4H Hustlers, Bonfield Lions Club, Facetastic Faces face painting Kelly Surma (artist), Free Press Newspapers, Wilmington Baseball and Softball Association (WBSA), Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, Wilmington Coalition (WCHC) our Spyder Saturday Sponsor, Wilmington Collision Minion Monday Sponsor, Wilmington Fire Department, Wilmington Library, Wilmington Park District our Co partner, Wilmington Police Department, individual volunteers who lended a helping hand you know who you are.

Finally, Mike Kelly for being so Jolly in his red suit and his sidekick Elf. The undertaking lasted for the Christmas Season Kicking off November 26 through December 31. Weather wise, Mother Nature was not kind a few nights we were not able to open or literally keep the lights on. We would also like to extend a gracious Thank You to the generous visitors for your monetary donations which will in part be used right here to help folks in our community. Happy New Year from the Wilmington Lions Club. WE Serve.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR ELWOOD COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #203

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed tax levy increase for Elwood Community Consolidated School District #203, Will County, IL, for 2022 was held on December 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room, 409 North Chicago Avenue, Elwood, IL.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Tim Page, Superintendent, Elwood Community Consolidated School District #203, at 409 North Chicago Avenue, Elwood, Illinois, telephone number 815-423-5588.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2021 were \$5,029,893.

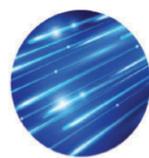
The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$6,620,000. This represents a 32% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2021 were \$0. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are \$0. This represents a 0% decrease over the previous year.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$6,620,000. This represents a 32% increase over the previous year.

Jennifer Wedic, Secretary Board of Education

Elwood CCSD 203, Will County, Illinois



Surf | Broadband Solutions

Connect Further, Faster.

RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE
INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive
FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!



(888) 274-6381 • www.surfbroadband.com

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines
Classified Display
 Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
 Mondays - noon

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

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

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

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

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Gas Fireplace Repair
 40 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you. ck34-33

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. **INSULATION.** Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17b-16b

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
 - No Deposit - Starting at \$50
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

WANTED

Older gentleman looking for a room in exchange for home repairs, cooking, cleaning. Call John at 779-306-8103. ca2-3

AUCTION

TOY TRACTORS, WORKING STEAM TOYS, COINS
SUNDAY, JAN 15, 2023 10:00 AM
 FFYC, 801 E. FRANCES RD., NEW LENOX
 WATCH AUCTIONZIP.COM I.D. 9525
 FOR LISTING AND PHOTOS
 TOY TRACTORS BELONGED TO THE LATE GORDON (SUE) BOLDT FROM GOOSE LAKE.
HINTZE AUCTION SERVICE INC.
 MAZON, IL LIC 440000682
 815-228-7634 OR 815-252-1911

DUPLEX FOR RENT

Diamond, 1570 Patmore, 2 BR, 1 BA, decent kitchen w/ all appliances, 1 car garage, repainted and new floors. No pets. \$1,100/mo. Everything brand new! Call 815-941-4832. cc2-5

HELP WANTED

Office help needed at a local sportsmen's club. Seasonal part time hours. Experience with computers and knowledge of Excel and Access preferred. Please send inquiries to wccsc1946@gmail.com cc2-13

MISCELLANEOUS

Amana white gas dryer made in the USA, works great \$75. Bisque, cast iron double bowl kitchen sink with Kohler faucet/pull down sprayer and soap dispenser great condition \$80. 815-634-0861. ca2-3

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633. fr/tfn

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn/47b

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Addressing cards, bills & letters just got easy!



Speed the task up with a custom self-inking RUBBER STAMP Great for addressing your envelopes or filling out Queen of Hearts tickets

Get thousands of impressions And we'll re-ink it for FREE when needed



111 South Water Street
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 815/476-7966

HELP WANTED

Bartender needed for day shift Saturdays and Sundays. Apply in person, Tuffy's Lounge, 1099 S. Water St., Wilmington, 815-476-2700. ch2-3

Local Newspapers are **IMPORTANT** Any Way You Look At It

SERVICE & REPAIRS

A Thousand Words Photography
 385 N. Second Ave. Coal City
 Mandy Eaton
 815-791-2913



GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER

Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 By Grundy County Offices.

SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM

(815) 942-9190

99% Customer Satisfaction Rating

CENTURY 21
 Coleman-Hornsby

	A	S	T	H	M	A			K	O	M					
P	A	N	T	H	E	O	N		P	E	R	U				
A	S	T	O	U	N	D	S		F	A	B	E	R			
R	H	E	A	S					O	G	A	M				
P	O	L							C	R	A	B				
P	L	A	N						A	B	N					
B	E	N	E	F	I	C	E		M	O						
E	D	W	A	R	D	R	M	U	R	R	O	W				
				M	U		A	B	S	E	N	T	E	D		
				A	I	L				A	T	E	N			
				T	A	N	A				O	K	A			
				A	C	H	E			P	A	L	M	E		
A	C	H	E	S					C	E	R	U	L	E	A	N
D	E	A	D						S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D
O	D	D							T	U	C	S	O	N		

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FARMERS INSURANCE
MELODIE J. LUCKETT
 326 E. Baltimore St.
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 Office 815-476-5242
 Cell 815-671-1356
 mluckett@farmersagent.com

Agent, Notary
 Auto • Home Life • Commercial

Mini Storage CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington
Affordable Clean, Secure Monthly Rentals
No Deposit Required 815-530-0200

BASEMENT & CRAWL SPACE SOLUTIONS
WATERPROOFING FOUNDATION REPAIR INSULATING ENCAPSULATION SUMP PUMPS DRAINAGE SYSTEMS GUTTER GUARDS
 (815) 715-6050 DryToday.net
 Braidwood, IL

PROFESSIONAL PRO REAL ESTATE
JUDY SUNDINE
 BROKER
 Direct: (815) 405-6758
 815-476-7916
 FAX: 815-476-7566
 Email: judysundine@sbcglobal.net

506 S. WATER ST., WILMINGTON, IL 60481

Riverfront Lanes
 402 S. Water St., Wilmington
 • Birthday parties
 • Fundraisers
 • Corporate parties
 • Child & adult leagues
 (815) 476-2600
 www.riverfrontlanes.com

LIFTED
 SPRAY FOAM INSULATION CONCRETE RAISING
Spray Foam Insulation
 • garages
 • pole buildings
 • attics
 • basements
 • commercial
 • industrial
Concrete Raising
 • driveways
 • sidewalks
 • patios
 • stairs
 • and more!
 Wilmington • 815-200-6880

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE
 Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
 Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
 Ed Bonnavier
 Coal City • 634-4691

This space could be yours!
Call (815) 476-7966

VIKING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CORP.
 Now Offering IL Public Adjuster Services
FREE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS
 - Shingle/Flat Roofs
 - Gutters
 - Siding
 - Fascia/Soffit
 - Insurance Claims
 Licensed Insured Bonded
 IL State License # 104-002993
 (815) 476-6010
 WWW.VRCC.US

SHORKEY PAINTING
 (815) 546-1321
 Interior/Exterior
 Est. 1989

SISTEK RENTALS
 We **SELL, REPAIR,** and **RENT**
 Outdoor Power Equipment
Cub Cadet
YOUR NEXT MOWER®
815-237-8298
 740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

FULL COLOR
 Customized to your liking!
 - BANNERS -
 - YARD SIGNS -
 - POST CARDS -
 - BROCHURES -
 Competitive prices!
The Free Press Newspapers
 111 S. Water St., Wilmington

AJ's Promotional Products and Apparel
 Adidas® Koozies®
 Oakley® Bic® Pens
 Champion® Sharpie®
 EMAIL: ajsprint@comcast.net
 WEB: ajspromotional.dcpromosite.com
Janet Fisher-Schatz 815-263-5990

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilm.

Catholic Charities' mobile food pantry will be distributing food Monday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m., at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington in the church parking lot (rain or shine). Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver

meat, produce and nonperishable items to people in need. Participants are asked to stay in their cars as a "drive thru" method will be used. Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Therapeutic Tai Chi in a chair

Anyone age 60 or older is welcome to join therapeutic Tai Chi in a Chair for free, gentle exercise classes designed for all fitness levels. Participants are guaranteed to feel energized without even breaking a sweat. Tai Chi classes are free sponsored by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet and

will be held Tuesday afternoons starting Feb. 7, 2023 through March 14, 2023, 3:45-4:45 p.m. at Fossil Ridge Public Library 386 W. Kennedy Rd., Braidwood. Contact Kelli at 815-933-7791 ext: 9910 to reserve a spot. This event is sponsored in part by a grant through AgeGuide.

Alaska is king when it comes to fishing

King Salmon reigns supreme among gamefish species and Alaska comes in first place overall and in community rank. Little farming occurs in Alaska due to the state's cold climate, so fishing has become a cultural staple, as well as a major industry for jobs and economic activity. There are more than 600 species of fish

to catch and millions — yes, millions — of lakes to explore, making this state a true fishcatcher's destination. While Alaska is our No. 1 state for fishing, it comes at a cost. Of all 50 states, Alaska charges the highest price for fishing licenses per holder — not to mention the travel expense.

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

		1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	
10	11								12			
13									14			
15									16			
17									18			
19			20						21			
22			23	24	25	26			27			
28									29	30	31	32
									33			35
									36			
									37			
									38			39
									40			
									41	42	43	
44									45	46	47	
48									49			
50									51			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Respiratory disorder
7. Bulgarian mountain peak
10. Group of important people
12. South American nation
13. Amazes
14. ___Castell, makers of pens
15. Perlman and Seehorn are two
16. Early medieval alphabet
17. Legislator (slang)
18. Tasty crustacean
19. Course of action
21. Airborne (abbr.)
22. Permanent church appointment
27. Larry and Curly's pal

28. Famed American journalist
33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
34. In a way, vanished
36. Afflict in mind or body
37. Egyptian Sun god
38. Source of the Blue Nile
39. Egyptian unit of weight
40. Be the source of pain
41. Esteemed award ___ d'Or
44. Partner to pains
45. Deep blue
48. No longer living
49. Country in the UK
50. Not even
51. Arizona city

CLUES DOWN

1. Wager
2. Classical portico
3. As a result
4. Bird
5. A type of "Squad"
6. Autonomic nervous system
7. Dish with food on a stick
8. City northwest of Provo
9. C. European river
10. One out of jail
11. Henry Clay estate
12. Heathen
14. Refrained
17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
18. "The Stranger" author
20. Not old
23. Periods of starvation
24. Language of tribe in India

25. Savings account
26. Pitching stat
29. Megabyte
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. A place to put your feet
32. The fun part of a week
35. We all have our own
36. Partner to "oohed"
38. African nation
40. Breecan through
41. Sets out
42. Other
43. Not fattening
44. "Much ___ about nothing"
45. Central Time
46. Former EU monetary unit
47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom

How world population is going to effect our climate

Dear EarthTalk: I hear that world population just topped eight billion. Is this growth wreaking havoc on the environment/climate and what is the prognosis for population growth globally over next few decades?

-- Peter W., Albuquerque, NM

Global population has indeed reached eight billion, but it won't remain there for long. Lower mortality rates and longer life expectancies have contributed to elevated population numbers.

Although richer countries have lowered their birth rates in recent decades, poorer countries—specifically those in sub-Saharan Africa—continue to have high birth rates. Whether or not we will be able to support a continually growing population is still a hotly debated topic.

Many analysts still subscribe to philosopher Thomas Malthus' hypothesis, first postulated in a 1798 essay, that humans' ability to provide more and more resources will always be overwhelmed by ever-increasing population growth numbers.

But others believe that growing population numbers can be supported with proper and effective resource allocation. Regardless, a growing population coupled with climate change will have an impact on resource availability and distribution.

Population projections are inherently tricky. It's impossible to account for every scenario that could be a determinant over the course of a century. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UNPD) projects that human population will pass 10 billion by 2100.

However, a convergence of population forecasts creat-



THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES of global human population numbers cresting four decades from now are anybody's guess.

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

ed by the Wittgenstein Centre projected a global population of 8.79 billion by 2100 after an initial peak of 9.73 billion in 2064.

This projection is vastly lower than UNPD's projections due to their different modeling approaches.

The Wittgenstein Centre's models arrived at different population totals based on variables such as fertility, mortality and migration pattern changes.

The models predicted a

lower total fertility rate (TFR) as access to education and contraception for childbearing people increased. A low TFR will have long term impacts on the overall global population.

A reduced global population would reduce carbon dioxide output and lower resource needs and stresses, but climate change will continue to have consequences that will affect resource availability for decades to come even if we are successful at reining in emissions.

Social programs and systems will need to adapt as populations age and access to contraception and education increases. Age gaps will expand in countries with low TFRs.

Labor forces will decrease, social security and universal healthcare systems will become strained and econom-

ic growth will be lowered as a result. These factors create a daunting task to support a growing global population, but it is possible.

Global population numbers do put a large strain on the environment, so it is important to elect policymakers who support a sustainable future with commitments to reduce fossil fuel emissions and who uphold and encourage reproductive education and healthcare for everyone, especially childbearing people.

Whether our future will be some sort of Malthusian hell or a global garden where most of us receive the nourishment and resources needed to survive is still anybody's guess.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://lemagazine.com>. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

Illinois Reads 2023 book selections announced

The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) has released the list of Illinois Reads books for 2023.

Illinois Reads is a statewide program that promotes reading for all Illinois citizens—six books in six different age categories by authors and illustrators who have ties to Illinois. The books range from read-to books for infants to books for adult readers.

The 2023 Illinois Reads Program will also be featured at the annual IRC Conference in Springfield on March 9-10, 2023.

The Illinois Reads book selections for 2023 are:

Ages Birth - 4 Years

Would You Come Too? by Liz Garton Scanlon and illustrated by Diana Sudyka

This is Music: Drums by Rekha S. Rajan

Chicago, Baby! by Feather Flores, illustrated by Kelly Leigh Miller

ABC Animals! by Stephen F. Majsak

I'll Be Your Polar Bear by Justin Roberts

Molly on the Moon by Mary Robinette Kowal

Grades 3-5

Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks by Suzanne Slade and illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera

Buzzing with Questions: The

Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner by Janice N. Harrington

Pighearted by Alex Perry

A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

Apple Crush by Lucy Knisley

Three Strike Summer by Skyler Schrempp

Grades 9-12

A Man Called Horse: John Horse and the Black Seminole Underground Railroad by Glennette Tilley Turner

Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime by Candace Fleming

As Fast As Her: Dream Big, Break Barriers, Achieve Success by Kendall Coyne

Strike the Zither by Joan He

The Wolves Are Watching by Natalie Lund

Darling by K. Ancrum

Grades K-2

The Most Haunted House in America by Jarrett Dapier

Stella Keeps the Sun Up by Clothilde Ewing

Elephant's Big Solo by Sarah Kurpiel

The Meaning of Pride by Rosiee Thor and illustrated by Sam Kirk

Tortoise and Hare: A Fairy Tale to Help You Find Balance by Susan Verde and illustrated by Jay Fleck

Yetis are the Worst! by Alex Willan

Grades 6-8

Courage by Barbara Binns

The Civil War of Amos Abernathy by Michael Leali

Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa by Julian Randall Tumble by Celia C. Pérez

ReThink the Internet: How to Make the Digital World a Lot Less Sucky by Trisha Prabhu

Underground Fire: Hope, Sacrifice, and Courage in the Cherry Mine Disaster by Sally M. Walker

Adult

The Upstairs House: A Novel by Julia Fine

Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the Battle for America by Cody Keenan

Eat, Drink, and Be Murray: A Feast of Family Fun and Favorites by Andy Murray

Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel by Shelby Van Pelt

The Two Lives of Sara by Catherine Adel West

Last Summer on State Street: A Novel by Toya Wolfe

Illinois Reads is sponsored by the Illinois Reading Council, a nonprofit organization with close to 2,000 members across the state of Illinois. The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to all who promote and teach lifelong literacy.

Crampton petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Jennifer Crampton TO Reagan Lane, Case No. 22 MR 411

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself/himself, Jennifer Crampton adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 14th day of February, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Jennifer Crampton be changed to Reagan Lane. Jennifer Crampton

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Nielsen petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Corrin Julianna Marlene Nielsen TO Rin Hendricks Nielsen, Case No. 2022 MR000414

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself/herself, Corrin Julianna Marlene Nielsen adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 15th day of February, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Corrin Julianna Marlene Nielsen be changed to Rin Hendricks Nielsen.

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 11, and 18, 2023.

The Maus Motors files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name
Publication Notice

Certificate 34705 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on January 4, 2023 wherein the business firm of Maus Motors, located at 20711 S. 84th Ave., Frankfort, IL 60423 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Magdalena Revell
Owner Address: 20711 S. 84th Ave., Frankfort, IL 60423

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at this 4th day of January, 2023.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 18, and 25, 2023.

T&R Mini Storage gives notice of disposal, removal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Disposal, Removal
To: Tiffany Ann Lausch

Notice is hereby given that a disposal will be held pursuant to 770 ILCS 95/4 as follows:

1. A brief and general description of the personal property to be disposed, removed: Household items.
2. The address of the self-service storage facility: T&R Mini Storage, 31715 E. Frontage Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481
3. The name of the occupant is Tiffany Ann Lausch
4. The number of the space where the personal property was stored is #9.
5. The time, place and manner of disposal, removal is as follows:
Date: Jan. 25, 2023
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: T&R Mini Storage, 31715 E. Frontage Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481

Published in The Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Jan. 11 and 18, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files D.Gilleland estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL 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 DONALD GILLELAND, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 764

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of DONALD GILLELAND, of New Lenox, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued December 16, 2022, to DEBORAH KING, whose address is 16433 Manhattan Rd., Manhattan, IL 60442 and DONALD E. GILLELAND, whose address is 110 Wyndstone, Elwood, IL 60421, Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaaid.org.

Deborah King and Donald E. Gilleland, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Donald Gilleland, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@mcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files J. Gilleland estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL 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 JEANETTE E. GILLELAND, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 763

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of JEANETTE E. GILLELAND, of New Lenox, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued December 16, 2022, to DEBORAH KING, whose address is 16433 Manhattan Rd., Manhattan, IL 60442 and DONALD E. GILLELAND, whose address is 110 Wyndstone, Elwood, IL 60421, Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaaid.org.

Deborah King and Donald E. Gilleland, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Jeanette E. Gilleland, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@mcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Comets near the top 10 during 59th Annual PIT

The Reed-Custer wrestling team had three out of eight Comets place during the tough Princeton Invitation Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

The 59th annual tournament, known as The PIT, features some of the best Class A wrestlers in the state from 33 different schools.

Overall, the Comets finished with a respectable 89.5 score, good enough for 11th place and missing the top 10 by one-half of a point with three medalists and five others who came in close.

Senior Kody Marschner (20-0) won the 220-pound championship match by 3-1 decision over Noah Wenzel (21-3) from Dakota.

Marschner pinned Clinton Lovens (15-8) of Auburn in 1:45 in the prelims before getting an 18-3 tech. fall over Phillip Dochterman (16-5) of Orion. The semifinal match was against a familiar foe, Coal City's Drake Dearth (23-4) who Marschner pinned in 2:21.

Reed-Custer benefited from fourth place finishes by Rex Pfeifer (182) and Gunnar Berg (285).

Pfeifer (27-5) was surprised by Clifton Central's Hunter Hull (22-5) by a 5-2 decision in the opening round. That bumped the Comet junior to the wrestlebacks where he won five straight—three pins and two decisions including a 6-2 victory over Joey Breneman (24-5) from Coal City.

That got him to the third place match against Hull from Clifton Central again and this time it was a battle down to the wire with Pfeifer coming up short 6-5.

Berg (21-2) started his tourney run with a 25-second pin over Thomas Conn (7-14) of



REED-CUSTER SENIOR Kody Marschner (center) takes the throne at 220 pounds after capturing first place during the Princeton Invitational Tournament on Saturday.

Tremont in the prelims. He also made quick work of Dixon's Shaun DeVries (19-6) with a 1:25 fall in the Quarterfinal.

Berg lost his semifinal 6-2 to Noah Gomez (31-4) from Clifton Central before pinning Issak Espenschied (25-7) from Petersburg PORTA in 2:07. That sent him up for the third place match

against Coal City's Michael Gonzalez (18-5) who shutout Berg 3-0.

Other Comets who competed included Judith Gamboa (12-10) at 106 with a highlight 4:45 pin over Wade Thompson of Vandalia in the second round of the wrestlebacks. Her losses were both by falls.

At 113, Comet Jayden Sanchez (5-13) lost by two straight falls. At 120, Max Lichaj (9-9) also was pinned twice.

At 138, Jeremy Eggleston (21-5) pinned his first two opponents before suffering a 17-0 tech fall and 1:50 fall.

At 195, Comet Dominic Alaimo (17-11) went 3-2 during the PIT with two of his wins by pin.

Coal City won the overall team championship with 245.5 points, far surpassing second place Dakota (188) and Port Byron (176). Wilmington finished 28th overall.

At Herscher

On Thursday, RC Wrestling traveled to Herscher to compete against Herscher and Streator. RC came out with two wins, beating Streator 60-16 and Herscher 56-24. The team is now 15-5.

Abe's Rumble

The Comets traveled to Springfield, IL on Dec. 29 and 30 to compete in the Abe's Rumble. The team ended the trip with 4 dual meet wins and 4 losses.

RC defeated Beardstown, Quincy Notre Dame, Walther Christian and Knoxville. Kody Marschner and Gunnar Berg ended the weekend with a perfect 8 wins. Rex Pfeifer and Jeremy Eggleston both finished with 7 wins.

Other Participant Wins: Judith Gamboa 5, Jayden Sanchez 2, Josh Adams 3, Max Lichaj 2, Kris Budick 4, Jason Davis 2, Aidan Shultz 3, Dominic Alaimo 4, and John Aylward 6.

Next up for the Comets is a quad meet on Thursday at Peotone with Manteno. Then on Friday and Saturday they host the Comet Classic tournament in the fieldhouse.

Lady Comet turnovers hurt in Herscher loss

The Lady Comets dropped a conference matchup to Herscher Monday, 42-28.

Reed-Custer was plagued by too many turnovers and shots that wouldn't fall their way.

The Lady Comets (10-11) were led by Kaylee Tribble with 14 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks. Gwen Stewart helped out with 5 points, 5 rebounds and 5 steals. Brooklyn Harding finished with three points and a couple of steals while scoring two points each were Caelan Cole (5 rebounds, 3 steals), Madison Keenan (6 rebounds) and Natalie Flores.

Samantha Sprimont and Laci Newbrough contributed four rebounds each while Addison Harms had two.

Muzzle the Bulldogs

The Lady Comets picked up a conference win at home on Thursday, beating Streator, 38-8.

It was a total team effort for Reed-Custer who led from



TRYING TO GET AROUND a Streator defender is junior Kaylee Tribble at home on Thursday. The Comets' next game will be Thursday at Manteno, the first of five away games.

the opening tip.

Tribble, a junior, paced the Lady Comets with 11 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal and 2 assists. Senior Harding came through for 9 pts, 1 steal, 3

assists and 1 block while Newbrough tallied six points and six rebounds.

Also contributing were: Cole: 5 pts, 4 rebounds, 9 steals, 1 assist, Stewart: 3 pts, 1 rebound, 1 steal, Harms: 2 pts, 1 steal, 1 assist, Keenan: 2 pts, 1 steal, Sprimont: 6 rebs, 1 steal and Flores: 2 rebs.

Finished off Flanagan

The Lady Comets picked up a non-conference win last week against Flanagan, 50-41. Reed-Custer led the whole game and never looked back.

Stewart: 2 pts, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 assists

Cole: 7 points, 7 rebounds, 2 steals

Keenan: 3 points, 5 rebounds

Sprimont: 2 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists

Harding: 11 points, 4 rebounds, 7 steals, 1 assist

Newbrough: 12 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist

Tribble: 13 points, 12 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 block

Flores: 2 rebounds.



THE WINNER of the match is Rex Pfeifer who went up against Gibson City on Thursday.

Comets silence the Coalers early

BY ERIC FISHER PUBLISHER

If Friday was suppose to be a rival match at Coal City, the Comets took the hosts out of contention from the get-go, limiting the Coalers to just two points during the opening stanza.

Reed-Custer ran up a 20-2 lead in the first quarter and by half were set on cruise control with a 46-15 advantage.

Coach Mark Porter put in his reserves after three quarters as Reed-Custer won it 77-45.

The Coalers had no answer in stopping Jake McPherson who led Reed-Custer with 24 points after playing the first half. The Comet senior was 6-for-10 from three-point range while dishing out six assists and grabbing five rebounds.

In all, nine Comets scored points in a balance attack that included 13 three-point buckets.

Wes Shats helped with controlling the boards with 12 rebounds as he finished with

16 points. Lucas Foote shot five treys to finish with 15 points. Jace Christian also provided some muscle underneath with 10 rebounds and 10 points.

In the end the Reed-Custer ended up with a 40 to 30 rebounding edge.

Josh Bohac and Collin Monroe both made a three-point toss while Jake Reardon, Connor Eggleston and Cooper Smith finished with two points each.

On the road

The Comets proved they can travel on Saturday with an extended bus ride to Bureau Valley where they won 65-46 to improve to 13-2 overall with four wins in a row.

Reed-Custer came out shooting, running up a 19-5 lead after one and 32-20 at the break.

Shats led the way for the Comets with 24 points and 12 rebounds before getting into foul trouble. McPherson finished with 17 points and eight rebounds while Christian tallied 16 points and six rebounds.

Scoring four points each

were Bohac and Monroe as Reed-Custer shot almost 70 percent from the field including three treys.

Double trouble

Serena was frustrated Wednesday, losing to the Comets for the second time in a week by two points or less.

These two teams met in the Marseilles Holiday Tourney when the Comets pulled off a 56-55 victory. This second contest saw Reed-Custer trailing 30-26 at the intermission before the Comets went on a 15-7 run in the third period to control the momentum for good. The Comets were sent to the line 13 times and made six tosses, just enough to win.

Shats had a stellar night with 23 points, 10 rebounds and three assists. Christian put up 15 points while pulling down eight rebounds. McPherson hustled for 10 rebounds while scoring seven points. Foote finished with five points and Bohac had two.

The Comets host Streator on Friday and Herscher on Tuesday.



Put your health first this New Year!

Start the New Year out right by scheduling your annual check-up with your primary care provider! Annual check-ups help you monitor existing health issues, keep you up-to-date on vaccinations and screening tests, and increase the likelihood of detecting new health issues before they develop into something serious. If you have fallen behind with your routine check-ups, the New Year is the perfect time to get back on schedule.



Dr. Mark Passerman
Family Medicine



Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Family Medicine



Amy Bohland
Family Nurse Practitioner

Our primary care providers are accepting new patients!

Call 815-458-2532 to schedule an appointment.



BRAIDWOOD HEALTHCARE CENTER
of MORRIS HOSPITAL

389 E. Main Street Braidwood www.morrishospital.org/braidwood



THE COMETS GROUNDED Coal City in the first quarter Friday, limiting them to just two points. Comets Jace Christian (15) and Wes Shats swarm Coal City's Garrett Keeley who falls with the ball.

Photo by Alyssa Ohlund