

Reed-Custer artists
earn accolades

Lady Comets
upend Manteno



BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL .COM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Braidwood seeks public input on comprehensive planning project

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Braidwood and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) are working hand in hand to create a new Comprehensive Plan for the city.

But the next step in moving ahead with the process is to get residents involved.

On Jan. 10, CMAP Senior Planner Stephen Ostrander explained the planning process to the City Council and to members of the public during the council's regular meeting.

The city's last comprehensive plan was completed in 2004.

Last year, CMAP awarded the city assistance on the planning for a new comprehensive plan, equivalent to roughly \$150,000, to replace that 2004 plan which is long out of date.

The program offers technical assistance to the city on planning projects.

"A comprehensive plan is a long term plan to basically guide development and to

guide growth, as well as guide preserving what is good about the community over the next 10 to 20 years," Ostrander said. "Comprehensive plans work as a framework for elected and appointed officials, for city staff, the community, residents, local business owners, and potential investors, kind of showing what's the vision for the community."

Ostrander said a comprehensive plan can help the city, it's business owners, residents and investors make more informed decisions on land use, transportation issues, infrastructure, and capital improvements.

A comprehensive plan is a policy framework, but is not a legally binding document.

"It's also something that is designed to be flexible and adaptable, and Braidwood can update the document at any time," Ostrander said. "Ideally it's every five years, but hopefully at least every 10 years."

The project will focus on some key topics, including:

- Encouraging land uses that are appropriate to differ-

ent areas of the city, which will also leverage the existing transportation network for the best opportunities at economic development while also preserving the quality of life.

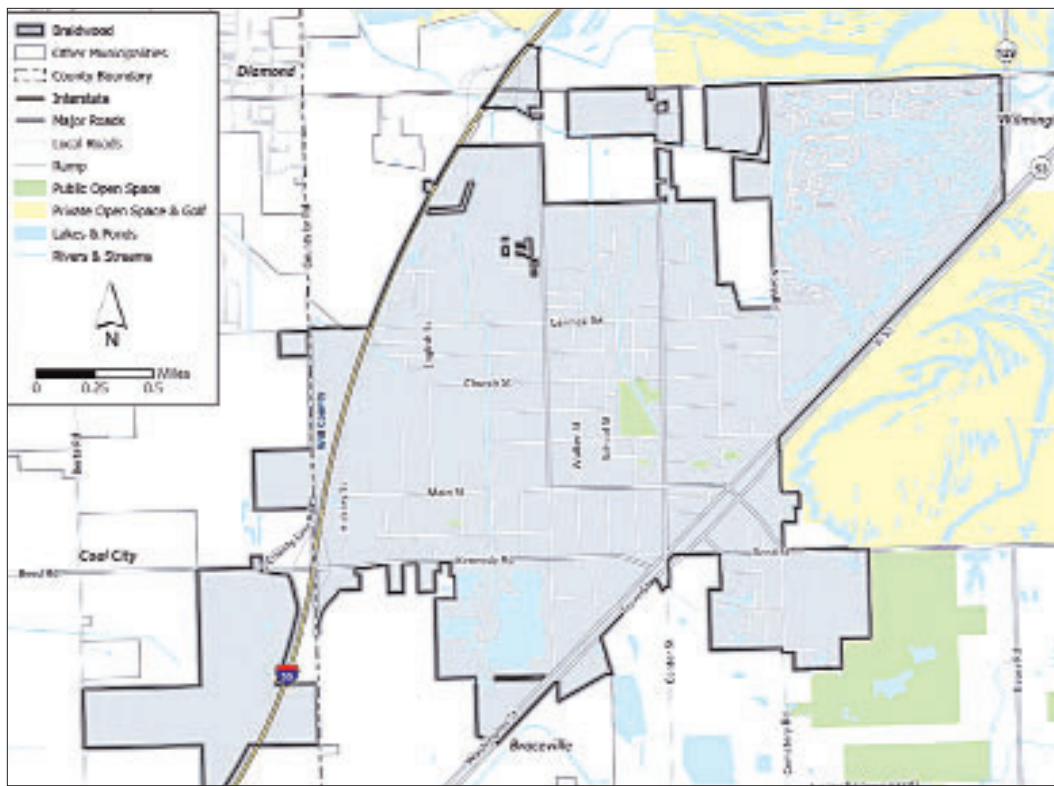
- Ensuring that Braidwood provides housing options that meet the needs and preferences of current and potential residents in the future.

- Enhancing Braidwood's walkability and smaller scale commercial areas through placemaking and streetscaping improvements that can further strengthen both Braidwood's accessibility for non-vehicular modes, including residents with disabilities, and the appeal and economic viability of its commercial and residential areas.

In addition to guide choices for the future, Ostrander said that communities that have a comprehensive plan are in a much stronger position to apply for county, state, or federal grants.

"A lot of you are aware that there was a bi-partisan infra-

SEE CMAP, PAGE 2



AN INTERACTIVE MAP is included as part of the CMAP project website for the City of Braidwood. Residents can drop a pin at places throughout the city to comment on if those areas are something good to preserve, need improvements, or are good spots for future opportunities.

Wietting to stay on ballot for April election

Electoral Board
dismisses objection

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Public Buildings and Property Commissioner Warren Wietting will stay on the ballot for the April 4, 2023 consolidated election.

Last month, Wayne Saltzman filed an objection to Wietting's petition for the seat, where he is currently the incumbent, in the spring election. Saltzman argued that Wietting made an error on his petition, using his mailing address—which is also his business address for Warren's Collision Center on EZ Street—at the top of the petition, while writing in his residential address at the lower half of the form below the required signatures.

The issue went before the Electoral Board, which by state statute is comprised of the Mayor, Bob Jones, the City Clerk, Hillary Bohac, and the longest serving member of the City Council, Commissioner Fay Smith.

During a hearing on Jan. 11, Wietting, through his attorney Mario Carlasare, filed a motion to dismiss the objection, arguing that the issue with the address is simply not factual.

"The objector has stated that the respondent's address of residence is not above the signature line, it does not appear on the signature sheets. The statute itself is pretty clear, it requires that his place of residence appear above the signature line, and requires that it appear on each signature sheet," Carlasare

said "When you look at each one of his petition sheets, it shows that not only does his place of residence... on Division Street appears above his signature, but there's also a sworn statement that he resides at that address."

Wietting's attorney also argued that the state's election code does not specify that petition sheets cannot include both a mailing and a residential address.

Carlasare further argued that Saltzman's claim that there may have been confusion for people who signed the petition due to the two separate addresses is conjecture, saying that there is no caselaw in Illinois that suggests inclusion of both a mailing and a residential address applies to cases of voter confusion which would lead to the electoral board invalidating the petition.

Saltzman's attorney Matt Campbell argued that Wietting could not show that his residential address was included at the time the petitions were circulated and signed, meaning the people who signed may not have truly known that he was a resident of the city.

"The only time that the address of the candidate is shown on the petition is presumably after the petitions have been obtained," Campbell said, saying that because the mailing address is shown at the top of the page, signatories were not given enough information about Wietting's place of residency at the time they signed.

But Wietting's attorney argued that there are no affi-

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 2

Three Cheers for Reed-Custer!



Photo by Zadie Sims

RCHS CHEERLEADER Olivia Esparza is lifted by her teammates during the ICE Conference competition held Wednesday at home. The Lady Comet squad finished in second place.

Dumping ground

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Braidwood is making plans to get the most out of what's left after every-one flushes the toilet.

On Jan. 10, the City Council approved the purchase of a building from Freedom Buildings of Iowa, for a total of \$65,743.

Freedom Buildings specializes in weatherproof agriculture buildings – fabric cover structures commonly used for storage of hay, grain, fertilized, commodities, grain, wheat, and machinery.

"It's for the sludge outside the wastewater treatment plant," Public Buildings and Property Commissioner Warren Wietting explained. "Right now we have beds out-

side, and we get charged by the ton to haul this waste out, this sludge. So, at any given time if we have a rain [that adds weight]. So, we're looking at a savings of 25-30% for hauling this sludge out if it is not wet. This building would be a place where we could put the sludge and it would be quite a cost savings for the city to haul out dry sludge rather than wet sludge."

Sludge is a by-product of wastewater treatment processes.

In short, sludge is what's leftover after the several step process to treat and clarify waste – what gets flushed away and never thought of again – that enters the plant. Sludge is

SEE SLUDGE, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

NEW RECYCLING BINS FROM Environmental Recycling and Disposal are prepped for delivery from the parking lot of the Reed Township Hall earlier this month. City administrator answered critics' requests to see how the garbage contract bid process panned out by inviting people to City Hall to review all the bids received.

City administrator: Garbage bids available to public

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Now that the delivery of new garbage cans is complete, city leaders said they're ready to answer questions, comments or criticisms on the switch from Waste Management to Environmental Recycling and Disposal.

During the Jan. 10 regular meeting of the City Council, city administrator Tony Altieri addressed questions

on social media seeking out more information on the switch. Alriery said several people had requested the city post all of the bid packets received. But, he added, the packets are a bit lengthy.

"This bid is 66 pages long, so I'm not really sure that it's

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

Infrastructure projects kept Braidwood busy in 2022

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

It may not have been obvious on the outside.

But Braidwood's city engineer said the year was a flurry of work behind the scenes.

On Jan. 10, city engineer Dave Weber of Robinson Engineering gave a brief year in review for the city's engineering needs in 2022.

Weber noted that a significant amount of work was poured into Infrastructure projects for the water department, including a new motor and piping as part of the Well

#4 rehab project.

"It's significant to the water supply in the city," Weber said.

The city engineer added operations assistance at the water treatment plant in 2022 included assistance upgrading the city's chlorination system, which means that the system will now be more tailored to the actual usage of local customers, rather than just pumping in a lot of chlorine regardless of how much is being used.

"It will improve the water quality within the town," Weber said. "We're currently in

the process of the water softener repair at the water treatment plant. The SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system is also in the works of being upgraded at the wastewater treatment plant and the water treatment plant as well."

Other assistance completed by Robinson Engineering in 2022 includes:

- Conducting legwork for the proposal to CMAP which culminated in CMAP granting assistance for the city's comprehensive plan update.
- Conducting the risk and resiliency study as a part of the

city's mandated upgrade to their emergency response plan.

- Provided assistance for lead sampling as part of an IEPA mandate.

- Re-bid the salt for water softening at the water treatment plant.

- Obtained an easement for Well #1 in order to improve the power supply to the well.

- Assisted with grant assistance applications.

- Assisted with planning for the fire department train-

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 2



CMAP

structure bill that was passed, something that both sides agreed to," Ostrander said. "There's a lot of money and a lot of programs that are being rolled out in the next five years, and having a good, solid comprehensive plan is something that will put Braidwood in a much more competitive position if you want to apply in the future."

Ostrander said the role CMAP takes on during the planning process is not to come in and tell the city how to create the plan, but rather to listen to feedback from local officials, business owners and residents in order to

craft the document tailored to the city's needs. "While we'll be coming up with recommendations for the comprehensive plan, those recommendations, and I can't stress this enough, they need to be driven by what you tell us. That's the only way that these comprehensive plans work, that's the only way that they're meaningful and could be useful to you," Ostrander said. The survey looks for challenges and opportunities for Braidwood, but also what people want to stay the same. But while the survey went live in October, Ostrander said there has not yet been much feedback, which is where the public's help comes into play. The CMAP website has a Braidwood page which allows

residents to answer questions, including a map where residents can drop a pin on areas of the city where they would like to see specific items addressed. Ostrander said CMAP will also be looking to conduct brief interviews for background information and ideas for the plan. One thing CMAP and city leaders made sure to point out – despite CMAP's name, the agency is not affiliated with the city of Chicago. As the full name suggests, the agency serves the areas within the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Created in 2005, CMAP is the regional planning organization for the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

CMAP represents 284 municipalities in the region. CMAP operates under the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund of the state's Finance Act. Information on the plan, including the map where residents can drop pins on spots needing improvements, a survey, general information, and to sign up for updates can be found at <https://engage.cmap.illinois.gov/braidwood-comprehensive-plan>. A survey link can also be found on the City of Braidwood Facebook page. City officials noted that anyone who wants to participate in the online survey or mapping, but who need assistance, can contact City Hall for help.

Election

advits from those people who signed the petition that they were confused, and that the suggestion by Campbell of confusion being "clear" was not backed up by any evidence. Carlasure said the assumption of confusion, barring any proof that it existed, is not a legal basis for objection to the petition. After hearing from both sides, the Electoral Board voted 2-1 in favor of Wietting's motion to dismiss. Mayor Jones and Clerk Bohac voted to grant the dismissal. Commissioner Smith argued that he did not want to dismiss the motion, disagreeing with the premise that the objection was insufficient. The Electoral Board further voted 2-1 for Wietting's name to be placed on the April 4, 2023 ballot, with Smith again voting no.

Sludge

disposed of by the city, and can be sold as fertilizer for some type of agricultural land, though it is not used on crops grown for human consumption. The building purchase will help the city save money on the final stage of the process. "This building has a dome roof and some containers were purchased earlier and there will be three containers on each side of the building for storing equipment," Wietting said. "All of our equipment usually sits outside on... the trucks." The council voted to approve the purchase, but also to waive the competitive bid process. Wietting said that during the planning phase, there were four companies contacted regarding the project, but only two expressed interest. Prior to the vote, Commissioner Fay Smith said he wanted more information on the proposals that were taken on the project. Smith said he was looking for more clarity and transparency on how the

company was chosen. "If you don't have any copies of the bids, then how do we know that you have the copies?" Smith said. "I'm not going to vote for something that I don't know if it's been bid... When you go over \$30,000 you should have bids." City attorney Bryan Wellner explained why the motion to waive the bid process. "There is a way around that, the main reason that people [waive the bid process] is if they don't get enough bids in return, it's hard to actually go with the lowest responsible bidder when you don't have enough. So you can approve a bid over the statutory amount [to go out to bid] as long as you get two-thirds approval of council. So, this council needs four votes to approve this bid and to waive the competitive bidding process." The council approved the purchase by a 4-1 vote, with Smith voting no. The council also approved a reimbursement from the Tax Increment Financing (TIF III) fund to pay for the new building. "Each year, part of our tax dollars go into our TIF fund, and with that we are

able to use, for items such as this building because it's built in the TIF district, we're able to use TIF funds to [pay for the project] so that we're not depleting the standard budget," city administrator Tony Altiery explained. "Last year we assisted in purchasing a police car and some equipment." The reimbursement request totaled \$129,468 to pay for the building, the containers, the foundation blocks, and equipment. Smith objected to this measure as well, citing a lack of transparency for what items are being purchased with TIF money. Altiery had an answer for that objection. "Just for a little bit of clarity and to answer some of Mr. Smith's questions, we did purchase a trailer which is used by the water department," Altiery said. "Right now containers that we purchased are being used to keep equipment in, and two-thirds of what is here is also being used by the water department." The council approved the TIF reimbursement by a 4-1 vote, with Smith again voting no.

opened in 2016, there was a catch: The roadway doesn't have full access to Route 113. Instead, the island pork chop restricts access, making the roadway only accessible for traffic coming from the north, not the south. In order to improve the intersection for future development, including Bauer and D'Orazio, IDOT is requiring both a north-bound turn lane and south-bound turn lane be constructed on Division Street, which includes removal of the porkchop. Last July, the city council approved an appropriation of \$60,000 dedicated to that design work. Construction is still expected to be a year away. "In addition to that, there were numerous meetings that I attended with other developers who are looking at Braidwood to move their businesses to, or they're interested in developing in Braidwood," Weber said. "We've been very busy, and very proud to be here." When the road finally

Projects

ing area near the water plant. Assisted with nine reviews of incoming development, including the truck stop at I-55 and Kennedy Road, the truck parking lot on Route 53, and the incoming Arnie Bauer and D'Orazio car dealerships along EZ Street. In addition, Weber said the city continues the project of working to remove the "porkchop" concrete island at the intersection of Division Street and EZ Street. "We are currently in the design of the Route 113 and EZ Street turn lane, which is a requirement for IDOT to remove that center island at that intersection," Weber said. EZ Street was first designed in 2014, but construction was delayed for a full year while issues regarding access to Route 113 were worked out between the city and the state.

Council

something that is going to go on facebook that people are actually going to read," Altiery said. "But I made sure that we have all these bids from all the garbage companies, so if anybody has any questions, anytime they can call me, they can come in and go through them or whatever they would like to do I'd be happy to sit with them." The new contract 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. A quarterly electronic waste collection will also be offered, at a cost of \$35 per television set, and no charge for other electronics. In other business before the full council on Jan. 10:

- Altiery said the city and park district have been discussing creating a certified 5K route, which would be used for a planned 5K this spring, which will be sponsored by Constellation Energy. "It's \$500 to certify the route for the 5K run, and [the park district] asked if the city would be interested in sponsoring it," Altiery said. "What that would do is, if they get it certified, then any future run that uses the same route would be able to use the certification which could bring more people to the route, because the runners like to

know the route that they're running is a safe route and somewhere they're not going to get hurt." The Braidwood Memorial Day 5K takes place on May 27. Proceeds will be donated to Honor Flight Chicago. The council will vote on the expenditure during the next regular meeting. The council approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$153,381. The council approved the payroll in the amount of \$97,676.

Crime fighting unit seizes more than 80,900 grams of drugs, 10 vehicles

STAFF REPORT The Grundy County ProActive Unit has seized over \$21,800 and more than 80,900 grams of narcotics and controlled substances over the past 21 months. Led by the Grundy County Sheriff's Department, the specialized law enforcement unit has made 241 arrests including 82 on warrants, 37 misdemeanor and 122 felony. Officers have also seized 14 weapons and 10 vehicles since the unit was activated in March 2021.

The data presented comes from the unit's most recent activity report and shared by Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim with members of the Coal City Village Board. The village has supported the unit since it formed. The unit was conceived by Sheriff Ken Briley on the concept of working cooperatively to combat the multi-jurisdictional trafficking of illegal narcotics, controlled substances, dangerous drugs, guns, illegal street gang activity and other crimes. The unit has seized more than 75,200 grams of cannabis, 1,677.2 grams of

methamphetamine and 1,329 grams of heroin. In reviewing the data, Coal City Mayor Terry Halliday questioned an increase in cocaine seizures. "Meth and crack are back," Harseim said. Assigned to the unit are six Grundy County officers and officers from Channahon, Braidwood, Morris and Seneca police departments. Grundy County Chief Deputy Eric Werden oversees its operations.

methamphetamine and 1,329 grams of heroin. In reviewing the data, Coal City Mayor Terry Halliday questioned an increase in cocaine seizures. "Meth and crack are back," Harseim said. Assigned to the unit are six Grundy County officers and officers from Channahon, Braidwood, Morris and Seneca police departments. Grundy County Chief Deputy Eric Werden oversees its operations.



PREP WORK FOR the planned truck stop development at the Reed Road and I-55 exit was one of several projects that was undertaken by the city's engineering firm in 2022.

Cheerleaders earn second place in competition



Photo by Zandie Sims

THE REED-CUSTER cheer team finishes their performance during the ICE Conference competition held in Braidwood on Wednesday. The Lady Comets were awarded second place.

New little one? Let's start planning.

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



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

PERSONAL INJURY

Block, Klukas & Manzella & Shell, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Michael D. Block • Elizabeth A. Klukas • Thomas J. Manzella
Bryan L. Shell • Aaron B. Morrow • Kyle W. Juckins

"Local lawyers with big city results"

Free Initial Consultation • No Fee Unless Successful

815-726-9999

19 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432 • Across from the Courthouse

WORKERS COMPENSATION

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 MR00425

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.

A week in the life of Braidwood, June 12, 1885

Today we jump a decade from last week to 1885. Let's see what has changed. All of these items came from the Braidwood column in the Wilmington Advocate.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

The Braidwood schools well probably close on the 26th inst. It's interesting that the closing date of the schools is not definite.

Elizur Goodrich is soon to establish a law office in Braidwood. Elizur was the son of former Mayor L. H. Goodrich. The Goodrich's were a popular family but seemed to have more than their share of bad luck, including a new home burning down with all the contents and Mayor Goodrich being killed by a train while exiting another train.

An unfortunate tramp was taken to Joliet on Tuesday, charged with being a vagrant. I find it surprising that only one tramp was taken in. Braidwood was notorious for its shifting population of tramps, almost all of them arriving by train.

St. Joseph's Catholic Total Abstinence Union is to give a ball in Music Hall on the night of July 3rd. This organization flies in the face of what is normally considered a drinking town. It was founded ten years earlier, in 1875. The founding officers were; President, Thos. Walsh; Vice-President, Jas. Bambrick; Secretary, Jos. Kelly; Treasurer, M. Kelly; Stewards, F. Boyle and P. Kelly.

The Miners' band of this place have taken steps to get up a general celebration in Braidwood on July 3rd and 4th. Sports for prizes will enter largely into the programme, with dancing, etc.

The posters will soon announce particulars. The Miners' Band seems to have been much more than a musical organization. We have them in 1874 playing impromptu concerts on the streets of Wilmington and Joliet, to benefit the striking miners.

They sponsored boat trips on the Kankakee, excursions to the Joliet prison and train trips to Chicago.

On Thursday morning at the unseemly hour of 1:30, Evan Phillips heard dogs barking near his barn, in the rear of his residence.

With revolver in hand, Evan says he proceeded to investigate, and in so doing he discovered some man, unknown to him, in the act of applying a lighted match to a quantity of hay in the barn. Phillips then fired, but unluckily missed his mark.

In a moment afterward the incendiary was also missing - and is yet.

I have to admit this is really more worrisome than a few tramps and drunks. With buildings made of wood, the whole town could be gone in a heartbeat.

What is worse that was not the only incident that week. At about half-past one o'clock on Monday morning flames were discovered issuing from the rear end of John Bambrick's residence on Main Street.

It appears that the clapping had been pulled off in a certain place and that kerosene had been poured inside by the would-be incendiary, who has thus far escaped arrest.

Mr. Pitt Kent, who arrived on a late train, happened to be

near at the time of the blaze and he gave an alarm which brought out the volunteer engine company. The blaze was then made short work of. As far as I can find out, the fire bug was never caught.

Skating and dancing will be in order at Music hall on Saturday night. Roller skating was the newest fad, at least for a year or two. It then went out of favor, not to return until the 1890's

Andrea Prusio was terribly crushed by a falling stone in No. 4 Eureka shaft on Thursday. And of course, this was an everyday occurrence. We have no idea what happened to him later, or if he even survived.

A strawberry and lawn festival for the Primitive Methodist church is billed for Monday next. The best thing about this festival is the strawberries were grown by the parishioners, I wish I could taste one now.

The C. W. & V. company's pay roll for May will foot up about \$24,000 (\$801,900 today). Tomorrow will be payday. There is now better place to stop than payday. Again, we see that there were no murders, no shootings, just a typical small American town.

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. 27-LIHEAP, 1-3 p.m. To assist households with low incomes to help, through financial aid, meet their energy needs.

Child Programs
Jan. 21-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. 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.

Jan. 23-TWEEN Pop Art Emoji Painting, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Show us how you're feeling by making your own galaxy emoji painting. Tweens will get a chance to create their own galaxy emoji painting and

then be able to take it home. Exclusively ages 9-12.

Jan. 25-Early Readers Group, 10:30-11 a.m. Introduce your children ages 0-5 to the sounds and rhythms of language and reading with stories, music and rhymes. Delight and stimulate your kid's senses and build a foundation for a lifelong love of books and reading.

Half Day Movie Matinee, Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile, 1-3 p.m., rated PG. When the Primm family moves to New York City, their young son, Josh, struggles to adapt to his new school and friends. All of that changes when he discovers Lyle, a singing crocodile that loves baths, caviar and great music.

Jan. 30-Mommy & Me Painting, \$10 per parent and child, 6-7:30 p.m. Mommy (or Daddy) and Me Painting classes are designed for you and your child to have some creative fun while enjoying a night out together.

Homeschool Programs
Jan. 31-Homeschool Bubble Wrap Painting, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Did you know bubble wrap can be used for painting and not just popping? How did bubble wrap come to be? Learn little history then join teacher Tammy to paint two unique ways with bubble wrap.

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



"DAVID" a graphite pencil drawing done by RCHS' Seth Johnson who also received an Award of Excellence.



"BLOOM" ACRYLIC PAINTING by RCHS' Alexandra Bohac. She received an Award of Excellence from the Illinois High School Art Exhibition.

Danzell named to president's list

Chakira Danzell, of Braidwood, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's fall 2022 president's list. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the president's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

RCHS students recognized for their artwork

The Illinois High School Art Exhibition and Competition opened its doors on Saturday, at the University of St. Francis Art Gallery in downtown Joliet. This annual show invites students to enter up to two original works and teachers may submit work from up to 10 students.

This year 15 high schools were represented in the exhibition with three to thirty students from each school participating for a grand total of 169 students. Reed-Custer High School had 15 students competing in the show this year.

The art department is proud to share

that four seniors were recognized for their artwork in this competition: Alexandra Bohac, Haley Budick, Seth Johnson and Joey Leadingham.

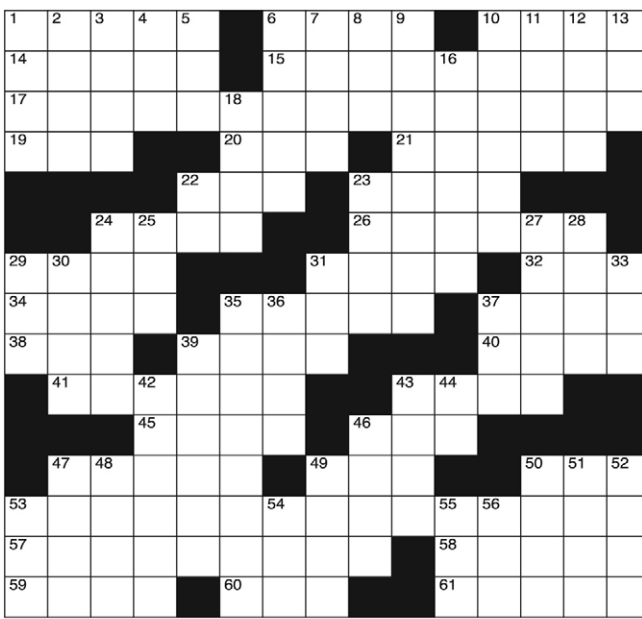
The following artists were selected for an Award of Excellence: Alexandra Bohac's acrylic painting called Bloom, Haley Budick's colored pencil drawing called Good Morning and Joey Leadingham's digital photograph called Glass Still Life. Additionally, Seth Johnson was an Honorable Mention for his graphite pencil drawing David.

Here is the full list of participating art

students from RCHS: Rachel Adams, Alexandra Bohac, Haley Budick, Gabriella Davies, Savana Helton, Seth Johnson,

Lillie Kmetz, Meghan Lamping, Joey Leadingham, Ethan Mann, Echo Mudro, Haley Sterrett, Andrew Tribe, Emma Whittum, and Dakota Wilkins.

The exhibition is on display until Jan. 27. The USF Gallery is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and is located at 25 E. Van Buren St. in Joliet.



CLUES ACROSS

- Not invited
- Whale ship captain
- One point south of southwest
- Small cavity in a rock
- Recidivists
- City of Angels hoopster
- A way to mark with one's signature
- OJ trial judge
- Rice cooked in broth
- One point east of due south
- One point east of southeast
- Complements an entree
- Grouped by twos
- Disfigure
- Woods
- Political action committee
- Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
- Kin groups
- Philippine Island
- Contrary to
- Bluish-gray fur
- Comprehend the written word
- Natural depressions
- Felines
- Breathe noisily
- Taxi
- Pancake made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- Foot (Latin)
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Monetary units of Peru
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.

CLUES DOWN

- Green and yellow citrus fruit
- A bright color
- Thicket
- Journalist Tarbell
- A place to work or relax
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Helicopter
- Mimic
- Suggests
- More musty
- Large, flightless rail
- Make beer
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- People who account for you
- Taunt
- South Dakota
- Cover the entirety of
- Kids' favorite visitor
- A way to save for retirement
- Fencing swords
- C. China mountain range
- Type of sandwich
- Team
- Paddle
- Partly digested food
- Mostly caged
- Shoppers make one
- Cathode-ray tube
- Food supplies
- Backbones
- Concern
- Blood group
- Broadway songwriter Sammy
- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Deity of a monotheistic cult
- Type of bread
- S. Nigerian people
- Scottish tax
- Young women's association
- Brazilian city
- Hide of a young animal
- Midway between north and northeast

Rezin renamed as Deputy Minority Leader

SPRINGFIELD— As the 103rd General Assembly begins its work in Springfield, State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) has been renamed as the Deputy Minority Leader for the Illinois Senate Republican Caucus.

"It is my great honor to remain the Deputy Minority Leader for the Illinois Senate Republicans under the new leadership of Leader John Curran," said Rezin. "I am grateful for Leader Curran's confidence and eagerly look forward to working with him as we strive to make Illinois a better place for everyone who calls it home."

Senator Rezin previously served as the Deputy Minority Leader during the 102nd General Assembly and has served as state senator since December 2010.

Senator Rezin, who previously represented the 38th Senate District during the 102nd General Assembly, will continue to serve as the state senator for the District in the 103rd General Assembly. The new 38th District contains parts of Bureau, Dekalb, Grundy, LaSalle, Kendall, and Will counties.

Braidwood Recreation Club Annual Meeting and Re-Organization Meeting

The Braidwood Recreation Club held its Annual Meeting on January 14, 2023. The names of four Incumbent Directors: P.J. O'Reilly, Troy Ehringer, Rich Bolatto, and Dan Belcher along with Petitioners Edward "Eddie" Wilson and Nicolas Stewart were placed on the ballot.

205 votes were cast with the following results; P.J. O'Reilly 113 votes, Troy Ehringer 94 votes, Rich Bolatto 97 votes, Dan Belcher 112 votes, Edward "Eddie" Wilson 72 votes, and Nicholas Stewart 101 votes. The following four individuals accepted 3-year terms on The Board of Directors: P.J. O'Reilly, Rich Bolatto, Dan Belcher, and Nicholas Stewart.

A Re-Organization Meeting was held on January 15, 2023.

The new Executive Council consists of;

2023 Board of Directors

Executive Council

President – Rich Friddle

Vice-President – Justen Bohac

Executive Treasurer – Russ Toler

Executive Secretary – Tyler Geiss

Directors

Director

Russ Toler

Justen Bohac

Eric Tessler

Rich Bolatto

Nick Stewart

Tyler Geiss

P.J. O'Reilly

Dan Montana

Bud Belcher

Al Crisco

Mike Foster

Back-Up

Dan Belcher

Bud Montana

Tyler Geiss

Mike Foster

P.J. O'Reilly

Russ Toler

Rich Bolatto

Justen Bohac

Nick Stewart

Eric Tessler

Al Crisco

Council

Administration

Area, Tennis & Winter Sports

Beach

Camping

Concession

Fishing

Gate & Fence

Roads

Pro Shop

Golf

Membership & Activities

Board of Directors

Braidwood Recreation Club

Check Out Our Super Hot Deals This Week!

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.

TRY IT TODAY! **1/2 PRICE!** **\$1.99 EACH**
Berkot's Fresh Made Pico De Gallo- 12 oz

Sales valid 1/18/23-1/24/23 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM

ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.



- Snow White Cauliflower.....99¢/LB
- Premium Sweet Potatoes.....99¢/LB
- Jumbo Yellow Onions.....99¢/LB
- Jumbo Red Onions.....99¢/LB
- Broccoli Crowns.....99¢/LB
- Brussels Sprouts.....99¢/LB
- Roma Tomatoes.....99¢/LB
- Farm Fresh Zucchini.....99¢/LB
- Green Cabbage.....99¢/LB
- Fuji Apples.....99¢/LB
- Pink Lady Apples.....99¢/LB
- Booth's Ranch Navel Oranges.....99¢/EA
- Microwavable Sweet Potatoes.....99¢/EA
- Microwavable Baker Potatoes.....99¢/EA
- Extra Large Avocados.....99¢/EA
- Yukon Potatoes 3 lb bag.....99¢/EA
- Extra Large Red, Green, or Orange Peppers.....99¢/EA
- Juicy, Flavorful Mangos.....99¢/EA
- Rhythm Organic Produce Snacks 1.4 oz.....99¢/EA
- Carrots 1 lb bag.....99¢/EA
- Baker Potatoes.....2/99¢
- Zesty Lemons.....2/99¢
- Sweet, Juicy Kiwi.....2/99¢



2 FOR \$5
Blue Ribbon Classics Ice Cream- 48 oz

\$5.99 EACH
Home Run Inn 12" Classic Gino's East Tavern Style- 24-33 oz
Edwardo's Thin Crust Pizza 23-24.8 oz

\$9.99 EACH
SlimFast Ready To Drink 8 pk- Chocolate Royale, French Vanilla, or Milk Chocolate

59¢ per 12 oz bottle
Body Armor Drinks- 24 pk (sold in 24 pk for \$14.16)

4 FOR \$11
Absopure Purified Water- 24 pk

\$6.99 EACH
Tide Simply Detergent- 128 oz
Oxi Detergent- 115 oz (Sel. Var)

\$4.99 EACH
Scott Choose A Size Paper Towel 6 Big Roll
Bath Tissue- 12 Double Roll

4 PK \$7
PACZKI ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES!

\$8.99 EA Censea Cooked Shrimp 31-40 ct - Sold in 1 lb bag

\$3.99 LB Berkot's Own Corned Beef

99¢ PER LB sale
Berkot's Farm Fresh Whole Chicken Wings- (\$39.60 per 40 lb case - smaller package \$1.49/lb)

\$2.99 LB Berkot's Fresh All-Natural Bone-In Pork Chops

\$1.69 LB Fresh All-Natural Bone-In Sirloin Pork Roast

\$3.99 LB - \$1.00 LB
\$2.99 with LB loyalty
Berkot's Fresh, Medium-Size, Restaurant-Quality Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast

USDA CHOICE
\$4.99 EACH
USDA Choice Angus Boneless Strip Steak 10 oz portion (Other sizes \$7.98/lb)

\$7.99 LB - \$2.00 LB
\$5.99 with LB loyalty
Berkot's Burgundy Pepper Marinated Tri-Tip

Great Grocery Deals to Fill Your Basket!

99¢ sale
Berkot's French Bread

\$2.88 EACH
Brownberry Wide Pan Breads 24 oz

99¢ sale
Snack Pack Pudding 4 pk - Chocolate, Vanilla, Chocolate/Vanilla, Butterscotch

99¢ sale
Chef Boyardee Beef or Mini Ravioli 15 oz

99¢ sale
Spaghetti with Meatballs 14.5 oz

99¢ sale
Best Choice Chicken, Low Salt Chicken, or Beef Broth Box- 32 oz

LIMIT 4

99¢ sale
Sparkling Ice Drinks 17 oz

\$6.99 EACH
Miller 64 12 pk 12 oz btls or cans

\$14.99 EACH
Busch Light, Busch or Rolling Rock 30 pk 12 oz cans

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

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

St. Rose CCW to host a spa day fundraiser

Beat the winter blues at "Sittin' Pretty", a pamper day hosted by the St. Rose Church Council of Catholic Women. Proceeds will be shared with the Kuzma Care Cottage, the local food pantry. It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 19, from

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Rose School gym. The day features Mary Kay facials and make up, mini manicures, hair styling, wine tasting, and coffee tasting. Refreshments will be provided. Make it a day with friends or the ladies young and young at heart in your family.

A children's corner has activities such as face painting, jewelry making, book sale and an ice cream sundae bar. What spa day would be complete without shopping at our vendors offering jewelry, clothing, candles, soaps and more. There will also be raffles and door prizes.

Ticket costs are \$15 per person and tickets are limited. Tickets can be purchased by texting Kristi at 815-263-4158.

Raffle basket sponsors include: Old National Bank, Fresh Face Spa, Lori Bonarek Realty, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Arnie Bauer Chevrolet, Backyard Pools and Spa, El Patron, Grundy National Bank, Frank Meents Law, Wilmington Pharmacy, Berkot's Super Foods and Allied Nursery.

Take flight with the eight-ingredient Test Pilot

Now that we have turned the calendar to 2023, we are one year closer to a NASA's Artemis III moon mission scheduled for 2025. While this trip to the moon is not a "first", it will be the first moon mission witnessed by anyone under 50 years of age. New systems, new technology, a new landing vehicle will all have to be tested.

In the modern era of space travel, these systems and equipment tests are unmanned for the most part. That was not the case during the space race, nor was it the case in the early age of jet travel.

Early advances in jet flight were made during highly publicized tests that were often witnessed by the public. In the time between the end of the Second World War and the first manned space flight, the test pilots ruled the day. This week, we toast the test pilot!

You may have heard of the Jet Pilot cocktail, not the Test Pilot. The cocktail platform that would evolve into the iconic Jet Pilot was once a Test Pilot, and like many first incarnations of popular drinks, they

had it right the first time. Fasten your safety harness, put your helmet on, we're flying back to the early age of jet air travel!

The most noteworthy of these public tests were conducted out of Southern California's Edwards Air Force base in the late 1940s. In May of 1948, Captain "Chuck" Yeager broke the world's altitude record in a Bell X-1 flying at an altitude of 60,000 feet. For reference, average cruising altitude of modern passenger jets is 35,000 feet.

Before Donn Beach was tiki cocktail pioneer Don the Beachcomber, he served in World War 2 and remained a supporter of the armed forces throughout his life. He wanted to capture the energy and excitement around this new age of aviation, what better way to do that than with a tribute cocktail?

Is the Test Pilot exciting? It's an eight-ingredient cocktail and all of the stand-alone ingredients are delicious, so we'll check "yes" next to exciting. This cocktail was so exciting that upon its release in the 1940s other Polynesian-themed restaurants immediately began to copy the Test Pilot. Rival restaurants had their own versions with their own names such as the Astronaut, Space Pilot, Ace Pilot, and the Jet Pilot.

The Jet Pilot adaptation is the one that is most popular today, but it is a bit more complex using three rums instead of two, and also using a cinnamon infused sugar syrup. The original version is less complex, but every bit as delicious. What's in this thing, anyway? Like the Mai Tai and most of the tiki drinks of the era, the base rum is a dark Jamaican rum. Lucky for us, Jamaican rum has flourished in popularity over the last half century and you no longer have to visit a Polynesian restaurant to find it. The best dark Jamaican rums for cocktails are Myer's Original Dark, Appleton 12 year, and Coruba. The Test Pilot also calls a light rum, and your best bet is something smooth. El Dorado 3 year, Flor de Cana 4 year, Cruzan, or Cana Brava are all great options. Bacardi will also work, but if you have the option reach for one of the aforementioned aged light rums.

Pernod is an anise-based liqueur that is used in place of absinthe in recipes of this vintage, be sure to add Pernod by the dropper or by the teaspoon as it will absolutely overpower a drink if too much is poured in. This drink calls for Cointreau as opposed to a generic triple sec, and Cointreau should always be used when a drink calls for triple sec. There is a reason that Cointreau is found behind nearly every commercial bar in the world. It is not cheap, but in this case you will absolutely get what you pay for.

Falernum is a sweet and sour lime syrup from the West Indies that can be made at home (search recipes online) or purchased in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic varieties. Over-proof rum is commonly added to falernum as a preservative, but not all recipes call for the addition of over-proof rum. If you are seeking a non-alcoholic falernum syrup, Fee Brothers is the way to go. If you prefer the liqueur version, Taylor's Velvet Falernum is widely available and performs remarkably well in rum drinks. Whenever a blended drink calls for ice, assume that means crushed ice unless otherwise specified. Using crushed ice in your blender assures a smooth, even texture without leaving large chunks of ice in your drink. Refrigerator ice cubes are simply too tough for most blenders.

Think of the Test Pilot as a tamer version of the Zombie, without the 151 rum and extra spices. A glance at the recipe leads one to believe that the drink would be overly complex, but the drink is surprisingly balanced. Many home mixologists settle into the Mai Tai and the Zombie as their two main rum drinks, the Test Pilot is a nice change of pace in the rotation. The Test Pilot is built in a blender and served in a double Old Fashioned glass. Combine in blender: 1/2 oz. fresh lime juice 1/2 oz. falernum 3 teaspoons Cointreau 1 1/2 oz. dark Jamaican rum 3/4 oz. light rum Dash Angostura Bitters 6 drops Pernod (or Herbsaint) 1 cup crushed ice Blend on high for 5 seconds, then pour unstrained into double Old Fashioned glass. Add more ice to fill if needed, garnish with cocktail cherry. Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Fioritto's
Antenna & Satellite

Up to 90 Channels FREE with local antenna

- HD Antennas
- Direct TV
- Dish

Locally Owned • Veteran
(815) 474-1365
Fully Insured

COAL CITY DENTAL
Our priority is to provide comfortable, quality dental care!

Local Small Business
Friendly, Familiar Faces
Quality AND Comfort

Most services performed in-office

- Dentures • Implants • Extractions
- Nitrous Oxide/Sedation Options
- Evening Availability
- Whitening/Cosmetic Procedures
- Work with most Insurances and more

\$500 OFF implants/dentures

New patient visit 50% off

Phone: 815.634.4999

Coal City Dental, Still Catering To The "Dental Coward" After All These Years!
645 E. Division St. (Rte. 113), Coal City | www.CoalCityDental.com

Immaculate Conception Church 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 insurmounting 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.

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 (815)
• Fundraisers 476-2600
• Corporate parties
• Child & adult leagues
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

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 **GRASSHOPPER**
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**

Food prices expected to climb even more in 2023

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

It looks like U.S. consumers will have to stomach another year of historically high food prices.

The latest food price outlook from the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service projects all food prices could increase 3.5% to 4.5% in 2023.

If realized, this year's inflation rate would be much lower compared to 2022, but still higher than average. USDA estimated all food prices increased 9.5% to 10.5% in 2022, with the cost of food at home up as much as 11-12% while prices of food away from home jumped 7-8%.

"Food prices are expected to grow more slowly in 2023 than in 2022, but still at above historical average rates," USDA noted in its December food price outlook.

The 20-year average rate of food price inflation hovered near 2% annually prior to the COVID pandemic and war in Ukraine.

Issues with logistics, high transportation costs and freight rates, labor, soaring production costs and weather have all contributed to the recent price surge.

Some of the largest price hikes by category in 2022 include eggs (forecast to



File photo by Illinois Farm Bureau photographer Catrina Rawson

CONSUMERS WILL LIKELY see the cost of groceries continue to rise well into 2023, according to the US Department of Agriculture. Egg prices are likely to increase as ongoing outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza continue to reduce the US egg layer flock.

increase 30.5% to 31.5%), poultry (up 14-15%), fats and oils (up 18-19%), cereals and bakery products (up 13.5%) and fresh fruit and vegetables (up 7-8%).

"The ongoing outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) continues to reduce the U.S. egg layer flock, as well as the poultry flock to a lesser extent," USDA noted in its food price report. "This decrease is expected to increase wholesale and retail egg prices for the coming months."

In the first two weeks of

December, USDA reported 4.8 million birds were destroyed to keep HPAI in check, bringing total losses for the year to 57.3 million birds nationwide.

The majority of bird losses due to HPAI (42.5 million) were table egg layers. Roughly 9.4 million turkeys were destroyed since the first of the year, the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report noted.

"Keep in mind there is a lag in price transmission and retailers likely are operating with compressed margins," authors of the Daily Livestock Reported noted. "Given the

trend of the last few weeks, we would expect retail (egg) prices to be sharply higher and unlikely to drop much in January and February."

How does food price inflation affect U.S. citizens? It depends, in part, on your location and income level.

A recent survey-based report released by Purdue University's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability found stark regional differences about food spending.

The survey of 1,200 consumers across the U.S. found households closer to the coasts are spending much more per week on food. But households farther from the coasts are experiencing higher rates of food insecurity.

"The regional differences are not surprising," said Jayson Lusk, distinguished professor of ag economics at Purdue who leads the center. "The West and Northeast are generally higher-cost and higher-income areas, so we would expect them to spend more on food."

The survey also seemed to indicate consumers reached a choke point in 2022 and responded to rapidly rising food costs by simply purchasing less of it. Grocery spending subsequently levelled off since May, according to the survey.

"There is a similar story for spending on restaurants, but this area still appears fairly robust," Lusk said. "We will watch closely for further declines."

USDA projects the cost of food away from home could increase 4-5% in 2023 compared to a 3-4% rise in food at home.

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.

A "TAKE SOME OF THE WORRY OUT OF LIFE" POLICY.

With rewards for safe behavior that protects what matters most, rather than penalties for what doesn't go quiet right. And with the support you need, every step of the way. For your car. Your home. For your unique life. **Dream fearlessly with American Family Insurance. Contact me today.**

Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364
863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404
teamgresham@amfam.com
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

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

Gas prices rise for second straight week

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 10.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.48/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 17.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 6.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Local prices on Monday included \$3.36/g in Braidwood, \$3.19/g to \$3.49/g in Wilmington and \$3.48 in

Coal City.

"We've seen somewhat of a mixed week at the pump with some states seeing gasoline prices rise, while others have stabilized for the time being. The good news as of late has been the continued decline in average diesel prices, which fell over a penny per day last week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Oil prices have seen a bit of a rally, finishing last week at

nearly \$80 per barrel again as Chinese demand starts to jump as expected, but with Covid cases and deaths now also surging in China, the jump in demand could be short-lived. Gas prices may nudge up slightly in the week ahead in some areas, while others could hold flat. The window on price drops however, appears to be coming up on the horizon as we get closer to what's likely to be a significant refinery maintenance period ahead of summer."

The national average price of diesel has fallen 7.2 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.56 per gallon. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.86/g while the most expensive was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$1.93/g.

The national average \$3.28/g is up 14.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 2.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

Wilmington Freemason's chili cook-off seeks entries

The Wilmington Freemasons Lodge #208 will be having their 13th annual Chili Cook-Off to fund the Pedals for Progress program on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tasting and a bowl of house chili \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids over 11 and free for

kids 11 and under. There will also be \$1 hot dogs available.

Wilmington Masonic Lodge is located at 311 Main St., Wilmington.

Think you have what it takes to be the Chili King? Register to be a contestant. Call Ben Stickel 815-370-7331 or Matt Lohmar 815-210-9606.

Explore snow with the Forest Preserve

The Will County Forest Preserve's Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon will host a "Rivers of Color - White as Snow" on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 11 a.m. to noon.

Learn all about snow, how it forms, why there are different shapes and if there are different kinds. Free, ages 10 or older. Register by Jan. 20.

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.

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.

FISHER MEENTS LLC

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

KICK IT OFF RIGHT WITH A BALANCE TRANSFER

1.99% APR* FOR 6 MONTHS + No Transfer Fees

8.99% APR* FOR 24 MONTHS + No Annual Fees

AFTER PROMOTIONAL PERIOD RATE REVERTS TO **10.90% APR* to 23.90% APR***

SOCU 800.595.2454
1544 CREEK DR
MORRIS, IL 60450
SOCU.ORG

*All Visas subject to credit approval. APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Promotional rate of 1.99% APR applies for 6 months after you transfer a balance. Promotional rate of 8.99% APR applies for 24 months after you transfer a balance. Balance transfers may not be used on existing SOCU loans. After the promotional period ends, any unpaid balance will revert to the current purchase APR, between 10.90%-23.90% APR, based upon your creditworthiness. Limited time offer. Federally insured by the NCUA.

WINTER CARNIVAL

Friday, Jan. 27
6:00 - 7:30 PM

GAMES / INFLATABLES / POPCORN AND MORE!

ADMIT ONE

AGES: 6-12, MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

FEE: \$6 PRE-REGISTRATION THROUGH 1/26
\$8 DAY OF EVENT OR AT THE DOOR

GODLEY PARK DISTRICT
500 S. KANKAKEE ST. | WWW.GODLEYPARK.COM | (815) 458-6129

Illinois lawmakers spend extra cash

When the Democrats get their act together during a legislative lame duck session, they can really pass a lot of stuff in short order.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

We've seen it before. Two years ago, the Democrats passed a huge amount of important legislation, including the SAFE-T Act, in just a few days.

Except maybe for the assault weapons ban, which is proving unpopular with county sheriffs who believe they have the right to personally interpret the Constitution, nothing quite that intensely controversial passed during this year's lame duck session.

Both chambers also passed a bill to protect out-of-state abortion providers who travel to Illinois, which has since been signed into law. The bill also protects non-Illinois physicians and parents of children who travel here for gender affirming care.

And both chambers gave the governor a big win with the passage of his \$500 million Large Business Attraction Fund. There are hopes that the governor can use at least some of that money to persuade Stellantis to transform its about to be closed Belvidere plant to one that makes electric vehicles.

The coverage of those three bills will likely overshadow some other bills of note:

- SB208: I think this bill could have more impact on the day-to-day lives of struggling working people than maybe anything else I've ever seen passed in Illinois. All workers

at private companies will now qualify for five paid leave days per year, no questions asked.

Just try missing a couple of days' pay on a budget with absolutely no wiggle room. It can be a disaster. And now, some, or even much of that pain will be avoided.

The state's top business groups, led by the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, have been negotiating this bill for years, mainly in an attempt to preempt Chicago from passing a more generous plan. But the final bill allows the city and other home rule units to pass more expansive benefit laws and the groups were neutral.

All props to sponsors Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth and Sen. Kimberly Lightford for getting this thing across the finish line with the help of the two Democratic legislative leaders and the governor and organized labor. Some Republicans even voted for it in the House. I really can't believe this all came together.

- HB1563: The legislature approved a bill a few years ago which required all state jobs with no specific location requirements to be relocated to Sangamon County. Newly created jobs had to be located in the state capital's county as well. But both lame duck chambers significantly loosened those requirements.

- HB969: The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability revised this fiscal year's revenue outlook upward by a whopping \$4.9 billion last November. The belief is that this money is one-

time only, so the governor and the Democratic legislative leaders have proposed using most of that cash to pay down bills, build up the Rainy Day Fund, create a business attraction fund, etc.

But legislators are spending creatures and they all have priorities, so the pressure to add bigtime dollars into the state's base spending is undoubtedly intense, which could cause a fiscal disaster if/and/or when revenues fall.

One solution is to divert some of that extra cash into one-time spending for members, including capital projects. The idea would be to placate legislators without putting future pressure on the state budget.

So, the new supplemental appropriations bill has a ton of one-time local and Democratic priority spending, like \$5 million to the Hate Crimes and Bias Incident and Response Fund, \$162 million for "costs associated with care and services provided to asylum seekers" that the city has sought, \$1 million to the Chicago Recovering Communities Coalition for the South Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force, \$10 million to the Office of the State Appellate Defender for "all costs associated with pretrial release," \$500K to the Peoria Civic Center for "audience building seed," \$75 million for housing programs, \$4 million for East St. Louis home renovation grants, \$11 million for construction of an East St. Louis trauma recovery center, \$9 million to community colleges and universities to administer the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act, etc., etc., etc. Several churches will receive state funds as well.

Not everyone was happy. Just \$12.5 million was appropriated to community-based services for persons with developmental disabilities, when advocates wanted at least \$30 million.

And there's a danger that a few of these one-time grants could create future spending pressure. Casa Central, a Latino social service agency, is getting \$500K for ongoing operating expenses as is the Peoria Riverfront Museum and others. But it's not really a huge amount.

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

Coal City United Methodist Church to host soup supper

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArde Road in Coal City, will hold a Hallelujah Soup Supper on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving their delicious homemade Chicken Noodle & Stuffed Green Pepper soups. Each meal

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

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

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

INSURANCE

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

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

Drawing by Elena Langusch

Sponsored by Gymshoe Art

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

Help us express kindness! Create!

OBITUARY

Frank Boivin

WILMINGTON— Frank Casper Boivin, 85, 51 year resident of Wilmington, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023.

He was born Sept. 26, 1938 in Ingram, WI, the son of Henry and Helen (Olson) Boivin. He married his wife, Pearl on June 24, 1960 in Ladysmith, WI. They had five children before they relocated to Wilmington in 1972 when Frank accepted a job at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, where he worked until its closing. Frank then began his career with NutraSweet as a Chemical Engineer, where he remained until retirement. Frank worked part-time for Reichhold Chemical as a security officer and at Lombardi Chevy Buick for several years, working on dealer trades driving cars. Frank never met a stranger and loved to reminisce about old cars he had owned. Frank had a love for classic cars, especially



Chevy's. He loved the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago White Sox.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Pearl; sons, Russell Boivin and Kirk and Sarah (Van Duyne) Boivin; daughters, Gayle Brown and Kimberly Loveland; brother, Billy Boivin; 14 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Kevin Boivin; two sons-in-law, Larry Brown and Richie Loveland; sister, Susan Blum and brother, Jacki Boivin.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023 at the Wilmington VFW, 557 W. Baltimore St. in Wilmington from 1-4 p.m. Cremation rites were accorded.

Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project <https://supportwoundedwarriorproject.org>.

Sheriffs say they want no role in state's assault weapon registry

BY HANNAH MEISEL
FOR CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Dozens of county sheriffs in Illinois — approximately "80-ish," per Illinois Sheriffs' Association head Jim Kaitschuck — say they'll refuse to enforce a provision of a new assault weapons ban that would require owners of such guns to register them with the state.

In the wake of Gov. JB Pritzker's signature on the law banning the sale and manufacture of assault weapons in Illinois, many sheriffs have written nearly identical letters expressing their unwillingness to enforce the law's requirement for registering assault-style weapons with the state.

Beginning next year, a gun owner's failure to provide the state police with the serial numbers for assault-style rifles they own prior to Jan. 1, 2024, will be a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison. The degree of charges could increase based on the number of unregistered guns.

But Kaitschuck contended it would be impossible for local sheriffs to know who in their county owns assault weapons if those gun owners don't voluntarily comply with the law, suggesting it would be ridiculous to go door-to-door to find out.

"We have no inventory of guns bought and sold that are available to local sheriffs," Kaitschuck said of information partially available to the Illinois State Police. "We don't have access to it — and I'm not

asking for it either, by the way."

Several gun rights organizations say they are planning to challenge the law in federal court, buoyed by a 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision which Second Amendment proponents believe could mean friendlier opinions on firearms-related claims moving forward.

Democrats and advocates who pushed for Illinois to pass the nation's ninth statewide ban on assault weapons had expected litigation, but on Jan. 12 maintained that unless the law gets struck down, sheriffs' refusal to enforce any part of it is a dereliction of duty.

"They took an oath of office to uphold the law," Pritzker said at an unrelated news conference. "As law enforcement, that's their job. And I expect them to do that job. You can have all the resolutions and declarations that you want (but) the reality is that the laws that are on the books, you don't get to choose which ones people are going to follow."

But Kaitschuck countered with the common example of police declining to write a ticket to a driver pulled over for driving 10 miles over the speed limit.

"If I pull somebody over for speeding going 65 in a 55, and I don't write them a ticket, does that mean I'm not enforcing (the law)?" he asked. "And I know we're talking apples to oranges here, but...my point on this is that officers have discretion. We don't arrest everybody we could or else our jails would be totally overrun."

The sheriffs' letters this week primarily dealt with enforcing the registry portion of the assault weapons law, and Kaitschuck said he wasn't aware of any sheriffs in his organization who don't plan on complying with the law's other provisions, like the ban of sales of assault weapons at Illinois gun shops.

GODLEY PARK DISTRICT Fitness Center

JANUARY FITNESS CENTER SPECIAL

For the month of **January**, Godley Park District annual fitness center memberships will be **50% off** for new members that have not held a membership in the past year.

All annual renewals will be **10% off**.

FITNESS CENTER AMENITIES:

- Weight Machines,
- Free Weights, Kettlebells,
- Cardio Equipment, TV's,
- Locker Rooms with Showers,
- Free Access to Gymnasium when available.

500 S. Kankakee St. Godley, IL 60407 | (815) 458-6129 | www.godleypark.com

All students welcome

March 4th
9am-1pm

Godley Park District
500 S. Kankakee St
Godley, IL 60407

"Every student should be able to afford prom"

All Dresses are \$5.00 at Event

Dresses may be dropped off at any Whitmore Ace location until March 1st

Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box has dressed over 4,207 students for prom

www.facebook.com/melissacrystalprom

In memory of Melissa Michalowski & Crystal Carr

Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box

PUBLIC NOTICES
Because it's your right to know

warrencollisioncenteril.com



✓ **Finest quality warranted collision repair**
 ✓ **Rentals available**
 ✓ **Certified technicians**
 ✓ **All insurance accepted**
 ✓ **Completed in a timely fashion**

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
 860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
 815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

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

HANSEN'S
 WINDOW COVERINGS & FURNITURE UPHOLSTERY

FREE in home measuring & selection

Serving Will, Cook, Grundy & Kane County For Over 20 Years

Keep the sun at bay with GREAT PRICING on Energy Saving Window Coverings.

Come visit us at our Bradley & Mokena Showrooms!

200 North Washington • Bradley (815) 935-0010
 19827 South LaGrange Rd. • Mokena (708) 479-6600

HunterDouglas
 Frankfort (815) 469-6610
 New Lenox (815) 485-2058
 Orland Park (708) 403-1110
 Joliet (815) 722-0011
 www.HansensWindowCoverings.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.

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

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

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

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington, 2 bedroom apartment for rent. Move in ready, \$800/month. Call and leave a message, will call you back. 815-274-6065. cc3-6

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

IMMEDIATE OPENING MAINTENANCE/ PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE VILLAGE OF GARDNER - Full time position for person with experience and mechanical ability. Responsibilities include general upkeep of Village property, meter reading, water turn on/off, water main repairs, mowing/plowing, other duties as needed. Starting rate up to \$25/hour with CDL license. Requires willingness to obtain Class B water and Class 4 sewer plant operating certification within 18 months of starting employment, with experienced operators \$30/hour plus. Attractive benefits package including nine holidays, vacation, up to 12 sick days per year, IMRF, 100% paid employee medical and life insurance. Mail resume by January 31 to: Village Clerk, Village of Gardner, 302 N Center Street, P. O. Box 545, Gardner, IL 60424 cc3-4

HELP WANTED

Dishwasher (Multiple Positions) - Job located in Will County, Illinois. Krenar, LLC d/b/a Silver Dollar Restaurant. Ensure that the kitchen stays clean and organized, Set up dish stations and turn on dish cleaning machines. Load and unload dishes from dish machines, washing all pans or utensils that come into contact with food, and scraping identifiers off everything. 40 hrs. per week. Six months experience as a Dishwasher required. Wage will meet or exceed Federal Prevailing Wage. M-F 9-5. Send Resume: Attn: Edmir Ijaz, 422 Mississippi Ave. Elwood, IL 60421. cc3-4

Wilmington, 2BR first floor apartment with open kitchen & living room, patio with sliding doors off bedroom, central air, garage, coin operated laundry in building. No pets, non smoking, 1st & last month's rent. 815-483-0635. ck3-5

Newly remodeled duplex for rent, 2 bedroom, living room, kitchen, single car attached garage. Mazon on Rt 47. Call 815-252-2239. cc52-3

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

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

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

STORAGE

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

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

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

Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

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

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

WANTED

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

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Wilmington, 2BR furnished apartment. Central air, small patio, off-street parking, no pets, non smoking, 1st & last month's rent. 815-483-0635. ck3-5

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

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

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.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

2023 Big Calendars

Ideal for your desk or hanging on your wall. 22 1/2" x 17". Lots of space for writing in upcoming events. \$8 each while supplies last. The Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington

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

TRINITY Services, Inc.

NOW HIRING

Full or Part Time AM: \$14.75
 Full or Part Time PM: \$16.25
 Less than Part Time
 Weekends: \$17.50

"Helping people with disabilities and mental illness flourish and live full and abundant lives."

For more information call 815-476-5405 or apply at 1197 South Buchanan, Wilmington www.trinityservices.org

imPRESSive coverage

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 wccs1946@gmail.com cc2-13

21 CENTURY 21 Locally Owned Nationally Known

Call Us At 942-9190 or Log on to C21.com

Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker 1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

NEW LISTING MORRIS \$469,000 4 BR, 2 BA house w/two car att. garage and 7 buildings including a 90x54 pole bldg. On approx. 25 acres. Shawn 747-6670. MH7900	MAZON \$398,000 3 BR, 2 full & 2 half BA. Brick home w/geothermal heating and cooling for low utility bills. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. WM12	MAZON \$349,500 New roof, 2354 sq. ft. 0.4A lot. adj to city park/pond. 3 BR, 2.5BA. 3 car gg, cvrd porch, cc patio. Rod Baudino 674-2583. PS904	MAZON \$225,000 Adorable & cozy 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home which has been completely remodeled! Call Kelly 815-823-6147. HR1113	SOLD DWIGHT \$199,500 10 years new 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2.5 car gg, adj 0.2A lot. Open plan, covered porch, deck. Rod Baudino 674-2583. DW307
S. WILMINGTON \$198,000 3 BR, 2 BA brick ranch home with two car garage is located on a large corner lot. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. LC75	GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER (815) 942-9190 SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2022 by Grundy County Offices.	GARDNER \$155,000 3 BR, 1 BA ranch with large kitchen. All appliances stay. 24 ft. above-ground pool and hot tub. Kelly 815-823-6147. EU303	MAZON \$129,900 2BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large corner lot. 2+24 det. gg. 12x12 shed. 27 ft. above ground pool. Crawl. Della 258-6467. HL411	RESIDENTIAL LOTS Including Wooded and Waterfront
MAZON \$129,900 Why rent when you can own this 2 BR home right in the heart of small town Mazon. Lorraine Owen Toler 715-5959. DC602	VERONA \$108,000 2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. 1.2g rooms/yard. Call Della 815-258-6467. AO432	COAL CITY \$39,900 Here is your opportunity to own a great lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes! Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PP62	ESSEX \$34,900 High Point Estates half-acre lot lake front on 9-hole High Point Golf Course. Candie Hantz 815-712-7034. EV135	

Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$58,275.00

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates January 17th, 2023 - February 17th, 2023 between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. \$30 non-refundable processing fee (Cash/check only) is due upon receipt of application.

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per candidate will be given.

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:30 pm on February 17th, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process. Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Friday, February 17th, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: February 22nd and February 24th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

Wilmington Fire Protection District
 501 N. Main Street
 Wilmington IL. 60481

Proudly serving our community since 1868

If your business card is dull and boring it might as well be blank

Let us spruce up your business card and your image with full color printing at a special price!

Coupon. Offer expires Jan. 31, 2023

\$10 off 1,000 Full-Color Business Cards

Free Press Newspapers
 111 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-7966

COMET SPORTS



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

STEAL AND A LAYUP is made by Reed-Custer senior Jacob McPherson who scored 21 points against Streator last week.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

GRABBING A REBOUND for the varsity Comets is senior Wes Shats.

JV Lady Panthers win one

The Reed-Custer 7th grade volleyball team lost in three sets to Minooka on Tuesday night. Peyton Landgraf had 5 aces, 1 dig, and 1 kill.

Madelynn Marschner had 4 aces, Kamryn Wilkey had 1 dig, Mackenzie VanWinsen had 1 ace, and Adalyn Steichen had 2 aces. The 7th grade team put up a good fight against Minooka.

They lost in three sets to Coal City on Thursday night.

Peyton Landgraf had 3 aces, and 2 digs. Madelynn Marschner had 2 aces and 1 dig. Kamryn Wilkey had 3 digs and 4 aces, and Kadence VanDuyne had 3 digs. The 7th grade team worked hard and played a good game!

The JV Lady Panthers won their game against ICS. Peyton Landgraf had 1 ace, Madelynn Marschner had 8 aces and 1 kill, Kamryn Wilkey had 3 kills and 1 ace, Sophie Moyers had 1 kill and 7 aces, Adalyn Steichen had 5 aces. And Kadence VanDuyne had 6 aces.

Last-second shot doesn't count for JV Panthers

The 7th grade Panthers hosted Coal City for a shot at the IVC title on Friday night, but had to settle for second place as the visitors went home with the hardware.

It was a shocking defeat to say the least. In what was an intense and hard fought game, the Panthers came up short, but it wasn't until the buzzer sounded. With 5.8 seconds remaining, Matthew Kuban attempted a difficult shot, Eddie Bryan showed up with an incredible rebound and put back at the buzzer, but the referees decided it was a millisecond too late and Reed Custer suffered a 28-26 defeat.

Kaiden Klein led the team with 10 points. Kuban scored nine points.

Chase Isaac added three points while Corbin Stahl and Eddie Bryan each chipped in two points. The team is now 11-6.

To get to the championship game Reed-Custer won their semifinal against Channahon, 40-22. Matthew Kuban led the way with 19 points, including three three-pointers.

Eddie Bryan had an excellent game scoring a season best seven points. Kaiden Klein took control in the third quarter and scored seven of the team's 13 points. Chase Isaac had a nice game with five points and a team high seven rebounds



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

DRIVING THE BASELINE for the varsity Comets is senior Jace Christian.

Comets stay in the conference hunt

No one asked for a refund Friday night in a ICE conference deciding match between the Reed-Custer and Streator boys basketball teams.

The game lived up to its billing, going into overtime before it was decided 65-60 in Reed-Custer's favor.

The win puts the Comets in a tie with the Bulldogs for the conference title as both teams have 6-1 league records. The Comets are 14-3 overall.

The two teams exchanged blows from the get-go with Reed-Custer owning a 14-13 edge after one quarter. Just when it looked like the Comets would pull away, the visiting Bulldogs would hit a three-pointer to finish with eight for the game. (Reed-Custer had three).

The Bulldogs trailed 45-43 after three quarters despite out-rebounding the hosts 39 to 30. Thankfully, the Comets went on a 10-5 run in the overtime period to win with 60% shooting of free throws.

Jake McPherson paced Reed-Custer with 21 points, two steals and seven rebounds. Right on his heels was Wes Shats who contributed 20 points, 13 rebounds and two steals. Lucas Foote came through with 14 points and four rebounds.

Also scoring were Comets Josh Bohac with six points and four rebounds and Jace Christian with four points, five assists and two steals.

Loss to Mokenca
Earlier in the week they lost a non conference contest at Mokenca. That game also went into overtime after Reed-Custer rallied in the fourth quarter to tie it at 50-50.

The hosts held on to beat Reed-Custer 68-64.

The Comets shot seven three-pointers as a team, led by McPherson who made six treys to finish with 21 points total.

Shats was kept busy under the basket, grabbing a season high 19 rebounds while scoring 19 points. Christian finished with 10 points and four assists while Foote shot nine with nine rebounds and three steals. Bohac rounded out the scoring with five points.

The Comets travel to Manteno on Friday

before hosting Hall on Saturday for a 1:30 p.m. start. On Tuesday they'll visit Lisle.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

COMET SENIOR Lucas Foote shoots for two points during last week's home victory.

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!



"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.

Order online at www.geospizza.net

634-8858
 715 S. Broadway • Coal City

Gift Certificates Available



Photo by Zandie Sims

REED-CUSTER's Jayden Sanchez goes up against his opponent during the Comet Classic tournament held Friday and Saturday.

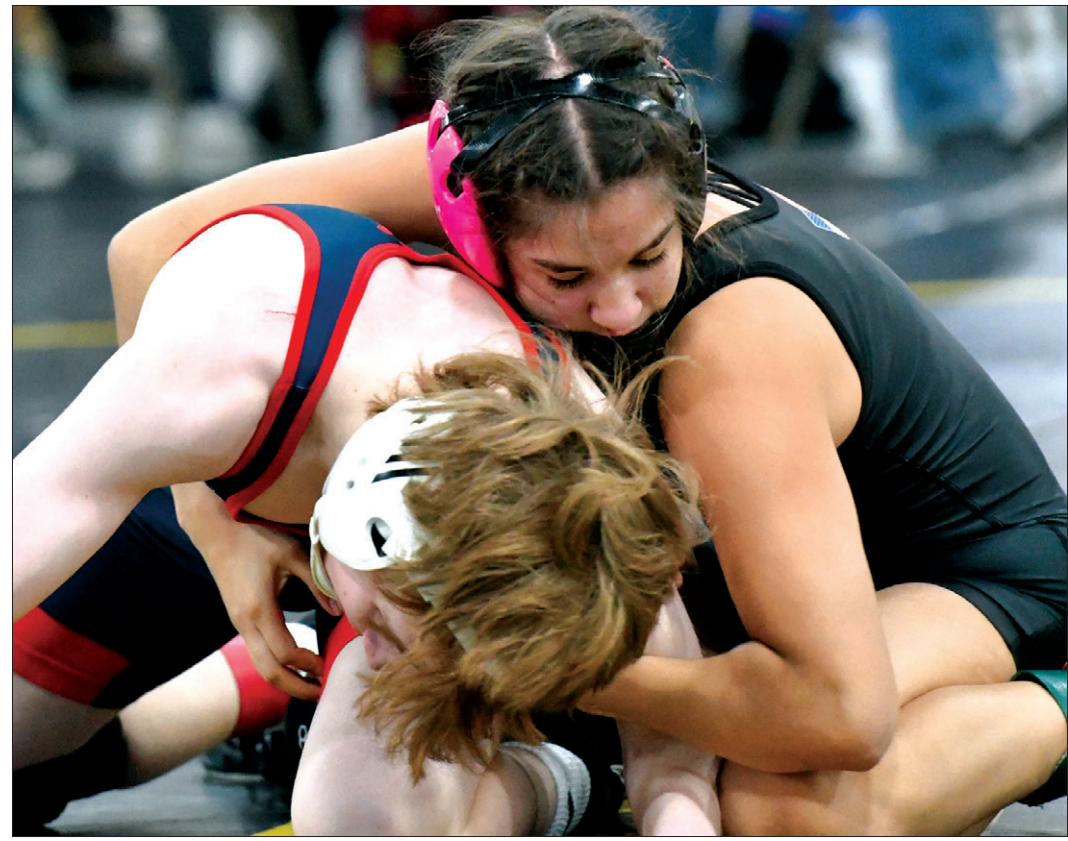


Photo by Zandie Sims

JUDITH GAMBOA faces her opponent during the Comet Classic wrestling tournament on Friday in the Reed-Custer Fieldhouse. Wrestlers from 23 teams competed Friday and Saturday in Braidwood.

Comets, Coalers to battle Thursday in ICE showdown

It will be a clash of titans on Thursday when Coal City travels to Reed-Custer to likely decide who will be the Illinois Central Eight Conference wrestling champions.

Both teams are undefeated in the ICE and have full rosters to boot.

The Coalers are 37-2 overall and are formidable, having won the 60-team Abe's Rumble dual team challenge in Springfield, IL last month and claiming the esteemed Princeton

Invite Tournament Jan. 7, with enough individual wins for first by a 57-point margin.

Reed-Custer, 17-5 overall, finished a respectable 11th at PIT, missing the top 10 by half a point. And they're on a roll with two big wins last week before hosting the 23-team Comet Classic tournament on Friday and Saturday, in which they placed fourth.

The Comet Classic included several ranked teams from across the state as they squared off

in the beautiful RC Fieldhouse.

"We had an outstanding weekend finishing in 4th place and having five kids medal," noted R-C coach Yale Davis.

Placers for Reed-Custer included 2023 Comet Classic champion Rex Pfeifer at 170 pounds, a second place showing for Kody Marschner at 220, third place for Gunnar Berg at 285 and a pair of fourth places for Jeremy Eggleston (138) and Dominic Alaimo (182).

"Comet wrestling would like to thank all the people who helped out to make the tournament such a success," Davis said.

Double win

On Thursday, the wrestling Comets traveled to Peotone, to take on the Blue Devils and Manteno.

Reed-Custer came away with two decisive wins, beating Manteno 66-18 and Peotone 44-27.

Lady Panthers open season with a victory

The 8th grade girls volleyball team at Reed-Custer M.S. won their first game against Pontiac, 25-19 and 25-19.

Taylor Bova had four aces, a dig, and a kill.

Alyssa Wollenzien had two kills. Mackenzie Foote had four aces, two blocks, and two kills. Kirstin Klein had three aces and seven assists.

As a team, great serve receive, communication, and effort.

The 8th grade team lost

against Seneca, 21-25, 25-23, and 23-25.

The 8th grade volleyball team lost to Minooka 21-25 and 18-25. Taylor Bova had three kills, two digs, and four great serve receive passes. Mackenzie Foote had one block, one kill, and two aces.

Caysie Esparza had two kills and two digs. Great teamwork and effort last night ladies!

They also lost to ICS, 19-25 and 22-25, despite great positivity and effort.



Photo by Zandie Sims

CAELAN COLE passes the ball to a teammate during Thursday's game against Streator.

Lady Comets score early to upend Manteno

The Lady Comets picked up an ICE conference win on the road Thursday against Manteno, 32-24.

Reed-Custer led the entire game and never looked back to seal the win and improve to 11-11 overall, 5-3 in the ICE Conference.

Point leader for Reed-Custer was Laci Newbrough with 9 points, 5 rebounds, 1 steal and 1 assist. Senior guard Caelan Cole was a sly one with 10 steals, turning some into 6 points while grabbing 1 rebound.

Brooklyn Harding, another senior, contributed 8 points, 3 rebounds, 6 steals, 1 assist, 1 block while Kaylee Tribble finished with 7 points, 9 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 assists and a block. Gwen Stewart had a pair of steals while Samantha Sprimont finished with 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist. Natalie Flores grabbed 3 rebounds and a steal.

Reed-Custer plays at Coal City Thursday, Beecher Saturday, Lisle Monday and Serena Tuesday.



Photo by Zandie Sims

MAKING A BASKET is Laci Newbrough in the third quarter with the lead against Streator.

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