

Reed-Custer artists earn accolades

Lady Comets upend Manteno





# BRAIDWOOD OURNAL®

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

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# Braidwood seeks public input on comprenhensive planning project

BY MARNEY SIMON

Plan for the city.

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

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

On Jan. 10, CMAP Senior Planner Stephen Ostrander planning process to the City Council and to members of the public dur-ing the council's regular meet-

The city's last comprehensive plan was completed in

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on the planning for a new comprehensive plan, equivalent to roughly \$150,000, to replace that 2004 plan which is long out of date.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 growth, as well as guide ent areas of the city, which will 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 guide development and to that are appropriate to differ-

preserving what is good about also leverage the existing transportation network for the best opportunities at economic development while also preserving the quality of life.

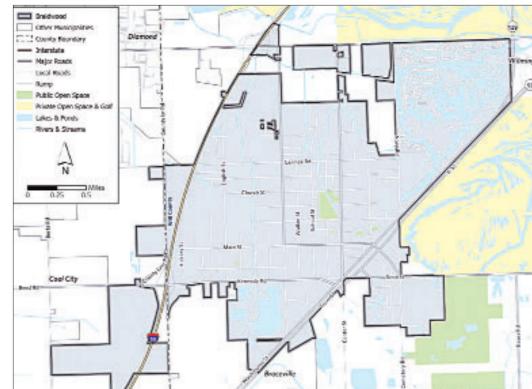
 Ensuring that Braidwood provides housing options that meet the needs and preferences of current and potential residents in the future.

• Enhancing Braidwood's walkability and smaller scale commercial areas through placemaking and streetscaping improvements that can further strengthen 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 choic-

es 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.

BY MARNEY SIMON

one flushes the toilet.

a total of \$65,743.

and machinery.

The city of Braidwood is

making plans to get the most

out of what's left after every-

On Jan. 10, the City Council approved the purchase of a building from Freedom Buildings of Iowa, for

cializes in weatherproof agri-

culture buildings – fabric cover

structures commonly used for

storage of hay, grain, fertilized,

commodities, grain, wheat,

Warren Wietting explained.

It's for the sludge outside

Freedom Buildings spe-

# Wietting to stay on ballot for April election

## **Electoral Board** dismisses objection

BY MARNEY SIMON

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

Saltzman filed an objection to Wietting's petition for the seat, where he is currently the incumbent, in the spring election. Saltzman argued that 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 sepa-Wietting made an error on his rate addresses is conjecture, petition, using his mailing 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 peti-

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 been 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 Dumping ground 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 sec-

# "Right now we have beds out-

plant," Public Buildings and Property Commissioner and never thought of again – that enters the plant. Sludge is

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

wastewater treatment process-

leftover after the several step

process to treat and clarify

waste - what gets flushed away

Sludge is a by-product of

In short, sludge is what's

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 Management Environmental Recycling and

Disposal. During the Jan. 10 regular meeting of the City Council, city administrator Tony Altiery 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

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 treat-

ment plant. The SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system is also in lead sampling as part of an the works of being upgraded IEPA mandate. at the wastewater treatment plant and the water treatment softening at the water treatplant as well.'

Other assistance comby Robinson Engineering in 2022 includes:

 Conducting legwork for the proposal to CMAP which assistance applications. 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

 Provided assistance for Re-bid the salt for water

ment plant. Obtained an easement

for Well #1 in order to improve

the power supply to the well. Assisted with grant 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

"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 The survey looks for chal-

lenges 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

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 https://engage.cmap.illinois.g ov/braidwood-comprehen-

À survey link can also be found on the City 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**

davits 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 evi-

Carlasare 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 dis-

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

"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

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.'

Bryan Wellner attorney 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

"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

Smith objected to this measure as well, citing a lack of transparency for what items are being purchased with TIF

Altiery had an answer for that objec-

"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.

# **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.

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.

When the road finally

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

"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

# 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

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

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held on 141 W. Main Street; Braidway, U., 60408 BRAIDWOOD CTIV RALL,

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.

New little one? Let's start planning.

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

#### Crime fighting unit seizes more than 80,900 grams of drugs, 10 vehicles The data presented comes from the methamphetamine and 1,329 grams of 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 Sher

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.

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

In reviewing the data, Coal City Mayor Terry Halliday questioned an increase in cocaine seizures.

"Meth and crack are back," Harseim

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.

# Cheerleaders earn second place in competition

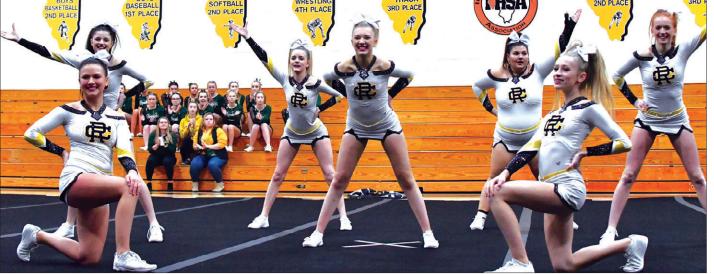


Photo by Zadie Sims

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.

# **PERSONAL INJURY**



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

### Attorneys at Law

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**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 MR000425
NOTICE NOTICE

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

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Edward **Jones**°

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> Eric D. Fisher, publisher Marney Simon, editor

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

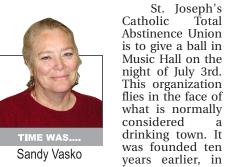
Today we jump a decade from last week to 1885. Let's see what has changed. All of these items came from the umn in Wilmington Advocate. T

Braidwood schools well prob-

interesting that the closing date of the schools is not defi-

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

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.



1875. The foundably close on the 26th inst. It's ing 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

Abstinence Union Evan Phillips heard dogs barking near his barn, in the rear of his residence.

With revolver in hand, Evan says he proceeded to flies in the face of 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.

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 clap-

boarding 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

on a late train, happened to be cal small American town.

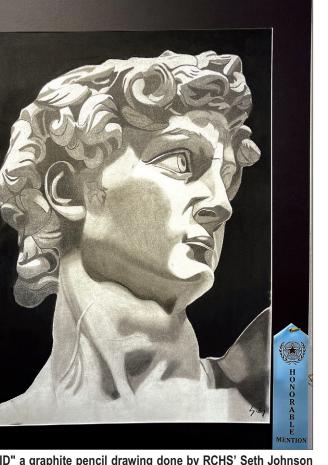
On Thursday morning at near at the time of the blaze the unseemly hour of 1:30, and he gave an alarm which and he gave an alarm which brought out the volunteer engine company. The blaze was then made short work of. As far as I can find out, the fire bug was never caught.

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

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 fes-What is worse that was not tival 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 mur-Mr. Pitt Kent, who arrived ders, no shootings, just a typi-



"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

# RCHS students recognized for their artwork

doors on Saturday, at the Uuniversity 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 com-

peting in the show this year. The art department is proud to share

The Illinois High School Art that four seniors were recognized for their students from RCHS: Rachel Adams, 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, Halev 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 in Joliet.

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.

## **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 Executive Treasurer - Russ Toler

Vice-President – Justen Bohac **Executive Secretary** - Tyler Geiss

<u>Council</u> Administration Area, Tennis & Winter Sports Beach Camping Concession Fishing Gate & Fence Roads Pro Shop Golf Membership & Activities

**Board of Directors Braidwood Recreation Club** 

#### Directors **Director** Back-Up Russ Toler Dan Belcher Justen Bohac **Bud Montana** Eric Tessler Tyler Geiss Rich Bolatto Mike Foster P.J. O'Reilly Nick Stewart Tyler Geiss Russ Toler P.J. O'Reilly Rich Bolatto **Bud Montana** Justen Bohac Dan Belcher Nick Stewart Al Crisco Eric Tessler Mike Foster Al Crisco

## 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

# Fossil Ridge Library News

Fossil Ridge Public then be able to take it Library has a book sale home. Exclusively ages 9happening through Jan. 31 12. 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 rhythms of language and 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. **21-**STEM Ian.

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 sea-

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 815-458-2187 or e-mail galaxy emoji painting and help@fossilridge.org.

Jan. 25-Early Readers Group, 10:30-11 a.m. Introduce your children ages 0-5 to the sounds 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 Lyle, Movie Matinee, 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** 

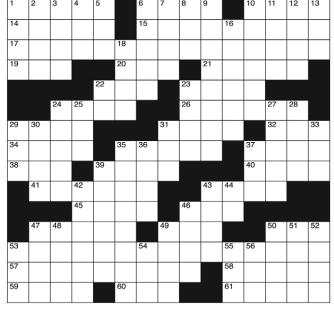
Jan. 31-Homeschool Bubble Wrap Painting, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Did you know bubble wrap can be used for painting and not just popping? How did bubble wrap come to be? Learn little history then join teacher Tammy to paint two unique ways with bubble wrap.

Registration is required for all programs. For more information call

# 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.



35. Kin groups

38. Contrary to

43. Felines

flour

49. Swiss river

50. Foot (Latin)

53. Have surgery

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

30. Team

31. Paddle

35. Most cagey

57. Formal withdrawal

58. Monetary units of Peru

33. Partly digested food

36. Shoppers make one

37. Cathode-ray tube

39. Food supplies

42. Backbones

44. Blood group

47. Dutch colonist

50. Type of bread

52. Scottish tax

51. S. Nigerian people

48. Full-grown pike fish

43. Concern

46. Taxi

37. Philippine Island

39. Bluish-gray fur

45. Breathe noisily

41. Natural depressions

40. Comprehend the written word

47. Pancake made from buckwheat

### **CLUES ACROSS**

1. Not invited

6. Whale ship captain 10. One point south of southwest

14. Small cavity in a rock

15. Recidivists 17. City of Angels hoopster

19. A way to mark with one's signature

20. OJ trial judge

21. Rice cooked in broth 22. One point east of due south

23. One point east of southeast 24. Complements an entree

26. Grouped by twos

29. Disfigure

31. Woods

32. Political action committee

34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm

**CLUES DOWN** 1. Green and yellow citrus fruit

2. A bright color 3. Thicket

4. Journalist Tarbell

5. A place to work or relax 6. Sharp mountain ridge

7. Helicopter

8. Mimic

9. Suggests

10. More musty

11. Large, flightless rail 12. Make beer

13. Soviet Socialist Republic

16. People who account for you 18. Taunt 22. South Dakota

23. Cover the entirety of

29. Type of sandwich

24. Kids' favorite visitor 25. A way to save for retirement

27. Fencing swords 28. C. China mountain range

56. Midway between north and

46. Broadway songwriter Sammy

49. Deity of a monotheistic cult

53. Young women's association 54. Brazilian city

55. Hide of a young animal

northeast

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# Three questions

SHADOW LAKES—Here are three questions to answer. We use 80% fossil fuel to power our economy. How long will it take you to achieve 80% with windmills and solar panels? Next question. How long will it take to get the CO2 levels to their requirements? Question three. What happened if the CO2 levels ever get too low? Always Margot Lane.

#### The double standard

WILMINGTON-Show her the money! On two separate occasions in 2022 co-host of 'The View', Whoopi Goldberg, apologized for controversial comments relating to race, Jewish people, and The Holocaust. Her first violation in February brought a two week [slap-of-thewrist] suspension from 'The View', and her December offense for similar remarks merely brought clap-backs and backlash. For her second inappropriate comments, Ms. Goldberg backpedaled by sharing, impart, this apology: "I believe that the Holocaust was about race, and I am still as sorry as I was then that I upset, hurt and angered people." "My sincere apologies again, especially to everyone who this was a fresh rehash of the subject, I promise it was not." Because of modern-day's scrutiny surrounding anti-Semitism, many who've committed lesser iniquities than Ms. Goldberg have had to face termination repercussions. But the privileged and elitist luminary, Ms. Goldberg, will merely be enabled even more empowerment because of the double-standard entitlement inherent to the absolute powered. Nevertheless, the gossip circulating around the studio suggests that if the production company wanted to negotiate her show's departure, they should begin proceedings by depositing the guaranteed summed-settlement stipulated by their contract into her nouveau riche bank account. And, now that the perfect opportunity has arisen in showing Whoopi 'The View' exit-door isn't it time to "show her the money!"

Inability to govern

CHANNAHON—The new Republican House majority is a collection of election deniers, QAnon conspiracists, and political arsonists hell-bent on gaining power at the expense of our democracy. They'll be in control of the House of Representatives for the next two years and have already shown an inability to govern. They couldn't even elect House Speaker Kevin McCarthy without historic chaos. We should all be concerned about their far-right extremist agenda. Already on the chopping block? Our freedom to vote and our right to an abortion. Rather than focusing on kitchen table issues, these MAGA extremists are pledging to focus on punishing anyone who tried to hold them accountable for their attacks on our democracy, including members and staff of the January 6th Select Committee. It's up to us to resist this MAGA House Majority to protect our democracy and our freedoms. We must call out their lies and combat their farright agenda starting now.

### Banning gas stoves

DIAMOND—Democrats have plans to ban gas stoves. Can you believe it? What next?

## Close but wrong

WILMINGTON—Not to nitpick Eddie but JFK was The New Frontier. LBJ was the Great Society as usual you were so close and yet so

### On the move

COAL CITY—Bits and Bites is coming loving to a place nea there. Be watching for us. Mr. Coffee, aka Mic.

### Classified documents

SHADOW LAKES-My name is Dan Hill. I am curious as to why Biden's classified documents which were discovered this last week are different than Trump's? The American people, if you do not realize it, are losing freedoms by the day. The Democrats are not the Democrats that I grew up with. They are obsessed with Socialism/Communism and this country is becoming very Communist.

# Alarmed and concerned

DIAMOND—Prominent Democrat leaders in congress have presented a 28-page document to the Biden White House that demands President Biden to use "executive action" and Department of Justice too. 1) Crack down on conservative Christians especially churches and ministries. 2) Remove Christians from public office. 3) Deny free speech and liberty to Christians. 4) Remove "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency. 5) Fully fund comprehensive sex education. Encouraging children as young as elementary and middle school to undergo gender transitions. I am alarmed and concerned about Democrat leaders in congress denying Christians their God given rights in the constitution but give those rights to encourage sex transition information to elementary and middle school children. Wake up America. Speak up America. Vote with well informed ballot decisions. Petition your representatives with

#### your grievances. Sharon Almost too late

BRAIDWOOD-It has been exactly two months since the mid term elections and I am still trying to come to grips with the complete lack of intelligence and the ultimate stupidity of most American voters. In particular, the voters of Illinois, especially those registered as Democrats. How else can you explain the reelection of Pritzker, a man who seems to think

which he vows to push through regardless of the courts say. The passage of Amendment One, which has absolutely nothing to do with workers rights. If you had done your homework you would have known what this is about, but apparently most of you did not have time to do any research. Too bad, good luck with your higher property taxes down the road. And speaking of property taxes and taxes in general, Illinois has the highest overall taxes in the nation. The second highest property tax and gas tax, which again is going up thanks to this clown in Springfield and his Democrat-majority legislature. Maybe you reelected this clown because you favor higher tax, woke ideology, gender affirmation and the destruction of family and Christian values. This state government and all democrat states are trying to rewrite history and to push the notion that all whites are racists. Maybe you have no guts to stand up for moral values because you are afraid of cancel culture, another Democrat ideology created by the current clown government in Washington. The problem, as I see it, is that most of you focused on one thing: Women's rights and abortion. If that is all you based your vote on, then I am truly sad for your lack of intelligence, because this state and this nation is going to hell right before our eyes. And you, the Democrat, is largely to blame. Oh I'm sorry, have I offended you? Well, your ignorance offends me. Your lack of spine offends me. I'm not letting the Republican voter off easy either. You also seem to believe that just because you voted republican, that everything would work out for you in this election. Maybe you should get a little more involved in your community and speak out about this travesty of state and Federal government and demand change. We are headed down a path of destruction to our way of life as we have been accustomed to. Uncontrolled inflation, open borders with Millions of illegals pouring into our country along with enough drugs to kill every single person on this county. But you don't care as long as you have to right to abortion. God forbid you stand up against this travesty. Wake up America, it's already almost too late. In the words of Simon and Garfunkel " The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls"

criminals should walk free, (the Safe-T Act)

#### Blah, blah, blah

BRACEVILLE-Since when did the Coal City newspaper become a political sound off forum? I'm kinda sick of politics. Whatever happens. I hear dogs barking all night long at my neighbors. I'm sick of my neighbors. I'm sick of the people across the street. Politics is getting really old. Can't we find something else to talk about? How about the world is such a nice place to live. Blah, blah, blah.

#### Election coming

BRAIDWOOD-You sure can tell there is a local election coming up in Braidwood. If you saw the January 10 city council meeting, then you surely noted the emphasis placed on the Engineer's report and a letter written by a local police officer. Both sang the praises of the city council as if it was the best thing since slice bread. Of course both owe their jobs to the present administration. Maybe that should have been mentioned. I guess the council and administrator figured it looks better to be lauded by chosen employees than to pat their own backs, although they've been known to do that

## Not all departments

BRAIDWOOD—I couldn't believe my ears when I heard the city administrator say, at a recent Braidwood city council meeting, that if anyone would have told him or Mr. Money they needed new equipment he would have been interested in helping out. Mr. Smith has been telling this city council, in public, that his department needs new trucks and other equipment for the past four years. Another example of the city administrator's refusal to work on behalf of all city departments.

## Post the bills/payroll

BRAIDWOOD—Why does the city of Braidwood not make their council meeting minutes and bills/payroll lists available to the public on the city's website? Maybe the city clerk, city administrator or the finance commissioner who run the city's Facebook page and website can answer this question publicly. They obviously know how to post their agendas on their website so there is no excuse for not knowing how to do it. Other government bodies in town and surrounding communities do it, why can't they? Residents should not have to come into city hall, show up at a meeting, file a FOIA or join an emailing list just to access documents which should be readily available. The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires all public bodies that have a website that is maintained by its full-time staff must post on its website the minutes of a regular open meeting of its governing body within 10 days of approval. Minutes must remain posted there for at least 60 days after their initial posting. Why is the city of Braidwood not complying with this law and being transparent with their

# Self-serving politicians BRAIDWOOD—I find it ironic the

Democratic Party of this state decided to give themselves a raise after the mid term elections. My opinion, these politicians are self serving and completely out of touch with the taxpayers. This pay raise should have been voted on by the over taxed taxpayers in this state.



Our Roman Emperor SHADOW LAKES—Here is the State of Illinois. With inflation going up and the threat of a recession and layoffs our beloved governor, stands there like a Roman Emperor, throwing coins to the poor. He signs a bill of \$1.7 billion, which includes raises for our hard-working leg-

Always, Margot Lane

## Trip to the border

SHADOW LAKES—China Joe's trip to the border, quote from the Wizard of Oz, "Nothing to see here folks."

Always, Margot Lane

#### Man who served

BRAIDWOOD-At the last Braidwood city council meeting Ms. Dixon appeared and asked that her father be honored by the city by having a street named after him. I wholeheartedly agree. Jack Bunting served our community in many capacities, always with very little, if any pay. He served as a city commissioner, mayor, member and president of the school board, police chief, and held many positions on our fire department. He set an example that are sadly lacking in the makeup of the present Braidwood council. Today it is all about the money. Back then it was about service to the community. Having known him personally, I am sure that the majority of the present council, and especially their appointed leader, could have learned a lot from him. But then again, judging from their blank stares and lack of an acknowledgment when she was done talking, maybe not.

### Residents in the dark, yes

BRAIDWOOD—Trash Talk you're 100% correct. Everything is done behind the administrator's closed door actually the mayor's office which he took over. He's not the mayor, maybe a want-to-be. He tells everyone he's in charge and he's the boss. Not everyone has Facebook to go on the city's site or a computer to watch the recordings of meetings to hear what's going on in the city to now there's a document for viewing on the counter inside city hall. But our town is thriving - not. The car dealers aren't here yet and the hotel/truck stop the administrator has been going on and on about for three years now. When he hears comments being made that he's not bringing in businesses then we once again hear about the hotel/truck stop coming in. We'll believe it when we see it. And we need another liquor store - not. What you don't know residents is that in order to have a gaming license you have to have a liquor license with both the city and the state in order to get gambling. So this is why he's bringing in more liquor establishments. The administrator knows that gaming brings in the most revenue from the state. Another sneak attack was Ultimate Rides, the used car dealer. The administrator was pushing council members in October 2020 to pass that night and wasn't backing down. When the outcasted two commissioners asked to review it a little more before passing they were told by the administrator we need to pass tonight because they want to break ground before the cold weather and that two years ago all that's being done there is moving dirt then changing and moving dirt in another direction. Who wanted to be the general contractor there and who wanted to be sub-contractor for concrete? Take a guess and all you need is one guess. The work there has to be a union job with prevailing wages and neither one of them is in a union. Town is thriving writer you're incorrect as to "You can read them," it's obvious it's always the same author. I believe there are several authors doing soundoffs, so you are incorrect in your statement.

### Extremist

WILMINGTON—Every time I see Majorie Taylor Greene I wonder who voted for this under-educated, ill informed extremist. Then I remember, Deliverance was filmed in Georgia. Squeal like a pig America.

# Omitted on purpose

DIAMOND—Did you know the Democrat Convention during the 2020 Democrat Leadership meetings captured on video omitted "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance? Sharon

## Targeting moral norms

DIAMOND-President Biden has issued over 100 executive orders. Here are just four: 1. Making it all right for transgender biological males to compete in female sports. 2. Send your tax money overseas to organizations that perform abortions (prohibited by all previous administrations). 3. Restore the Obamacare mandate that requires employer provided healthcare insurance. (including churches) to fund abortions including partial birth abortions. 4. Requires Medicaid funds (your tax money) to fund clinics that perform abortions to include Planned Parenthood clinics. Planned Parenthood is America's largest abortion provider. In my opinion these four executive orders target Christians and traditional moral norms. Sharon

#### Joe in the know

BRAIDWOOD-Last week Joe Biden made the statement that Border Patrol agents had confiscated 20,000 pounds of fentanyl which Biden said was enough to kill 1,000 people. Fact check: 20,000 pounds of fentanyl would kill 4.5 billion people. Just like he said his son died in Iraq...not true. Just like he said he drove a big rig. Never happened. Just like he said he was arrested going to see Nelson Mandela. Never happened. His dad worked in a coal mine? His dad had a car dealership. A high school classmate of his said Joe had a new car every weekend to drive around in to pick up girls. He never marched in civil rights movement but instead was against integration of school. Biden was buddy buddy with Byrd who was at the top of

# Bill guaranteeing five days of paid leave heads to governor

BY NIKA SCHOONOVER CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD-A bill that would guarantee a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave per year for all Illinois workers passed both chambers of the General Assembly Tuesday, Jan. 10, and will soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker, who says

he will sign it. Under Senate Bill 208, workers begin to earn paid leave on their first day at a rate of one hour of leave for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours of paid leave for the year. They can begin using their leave after 90 days, although an employer may allow them to use it sooner.

Once signed, the measure would take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

Republicans who opposed the bill said it would be bad for small businesses, criticizing the legislation for raising costs.

Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, who sponsored the measure, pushed back on that argument.

The idea that we have to play this zerosum game of you either support business or you support employees, I refuse to accept that is our reality," she said. "I believe that we can show and have shown with this negotiation that you can support employees, all the while supporting employers by providing the consistency and the implementation of a policy such as this.'

Under the law, workplaces would still be able to require their employees to provide notice before taking paid time off. If the paid leave is not used by the end of the year, it car-

The bill still needs approval from Pritzker, who expressed his support in a statement.

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# **Check Out Our Super Hot Deals This Week!**



# 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

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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 Whitmore 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

THE SUNDAY

Brian Rung

Now that we have turned had it right the first 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 trav-

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 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

Fasten safety harness, put your helmet on, we're flying back to the early age of jet air travel!

noteworthy 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 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 cock-

tail and all of the stand-alone ingredients are delicious, so we'll check "yes" next to excit-This cocktail was so exciting that upon its release in the other Polynesianthemed restaurants immedi-

ately 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 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

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

This drink calls Cointreau as opposed to a generic triple sec, 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 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 original version is less com- added to falernum as a preser-

plex, but every bit vative, but not all recipes call for the addition of over-proof

If you are seeking a nonalcoholic 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. crushed ice in your blender assures a smooth, even texture without leaving large chunks

of ice in your drink Refrigerator ice cubes are simdrink ply too tough for most 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 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 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 Until next week, enjoy

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# Immaculate Conception Church to hold benefit for local family Immaculate Conception brother Enrique are struggling

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

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 splant. p.m. to 7 p.m. with carry outs She, her mother, and available. Doors will open at 4

p.m. for anyone wanting to help by donating a heritage

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



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# Food prices expected to climb even more in 2023

BY DANIEL GRANT **FARMWFFK** 

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  $2\sqrt{n}$  annually prior to the COVID pandemic and war in

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



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

increase 30.5% to 31.5%), poul- December, USDA reported 4.8 try (up 14-15%), fats and oils (up 18-19%), cereals and bakery products (up 13.5%) and fresh fruit and vegetables (up

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

In the first two weeks of

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 "The ongoing outbreak of 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 highercost 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

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





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# Gas prices rise for second straight week

Average gasoline prices in Coal City. 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

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

'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 in Wilmington and \$3.48 in 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.

# chili cook-off seeks entries

Freemasons Lodge #208 will be having their 13th annual on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 p.m.

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 for kids over 11 and free for or Matt Lohmar 815-210-9606.

## **Explore snow** with the Forest Preserve

The Will County Forest serve's Four Rivers Preserve's Education Environmental 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.

# Wilmington Freemason's Wilmington kids 11 and under. There will

Chili Cook-Off to fund the Pedals for Progress program Tasting and a bowl of house chili \$10 for adults, \$5

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilm. Catholic Charities' mobile meat, produce and nonperishfood pantry will be distribut-

ing 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 have partnered to deliver catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

able 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 Northern Illinois Food Bank Catholic Charities, please visit



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# Susan Kuykendall -

CITY—Susan Kuykendall, 77, of Coal City, formerly of Minooka/Channahon, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on Jan. 11, 2023, after a valiant battle Susan's greatest passion was her

family and friends. She was known as a caretaker to everyone, no matter what their need. Susan was an honored and dedicated wife, mother, Nana, sister, aunt, and friend. She will be dearly missed and continually remembered through the numerous memories she leaves with those dear to her. Susan is well-known for her love of sweets, especially her award winning fudge and her grandchildren's favorite, "crazy cake." Also for playing cards with her family and friends, delivering mail, keeping numerous homes in immaculately clean condition and for her service to many through volunteering with the Martha's serving committee at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Susan is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 58 1/2 years, Ronald; her dear children: Amy Senato, Cynthia (James) Rice, and Ronald (Dawn) Kuykendall Jr.; cherished grandchildren: Kayla (Scott) Thompson, Justine (Trevor) Simonds, Kristin, Kendall and James Rice, Gabrielle Senato; adored great-grandchildren: Cyrus, Owen and Evan; brother and sisters: David (Lana) Stafford, Phyllis (Michael) Feeney, and Margaret "Peg" (Jim) Furto; sisters-in-law: Cathy Kuykendall and Judith Stafford;

Floyd Kuykendall, Lloyd Kuykendall and her Aunt Mary Stafford-Webb. Susan is also survived by a large group of admired nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Susan was preceded in death by

her parents, William and Helen Stafford; parents-in-law, Mabel and Cullen James Kuykendall; brother, William "Bill" Stafford; sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn (Jack) Severson; Ron's siblings: Alfred, Doyle, Karl, Dorothy, Joan, Mary, and Wanda. A Funeral Mass was held Monday, Jan. 16,

2023 at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City officiated by Reverend Joshua Miller. Cremation rites were accorded following the services. Susan will be laid to rest near her parents during a private family burial at Saint Mary's Cemetery in

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Susan's memory to the Lightways Hospice 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 or the Les Turner ALS Foundation 5550 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077.

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

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive,

# Thomas Fitzgerald

MAZON-Thomas Charles Fitzgerald, 65, of Mazon, passed away Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, IL.

Born Jan. 5, 1958 in Valparaiso, IN, Thomas Charles was a son of Randolph Lee Fitzgerald and Clara Maureen (Zarr) Ulm. He was raised in Valparaiso where he graduated from high school, and went on to honorably and actively serve in the United States

Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Thomas was a member of the American Legion, Mazon Post, and formerly the Braidwood Post, and continued to hold pride for his service to country his

He was one who loved the outdoors, and in addition to fishing and his annual fishing trips, took great pleasure in archery, shooting, knife sharpening, and playing disc golf. Thomas was an amazing teacher who thoroughly enjoyed instructing others and sharing his skills, whether it be carpentry, martial arts or the tricks of his hobbies or interests. He loved riding his motorcycle; his fast cars, and watching westerns in his down time. He had a special canine sidekick, Spade, and no greater hobby or interest was more cherished than that of his family, kids and grandbabies.

Survivors include his three children: Shannon Fitch, Jacob Fitch (Jennifer Bossen) and Todd Fitch (Lindsey Wright), all of Mazon;

seven grandchildren: Miya Scott, Dustin Scott Jr., Colton Scott, Zander Lindner, Nathan Lindner Jr., Lyneah Lindner and Dakota Fitch; three sisters: Linda (Clayton) Wireman, Fay (John) Lowry

one sister-in-law, Tammy Ulm and his Military brother, Rick Wright. Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Randolph "Randy" Fitzgerald and Paul Ulm and his

and Mamie (the late Roger) Gainley;

Godson, Kyle Wright. The family will receive friends for a visitation and celebration of life at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL

Route 113 in Coal City on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 between the hours of 12 and 4 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following the visitation. Thomas will be laid to rest with full military

honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at a later date. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts

in Thomas' memory to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, Family and friends are encouraged to log

onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Thomas' memorial page online through social media. Funeral services and cremation arrange-

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

# Harold Bissey

DWIGHT— Harold Bissey, 95, of Dwight, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023 at his residence. Harold was born March 6, 1927 in

Huntingburg, IN, the son of Dwight L. and Lela (Rauscher) Bissey. He married Doris V. Denaple on March 14, 1954, at the United Methodist Church in Dwight.

Harold served in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Dwight. He was a farmer and dairy farmer. In 1962, he started working for Caterpillar. He retired in 1987 after 25 years and was retired for 35 years. During those years, he farmed out by Ransom which he enjoyed. He also enjoyed showing his 1942 H.

Harold is survived by his children, daughter, Theresa L. Flowers, of Braidwood and son, Ralph W. Bissey, of Odell; grandchildren: Emily Torres, of Herscher; James Flowers, of Braidwood; Brian (Erica) Flowers, of Cullom; Christina (T.I.) Polk, of Baldwin, IA; Nathan (Jen) Bissey, of Diamond; Courtney Jo (Ryan) Rojkowski, of Elburn, IL; Amanda Price, of Coal City; Danny (Hilarie) Grubaugh, of Covington,

IN; great-grandchildren: Ginny, Mariana, Gwen, Leo, Lucas, Logan, Lyle, Cayden, Colin, Trevor, Bekka, Tyson, Hayden, Brock and Rhett; special nieces, Leta Leach and Margo Scott and Garrett and Gavin Leach.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Doris on April 22, 2019; his two sons, Gail and Floyd Bissey; daughter-in-law, Christina Jo Bissey and sister, Louanna Meyerholtz and brother, Eugene Bissey. A funeral service was held on Monday, Jan.

16, 2023 at United Methodist Church of Dwight with Reverend Mary Arnold officiating. Burial followed the service at Allen Township Cemetery in Ransom, IL.

Memorials can be made to Uplifted Care Hospice of Bourbonnais, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care, or United Methodist Church of Dwight.

This obituary can be read and condolences made at www.hagermemorial.com or find their Facebook page.

Hager Memorial Home was in charge of the arrangements.

## James Perkins

DWIGHT—James Willard Perkins Heynow,, 67, of Dwight, formerly Gardner, Plainfield and Pontiac passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023 at Park Pointe in Morris. Born April 24, 1955 in Joliet, he

was a son of Willard "Bud" and Dorothy (Papach) Perkins. James was raised in Gardner and graduated from Plainfield High School with the class of 1973. He enlisted and honorably served in

the United States Air Force. Upon his discharge, James worked for Caterpillar, retiring in 2020 after 39 years of dedicated service. He was a former member of UAW Local #2096. On Sept. 28, 2012 he married Mary Smith in Pontiac, she An avid concert enthusiast, Jim loved live

music, especially the Grateful Dead. He enjoyed reading and playing both board and video games. His children will struggle enjoying Monopoly or Mario Kart 64 without him. Jim was quite the crafter, having enjoyed both woodworking and tie dying projects. Through the years, he enjoyed playing Dungeons and Dragons, was an avid bowler, enjoyed fishing and loved golf. Trivia with friends and family was one of his favorite pastimes. Trivia team CRS will acutely feel his loss. Jim was a caring, loyal friend. Most importantly, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother who cherished time spent with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Perkins, of Dwight; four children: Stephanie (Michael)

Morehead, of Florida; Sean (April) Perkins, of Florida; Mike Perkins, of Plainfield and Katie (Scott) Mackinson, of Dallas, TX; two step-sons, Michael (Jessica) Galbraith and Brian (Hilary) Dobbs, both of Dwight; 13 grandchildren; one brother, Thomas (Karen) Perkins, of Gardner; one sister, Patricia Weiskop, of Joliet; numerous nieces and nephews; as well as many close friends.

James was preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law Leslie Smith; one niece, Kali Sue Perkins Croy; brother-in-law, G. Lee Weiskop; sister-in-law, Julie Smith and his grandson, Rocky.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 203 Liberty St., in Gardner on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at Victory Lanes Bowl, 410 E. Main Ave. in Dwight between the hours of 12 and 3 p.m. Casual attire is encouraged (tie-dye welcome). Graveside services along with full military

honors will take place on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023 at 10 a.m. in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. Friends and family are encouraged to log

onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share James's memorial page via social media.

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd in Gardner.

# Jimmy C. Holm \_\_\_

DWIGHT-Jimmy C. Holm, 80, of Dwight, passed away Jan. 10, 2023 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Jimmy was born Nov. 30, 1942 in Morris to Curtis and Florence (Carlson) Holm. He married Jackie Fredrick in 1977 in Pontiac. He attended local Gardner-South Wilmington Schools and later managed the Braidwood Recreation Club and the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. After he retired he worked for Walmart to keep busy. Jimmy had a passion for small engines and could always be found tinkering in his

He is survived by his wife, Jackie, and his brother, Delmar Holm, both of Dwight and some nephews and He was preceded in death by his

parents and brother, Dace Holm. Cremation rites will be accorded

and graveside services will be held at a later date at Braceville-Gardner Memorials in honor of Jimmy may be

made to the Livingston County Humane Hager Memorial Home in Dwight is in

charge of arrangements.

## Michael R. Johnstone

WILMINGTON—Michael Johnstone, 59, of Wilmington, formerly of West Chicago, IL, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 at Northwestern Medicine Con DuPage Hospital in Winfield, IL. Central Born Oct. 3, 1963 in Evergreen

Park, IL, Michael was raised in Winfield and graduated from West Chicago High Šchool. He worked for Armbrust Paper Tubes, Inc. for over 25 years where he would become president of the company. Mike was proud to work for his family's business and loved working alongside his mother until she passed away in 2006. In his free time, he liked going for rides on his Kawasaki motorcycle, and he loved music, particularly talented guitarists such as Stevie Ray Vaughn and Eric Clapton to name a few. Mike had a great sense of humor and loved telling jokes, even if he had told you the same joke countless times. He was a gentle, kind, compassionate man, who was an outstanding father and who cherished his granddaughter.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Stacey Johnstone; three children: Nicholas Johnstone (Katy Wheeler), of Channahon; Garrett (Kelly) Johnstone, of Camden, TN and Katherine Johnstone, of Bradley; one granddaughter, Kaya Johnstone; one sister and two brothers: Linda Johnstone, of Carol Stream; Mark (Kim) Johnstone, of Freeport, IL and Jim (Denice) Johnstone, of Portland, OR and several nieces and nephews.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Dorothee and Gordon Johnstone.

Per Mike's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and a memorial service is being planned for a later date.

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

Cremation rites and memorial arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in

## **Sharon Hart**

WILMINGTON-Sharon Hart, 80, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Aug. 3, 1942 on Jefferson Barracks Military Base in Missouri, Sharon Marie was a daughter of Robert G. and Arielle (Roberts) Miller. She was raised and educated in Missouri and graduated from Fox High School in Arnold, MO. On Valentine's Day of 1962, Sharon met Patrick Hart who she went on to marry June 16, 1962 in Arnold. Together they made a home and raised a fami-

One whose life was centered on family and faith, Sharon was always active in church, throughout the years having been active with First Baptist Church in Downers Grove, IL; Grace Baptist Church in Lombard, IL and most recently Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington. For many years, Sharon and Patrick wintered in Florida, spending more than the past decade in Arcadia, where she also assisted as a secretary at Riverside Church. In addition, Sharon was active with AWANA for many years as a coach and leader and assisted as a cookie coordinator.

Sharon had a deep love of reading, took great pleasure in traveling, and created many memories throughout the entire United States, particularly enjoying to visit the west. Colorado was a favorite destination, as was Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. This was in line with her appreciation of outdoors and love of hiking and biking.

Gone from our sight, Sharon leaves behind a collection of special memories, as well as a legacy of being a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who cherished her family. Survivors include her husband of

60 years, Patrick; two sons and daugh

ters-in-law: Patrick Mark and Janet Hart, of Kernersville, NC and Michael Robert and Deborah Hart, of Gurnee, IL four grandchildren: Glenn Hart and Nicole (Cory) East, both of North Carolina and Bonnilyn Hart and Nathan Hart, both of Gurnee and two great-grandchildren, Levi and Olevia

Sharon was preceded in death by her par-

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St. in Wilmington on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 from 2 p.m. until the time of service at 4 p.m. Pastor Jeff Logsdon will officiate.

A private family inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Sharon will be laid to rest in the columbarium.

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

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

# Michael Thompson \_



WISCONSIN-Michael "Mike" Thompson, 73, was born Aug. 6, 1949, and peacefully passed away surrounded by his loved ones on Dec.

Mike spent his life loving his wife of 52 years, Lenore. He built a beautiful life with her and for his two children, Lisa and Tommy. Mike was a decorated Vietnam Veteran, who served our great country with honor. Mike worked hard and played hard. He was a talented classic car craftsman who built over 10 street rods with his own hands through ground up restoration. He

enjoyed snowmobiling and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle in his spare time. When he lived in Illinois, Mike was a successful Snapon Tool Dealer. When he moved up to Wisconsin with his wife, he opened a new business as a Cornwell Dealer, from which he retired after 13 prosperous years. Mike loved his grandchildren with all his heart, they were his Mike is survived by his loving wife, Lenore

Thompson; his sister, Cindy (Bruce) Dunbar; his children, Lisa (Dave) Stuart and Tom Thompson; his grandchildren, Zoe (Annie) Stuart, Anthony Corrado, Vincent Corrado, Abby Thompson, and David Stuart; nieces, Wendy Dunbar and Bonnie (John) Carroll; nephews: Jeff Dunbar, Darren Thompson, Steve Thompson and Shawn Thompson as well as too many incredible friends to list.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Albert Thompson; his mother, Frances Thompson; his sister, Jerrie brother, Mercer; his James Thompson; and his first grandchild, Michael Corrado.

Mike will be forever missed by his family and friends who loved him so much. His memory will live on through the legacy of strength and dedication he passed on to his children and grandchildren and the amazing life he built with his wife. The family will receive friends at

Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Jan. 19, 2023 from 10 am until time of memorial service at 1 pm. Pastor Bob Walker will officiate and graveside services with full military honors will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at 2:30

Preferred memorials in Michael's memory may be made as gifts to American Heart

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Michael's memorial page via social media.

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

### Linda Roberts \_\_\_\_\_

GODLEY-Linda Roberts, 76, of Godley, passed away Jan. 16, 2023 at her

She was born Sept. 18, 1946 in Kokomo, IN. Linda was raised in Kokomo and went on to earn her bachelor of arts degree from Ball State University. She served as an educator on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona before returning to Illinois where she gained employment with Exelon. She had a love of antiques, shopping, fishing, and most all nature activities. Linda was an avid art collector, particularly of Native American Art,

and she enjoyed sports. Linda is survived by her partner of 42 years, Dorothy Stedman and two nieces, Cindy (Walt) Roberts, of Florida and Brenda Ryan, of Australia and many friends. She was preceded in death by her

parents, and two brothers.

Cremation rites have been

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Linda's memory to the American Cancer Society or to the American Diabetes Association.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share

Linda's memorial page. Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

# Illinois lawmakers spend extra cash

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

We've seen it before. Two years Democrats passed a huge amount of important legislation,

including the SAFE-T Act, in just a few days.

Rich Miller

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.

chambers also Both passed a bill to protect out-ofstate 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

nies will now qualify for five paid questions

Just try miss-ing a couple of 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 loos-

ened 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-

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

But legislators are spenddays' pay on a ing creatures and they all have priorities, so the pressure to add bigtime dollars into the state's base spending 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 So, the new supplemental appropriations bill has a ton of

local one-time 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 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

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

**Email submissions** 

questions contact:

GymshoeArt@gmail.

or if you have

# **Coal City United Methodist** Church to host soup supper

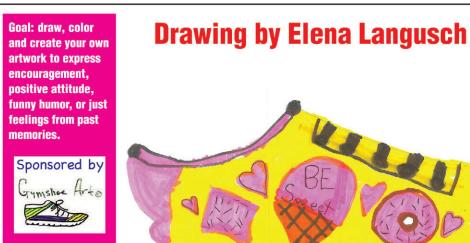
Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving their delicious homemade Chicken eat free. All proceeds will go to Noodle & Stuffed Green the church's building fund. Pepper soups. Each meal

United includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert. Carry-outs are available.

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# OBITUARY—

## Frank Boivin

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

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

Ioliet 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 Bovin; 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://suppportwoundedwarriorproject.org.

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

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# 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 assaultstyle 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

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 would be totally overrun.'

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 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

"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 aked. "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

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- 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.
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Applications will be available to qualified candidates January 17th, 2023 - Feburary 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.

2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process. Applicants must attend the following:

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:30 pm on February 17th,

- 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.

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# COMET SPORTS



with four points, five assists and two steals.

Loss to Momence

fourth quarter to tie it at 50-50.

finish with 21 points total.

the scoring with five points.

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 game 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 hard-

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 before hosting Hall on Saturday for a 1:30 p.m. ICE conference deciding match between the start. On Tuesday they'll visit Lisle. Reed-Custer and Streator boys basketball 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 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.

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

715 S. Broadway • Coal City

Jake McPherson paced Reed-Custer with 21 points, two steals and seven rebounds. Right on his heals was Wes Shats who contributed 20 points, 13 rebounds and two steals. Lucas Foote came through with 14 points and four Also scoring were Comets Josh Bohac with six points and four rebounds and Jace Christian Earlier in the week they lost a non conference contest at Momence. That game also went into overtime after Reed-Custer rallied in the The hosts held on to beat Reed-Custer 68-The Comets shot seven three-pointers as a team, led by McPherson who made six treys to 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 Comets travel to Manteno on Friday



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REED-CUSTER's Jayden Sanchez goes up against his opponent during the Comet Classic tourna-



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.

# ment held Friday and Saturday. Comets, Coalers to battle Thursday in ICE showdown

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

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 Eggleston (138) and Dominic Alaimo (182).

game against Streator.

ual wins for first by a 57-point margin. "We had an outstanding weekend finishing Reed-Custer, 17-5 overall, finished a 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

It will be a clash of titans on Thursday when Coal City travels to Reed-Custer to likely ual wins for first by a 57-point margin.

Invite Tournament Jan. 7, with enough individing the beautiful RC Fieldhouse.

"Comet wrestling would like to thank all "We had an outstanding weekend finishing" the people who helped out to make the tournament Jan. 7, with enough individing the people who helped out to make the tournament Jan. 8. ment such a success," Davis said.

Double win

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

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

# Lady Panthers open season with a victory

M.S. won their first game against Pontiac, 25-19 and

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

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

The 8th grade girls volagainst Seneca, 21-25, 25-leyball team at Reed-Custer 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 The 8th grade team lost great positivity and effort.



Photo by Zadie Sims CAELAN COLE passes the ball to a teamate during Thursday's

# Lady Comets score early to upend Manteno

The Lady Comets picked the road Thursday against

seal the win and impove 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

Brooklyn Harding, anothup an ICE conference win on er senior, contributed 8 points, 3 rebounds, 6 steals, 1 assist, 1 Manteno, 32-24. block while Kaylee Tribble fin-Reed-Custer led the entire game and never looked back to general street is block while Kaylee Tribble fin-ished 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.

# Put your health first this New Year!

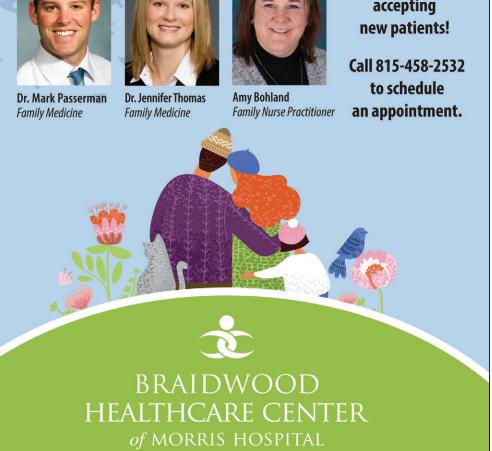
Start the New Year out right by scheduling your annual check-up with your primary care provider! Annual check-ups help you monitor existing health issues, keep you up-to-date on vaccinations and screening tests, and increase the likelihood of detecting new health issues before they develop into something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







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