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Photo by Eric Fisher

FLIPPING OUT for the Comets. Reed-Custer cheerleaders Aubree Bobzin and Caysie Esparza are in sync while performing running flips during last week's game at home.

Land for data center yet to be annexated

BY ROSE PANIERI
 STAFF WRITER

Ten months ago there was news of a \$40 million data center possibly coming to Braidwood.

The proposed data center was pitched to the city by Hospitality Partners, LLC, and would consist of eight buildings and two substations. The bulk of the center would be located on North Kankakee Street near Reed Road, not far from Interstate 55.

Since then, Braidwood has a new mayor and two new commissioners. The city has also contracted an administrative consultant.

Additionally, as residents learn more about these centers, and their voracious need for electricity and water, there has been increased pushback from residents. The controversy has landed square on the lap of Mayor Todd Lyons and the city council.

Hospitality Partners, LLC has purchased and closed on the proposed site of the data center. However, the land has not been annexed into the City of Braidwood at this time.

"Early discussions took place before the new council was sworn in to understand the possibility of such a development," Lyons said. "After taking office, I shared publicly that the city was exploring a potential annexation related to this project and that additional research was needed."

Lyons explained that he and other council members have gathered

information about the pros and cons of data centers. He has spoken with other communities, and has studied potential impacts.

Though there has been no annexation request, last November the city council outlined a fourth Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district where the proposed data center may be built. When a TIF district is created, the current property value is frozen at the baseline for a specific period of time.

A data center is a physical source that stores computing machines and related hardware. Centers contain computing infrastructure that IT system require, such as servers, data storage drives and network equipment.

Data centers of various sizes are being proposed in the Chicagoland region. Each will demand electricity by the 100s of megawatts, in some cases enough to power the city of Chicago.

Residents of small communities throughout the country are crying foul as data centers impact nearby cities through massive energy and water use, straining local resources, likely incensing utility costs and creating noise and light pollution.

The promise of jobs and tax revenue may be temporary or less substantial than promised.

"The City is continuing to review resident concerns," Lyons said. "When more information becomes available, it will be shared, and a public meeting will be held to allow for community input."

BFPD seeks input from residents as 9-1-1 calls continue to increase

Last year, the Braidwood Fire Protection District (BFPD) set a few records.

Fire Chief Chris Jude said that what began as a volunteer fire department around the turn of last century has evolved into a professional entity that responds to well over 2,000 emergency calls across nearly 40 miles.

With stations in Braidwood and Custer Park, the demand for fire and emergency services continues to increase, resulting in the need for reliable funding, qualified firefighters and paramedics, state of the art equipment, a reliable water supply and training.

"There is a need for us to plan for the long-term future of our fire department," said Jude. "Providing the level of service our community expects is more complicated than ever."

Costs are increasing. Trucks and equipment take years to obtain

because of production constraints. Fire departments are having trouble retaining personnel because of the competitive nature of the business."

In 2024, the BFPD ran a total of 2,024 calls, including 1,076 EMS related calls and 37 calls for fire-related emergencies. In 2025, BFPD ran 2,239 calls including 1,165 EMS related calls, 35 fire calls for fire emergencies and other first responder requests.

BFPD now needs the community's help to address these challenges. To meet the challenges, Jude and his team developed "Planning for a Safer Future," a community-led process to seek input and advice from residents to develop a long-range plan to handle fire and emergency services.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the Braidwood fire community to come together and be part of a process that is both led by our community and for our community," program co-chair Thomas Sforza said.

"We are starting without any pre-

conceived ideas or plans other than listening to what our community wants for our fire district. I hope that everyone makes time to lend their voice to the work we are doing."

Residents are invited to participate in the Planning for a Safer Future workshops and help plan for the future of the fire district. Community members are welcome to attend any or all four workshops, beginning with the first session on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All workshops will be held at Reed-Custer Elementary School. Dates and topics for each of the workshops are as follows:

Thursday, March 26 from 6 to 8 p.m.: A Deeper Dive into Fire, Rescue and Other Services, Wednesday, April 29 from 6 to 8 p.m.: Staffing and Finances, and Wednesday, May 20 from 6-8 p.m.: Options/Recommendations for a Long-term Plan.



THROUGHOUT THE YEARS Whitmore Ace Hardware stores have collected thousands of prom dresses which are sold for \$5 each at Godley Park District, 500 S Kankakee St, Godley. The campaign to accept gently-used prom dresses and jewelry is underway now at Whitmore's three area stores. This year, the sale will be on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Event seeks prom dress donations, volunteers

BY ROSE PANIERI
 STAFF WRITER

In 2010, Melissa Michalowski, a Whitmore Ace Hardware employee, and her friend Crystal Carr, lost their lives in a tragic automobile accident.

Since then, Whitmore Ace Hardware has created a program to honor both girls, Melissa's Closet and

Crystal's Jewelry Box.

The goal of the program is to provide \$5 prom dresses to local students.

This year, the prom and homecoming dress sale will be held Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Godley Park District.

Seeking donations and volunteers

The mission is currently seeking donations of dresses and accessories, as well as volunteers on the day of the sale. Laurie Becker, who coordinates the event, weighed in.

"Our 15 Whitmore Ace locations are now accepting donations of gently used dresses, shoes, and jewelry to support Melissa's Closet and Crystal's Jewelry Box," Becker said. "We are SEE MELISSA'S CLOSET PAGE 2

Mental health survey underway

BY ROSE PANIERI
 STAFF WRITER

Danita Morgan of Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC) spoke at the Jan. 13 city council meeting.

"Because our communities are in an isolated area of Will County, we are often left out of services and resources available elsewhere," Morgan said. "Local data is critical to ensuring our region is included in future grant opportunities and mental health incentives."

The information collected from adult residents in Braidwood, Reed and Custer Townships and Wilmington will be used

to develop plans and proposals aimed at preventing and addressing mental health disorders.

The survey is confidential and brief. To access the survey visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/PTJCHMS

You may also visit the Braidwood Area Health Community Coalition page on Facebook for information or to access the survey.

BAHCC 465 E Reed St., Braidwood, IL, United States, Illinois, (815) 390-5024. The email address is braidwoodcoalition@gmail.com



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Indiana may be first to decide on Bears stadium

Illinois Democrats were told last week that a state capital projects plan designed to assist Arlington Heights' bid to lure the Chicago Bears away from their Indiana stadium gambit would cost up to \$895 million.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

None of the money would be used to directly build the new Bears stadium or the surrounding commercial district envisioned by the team's ownership.

Gov. JB Pritzker insisted to reporters earlier this month that the projects would be done to help enhance the area. Capital assistance has been on the table since the Soldier Field tear-down proposal, but now we have an idea how much the team wants for this project.

A portion of the capital funding would be used for things like moving water mains to allow for the stadium's construction. Other improvements, including a major tollway project, would benefit the surrounding area, but, like the water lines, also probably wouldn't be done without the new stadium.

Politically, it's imperative that the state not be seen as giving the billionaire Bears ownership a taxpayer-funded stadium. If they can give themselves enough cover, then maybe

(maybe) they might possibly find enough votes for this. But it's still a straight uphill climb even after Indiana has begun putting its cards on the table.

Lots of meetings have been held at the legislative and executive levels with the team and local government officials. Whether this is motion or actual movement remains to be seen. But some previously recalcitrant Chicago legislators do appear to be considering an Arlington Heights plan to prevent the team from crossing the border.

You've probably already seen that an Indiana Senate committee unanimously approved a bill to attract the Bears across state lines last week.

Before they passed the bill, the committee stripped out minority and women contract goals and protections, which is not a good look for the Bears here.

According to the bill, the stadium's construction funding includes "proceeds of local excise taxes" and "applicable proceeds of food and beverage tax and innkeepers [hotel] tax." Those local sales taxes would pay the lease, which would in turn pay off the bonds for building a new stadium.

Right now, there's no state limit on the amount of

bonding authority to finance the complex, which will definitely run into the billions of dollars.

The size of the taxing district or whether tax increases or even new taxes would have to be imposed are not specified in the bill, either.

Lots of local governments over a wide swath of Indiana could be frozen out of receiving increased sales tax collections, and/or taxpayers could feasibly be hit with new taxes or higher rates.

The legislative calendars in each state may give Indiana an advantage. Indiana state law requires adjournment by March 14, but Hoosier legislative leaders have said they want to adjourn by February 27.

Indiana's House Speaker said last week that he won't run a bill unless the Bears commit to moving to his state. If he sticks to his guns, he could force the team to pick a state well ahead of the February 27th deadline.

The Illinois legislature doesn't usually do much until after the March primary, so getting something done or on the table this month would be way out of character.

And some Illinois legislative higher-ups want to wait and to see what Indiana does before moving forward.

Indiana's governor has engaged in open warfare

with key Republican state Senators including its top leader after the chamber rejected his proposal to redraw congressional boundaries to help Republicans.

It's also doubtful that Indianapolis will welcome competition from another domed stadium for major sports and concert events, and the House Speaker represents some Indianapolis suburbs.

The Bears also want a Payment in Lieu of Taxes bill from Illinois. The legislation would let them lock in annual payments to local governments for decades, rather than be subjected to the ever-increasing payments under the property tax system. From what I'm hearing, however, quite a large number of legislators don't yet have a decent understanding about what that PILOT bill would do. But the bill is seen as attractive to state leaders because it puts the onus on local governments and doesn't cost the state a dime.

The bottom line is that the Bears' Indiana gambit has managed to change the public tone of leaders like Gov. JB Pritzker, who is no longer openly hostile to the idea. House Speaker Chris Welch recently posted photos of himself hanging out in the Bears owner's skybox.

For both states, motion is one thing, actual movement is another.

Coal City CUSD 1 seeks bids for roof replacement

PUBLIC NOTICE
Coal City Community Unit School District #1 will be accepting bids for the 2026 MS Roofing Replacement Project 500 S Carbon Hill Rd, Coal City, IL 60416. Plans and Specifications are available on or after February 3, 2026, from Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc. plan room www.cordoganclarkplanroom.com. Sealed Bids, conspicuously marked, shall be received until 2:00 pm CST on February 19, 2026, at the District Office, 550 S. Carbon Hill Road, Coal City, IL 60416, at which time they shall be opened and read aloud. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am, February 10, 2026, at the Project Site. Prevailing wage rates shall apply to this Project. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent bidding and contract documents including Contractor qualifications as specified in said documents.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026.

Coal City CUSD 1 seeks bids for slabjacking project

PUBLIC NOTICE
Coal City Community Unit School District #1 will be accepting bids for the - 2026 ECC Slabjacking Project, 755 S Carbon Hill Rd, Coal City, IL 60416. Plans and Specifications are available on or after February 3, 2026, from Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc. plan room www.cordoganclarkplanroom.com. Sealed Bids, conspicuously marked, shall be received until 2:00 pm CST on February 19, 2026, at the District Office, 550 S. Carbon Hill Road, Coal City, IL 60416, at which time they shall be opened and read aloud. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am, February 10, 2026, at the Project Site. Prevailing wage rates shall apply to this Project. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent bidding and contract documents including Contractor qualifications as specified in said documents.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026.

School Dist. 209-U seeks pupil transportation services bids

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is hereby given that the Wilmington CUSD 209U, Will County, Wilmington, Illinois will receive bids for Pupil Transportation Services for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years. Bid specifications may be obtained upon request from the Office of the Superintendent, Wilmington CUSD 209U, 209U Wildcat Ct., Wilmington, IL 60481, Phone (815) 926-1751. Please call the Superintendent's office if you are interested in bidding. There will be an optional meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. for all interested bidders. All bids are to be received in the Office of the Superintendent at the above address on or before 2:00 P.M. CDST, Thursday, February 26, 2026, and will be opened publicly at that time. The Board of Education will make its decision at a later date and reserves the right to waive any technicalities or irregularities and to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof.
By and for the Board of Education
Wilmington CUSD 209U
Peggy Kunz, Secretary
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 21 and 28, 2026.

Torino Storage gives formal notice of lien and intent to sell

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF POSSIBLE SALE AND DISPOSAL
To: David Goodwin
Notice is hereby given that a possible sale or disposal of personal property will take place as allowed by the IL Self Storage Facility Act 770 ILCS 95.
This property includes household goods, furniture, boxes and miscellaneous items. It is in Unit # W3 and W4 at Torino Storage, 315 N. Washington, Wilmington, IL.
Potential sale will take place February 7, at 10 a.m. at Unit # W3 and W4 at Torino Storage, 315 N. Washington, Wilmington, IL.
Demand for payment: Payment must be received no later than February 2, 2026.
This notice is being given by Craig of Torino Storage, P.O. Box 222, Coal City, IL 60416
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, January 28 and February 4, 2026.

Torino Storage gives formal notice of lien and intent to sell

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF POSSIBLE SALE AND DISPOSAL
To: Vanessa Rowland and Christine Paulinski Hill
Notice is hereby given that a possible sale or disposal of personal property will take place as allowed by the IL Self Storage Facility Act 770 ILCS 95.
This property includes household goods, furniture, boxes and miscellaneous items. It is in Unit#100 and Unit#58, CC2 and D63 at Torino Storage, 459 North Illinois 53, Godley, IL.
Potential sale will take place February 7, at 11 a.m. at Torino Storage, 459 North Illinois 53, Godley, IL.
Demand for payment: Payment must be received no later than February 2, 2026.
This notice is being given by Craig of Torino Storage, P.O. Box 222, Coal City, IL 60416
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, January 28 and February 4, 2026.

Dietitian to explain a heart healthy diet

In recognition of American Heart Month, a dietitian from Morris Hospital will present a free "Heart Healthy Diet" nutrition program on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Morris Hospital YMCA, 2200 W. Dupont Ave., Morris.

The program is open to the community and does not require YMCA membership to attend.

A heart-healthy diet is designed to help lower

blood cholesterol, reduce high blood pressure, and decrease the risk of heart disease. During the program, a Morris Hospital dietitian will explain how to reduce intake of saturated fats, cholesterol and sodium while increasing the amount of fiber in the diet.

To register call Morris Hospital's Wellness Manager at 815-705-7358 or go to www.morrishospital.org/events and select the Nutrition category.

Gardner Dodgeball Tourney open to area youth teams

The fourth annual Gardner Dodgeball tourney will be held Sunday, Feb. 1, at Gardner Grade School.

Any boy or girl in grades 2-8 may participate. Times: 9 a.m. - 2nd to 4th grade; 11 a.m. - 5th and 6th grade; 1 p.m. - 7th and 8th grade. Cost is \$49 per team, fees and forms are due by Jan. 30.

Team manager will get a team of at least seven players (no roster needed). Only the team manager will need to submit the completed pre-registration form, full payment and insurance liability form for each player to the school office or to Austin McDowell, 598 N. Elm St., Gardner 60424. Checks or cash made payable to Gardner Grade School. For questions or to request a form contact McDowell at 815-735-6389 or amcdowell@ggs72.org

Seven players maximum to start each game; teams may have more than seven players and use subs. Players may only play on one team per division. A player may play in an older division, but not in a younger division. Games will be played just like P.E. classes; teams can be co-ed.

Teams will play three games of pool play and then enter a single elimination tourney. Every attempt will be made to pair any all-girls teams with each other in pool play.

Admission will be \$2 for students K-12, \$3 for adults.

Proceeds will benefit the Gardner Grade School Outreach Program- this year's proceeds will supply community micro-pantries and the local food pantry.

Picnic, camping permits on sale for area preserves

It's time to start planning some 2026 fun in the Forest Preserve District of Will County by reserving your picnic shelter or campsite in advance. Picnic and camping permits are on sale online and at five Forest Preserve visitor centers.

Picnic permits are available for more than 30 rentable shelters nestled in forest preserves throughout Will County. Permits are required for groups of 25 or more and encouraged for

smaller groups that want to ensure the use of a specific shelter location.

Visit the Picnicking Page, reconnectwithnature.org/rental-spaces-will-county/, for more information.

Camping permits can be obtained for five Forest Preserve campgrounds. Visit the Camping Page, reconnectwithnature.org/activities/camping/, to view campsites and learn more about each location.

NIU fall dean's list

Northern Illinois University announces its fall 2025 Dean's List students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Local student include: Chandler Lowe of Braidwood, Hailey Jenke, Azra Malovski and Noah Sheikh all of Diamond.

Babysitter's training course offered in Morris

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers is offering the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course on Presidents' Day, Monday, Feb. 16, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Morris Hospital Training Classroom at Shabbona School, 725 School St., Morris.

The Babysitter's Training Course is designed for youths age 11 and older who are interested in acquiring the information and education needed for a safe babysitting experience including interviewing for a babysitting job, choosing safe and age-appropriate

toys and games, performing first aid, practicing diapering and feeding techniques, and handling bedtime issues. Participants should bring their own lunch and an afternoon snack.

The class fee is \$60, and the class size is limited to 10 students. Registration can be completed online at www.morrishospital.org/events.

In 2026, Morris Hospital will also be offering the Babysitter's Training Course on June 15, July 10, Aug. 6, and Oct. 12. Questions can be directed to 815-705-7360.

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American Legion KOCA Post 39 will be hosting a Manteno VETERANS Home Fundraiser



MEMBER NEEDS LIST

The following is a list of items that our Veterans use in their day to day lives at the Illinois Veterans' Home in Manteno.

- Items in red are most needed at this time.**
- CLOTHING:**
Men's button-down shirts, M TO 2XL
Men's T-shirts (not undershirts), XL to 4XL
Men's Zip Up Sweatshirts - Size M to 4XL
Men's Sweatpants - L, XL, 4XL
Velcro Tennis Shoes, sz 11W, 11.5W & 12W
Men's slippers, sizes 11 to 15
Men's Long Sleeve T-shirts, L
Dress Shirts w/Neckties (various sizes)
- PERSONAL CARE:**
Non-Alcoholic Mouth Wash
Men's & Women's Body Wash
- MISCELLANEOUS:**
Pocket Talker Personal Amplifiers
Portable Bluetooth Speakers
Thermal Beverage Tumblers with handle, straw, and lid
Sunglasses - Men's, Women's, Unisex
Grabber reaching/pickup tools, various lengths
Eyeglass neck holders
- SNACK FOODS/DRINKS:**
Sugar/Sweetener packets (individual)
Individual liquid coffee creamers, original flavor, Caramel and Hazelnut
Canned Coffee - no Decaf
Miniature Candy Bars (assorted)
Individual bags of chips (assorted)
Gatorade - regular & sugar free
Pop - Regular & Diet, Cans
Root Beer (cans)
Individually wrapped snack cakes
Individually wrapped mini-donut packs
Shelf Stable Microwave Meals (Mac & Cheese cups, Rice-a-Roni cups, Hormel Compleats)
Tuna/Chicken Salad & Crackers Snacks
Sardines
Bottled Water
- PAPER/DISPOSABLES:**
Sturdy Coffee Cups w/Matching Lids
Heavy Duty Cutlery

Please no expired items. NO HOME BAKED GOODS.

If you would like to donate items, please drop them at
AMERICAN LEGION KOCA POST 039, 553 Kennedy Rd., Braidwood on TUESDAYS from 5pm to 9pm and SUNDAYS noon to 5pm ONLY.
Final drop offs will be Saturday, February 28.

Any questions, call Bill Kiley 815-216-2570. **IDA ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



ELLIE & COLT HATFIELD
Chick-A-Dee Restaurant



ROXI & BRADY ADERMANN
Abby's Closet



RYATT PETERSON
The Corner Tap

Elves raise over \$4,600

Five elves led the campaign to raise over \$4,600 for Wilmington families who are less fortunate. Elves at the top three locations who got the most votes, each penny counting as a vote, were Ryatt Peterson at the Corner Tap; Roxi and Brady Adermann at Abby's Closet; and Elli and Cole Hatfield at the Chick-A-Dee Restaurant. A total of 39 elf boxes, one each at Wilmington businesses, were available for donating money over five weeks. The annual Wilmington Chamber Elf contest raised over \$4600 for the Christian Help Association, thanks to generous donors who deposited their spare change and more while checking out at the cash register.

Free program on how to manage diabetes

Dr. Nuzhat Chalisa, a board-certified endocrinologist with Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, will talk about "Diabetes and Strategies for Self-Care and Support" during a free community program on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 3-4 p.m. at the Morris Hospital YMCA, 2200 W. Dupont Avenue, Morris. The free program is open to the community and does not require YMCA membership to participate. During the program, Dr. Chalisa will share important information about diabetes and how to manage the chronic disease. To register, call the Morris Hospital YMCA at 815-513-8080, or go to www.morrishospital.org/events and select the category Education Classes at the YMCA.

Be a Trailblazer experience returns with more prizes

The Forest Preserve District of Will County's popular Be a Trailblazer experience returns in 2026 with four seasonal sessions, more than \$15,000 in prizes and new collectible achievement pins. Participants complete nature-themed challenges at forest preserves throughout the year and are entered into random prize drawings. Missions range from GPS check-ins and trivia questions to photo challenges and 1- to 4-mile hikes. "The Be a Trailblazer campaign is about connecting people with nature and encouraging them to get out into the forest preserves more often," said Chad Merda, head of digital marketing strategy/engagement for the Forest Preserve. "Whether they're doing missions solo or with their entire family, it's about having meaningful experiences in the forest

preserves year-round." The four 2026 sessions are: winter, Jan. 1 to March 14; spring, March 25-May 30; summer, June 10-Sept. 1; and fall, Sept. 23-Dec. 12. Each season will feature two mission drops, including a core group of preserves highlighted across all four seasons so participants can experience them throughout the year. Popular gated missions also return, unlocking new challenges as earlier ones are completed. Prizes will be awarded through random drawings and include weekly giveaways as well as larger items such as kayaks, coolers, camping gear, binoculars, snowshoes and fitness trackers. Funding support comes from The Nature Foundation of Will County and more than 30 local businesses and organizations.

New in 2026, participants can earn collectible pins by reaching four achievement levels: Rookie, Explorer, Adventurer and Master. "We're raising the bar with more prizes and the introduction of collectible pins tied to participation levels," Merda said. "We expect even more people to join the experience in 2026." To join, download the free Goosechase app to your smart phone and search for 2026 Be a Trailblazer or enter code JYBKK4. A Winter Warmup Meet and Greet is planned for 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Hickory Creek Junction in Frankfort Township. For more details on Be a Trailblazer and other Forest Preserve programs and events, visit ReconnectWithNature.org

CLASSIFIEDS

DUPLEX FOR RENT

Individual landlord seeking clean, reliable tenant for nice 1 bedroom unit, ranch duplex in Wilmington, Illinois. No realtors please. For details Email: rentduplex60481@gmail.com cc4-5

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- Snowmobiles
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cc4-7

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LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. 815-462-5633.

CLUES ACROSS

- Racket sport pros
- Make tea
- City South of Moscow
- Spanish bullfighting term
- Egg-shaped
- Could not remember
- French modernist painter
- Persons
- Painful intestinal obstruction
- Professions

CLUES DOWN

- Type of bomb
- South Pacific islands
- Celestial body
- Negotiates
- Consider in a specified way
- Type of group in organic chemistry
- Buddhist monasteries
- Inhabitant of Bering Sea island
- Body part
- Milestone birthday
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- More (Spanish)
- Chicago ballplayer
- Leaves a place
- Cannot be found
- One's internal body parts
- Tell on
- North American peoples of southwest
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Extract used for jams and jellies
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Old English letter
- A way to exaggerate
- Get up and leave
- "Boardwalk Empire" character
- More generous
- Hanging cloth used as a blind
- Ancient Greek sophist

18. Is up to the task
21. Wood or metal bolt
22. Tax collector
23. A way to save for the future
24. Georgia rockers
25. Midway between north and north-east
26. High schoolers' test
27. Does not accept responsibility
34. One who prepares
35. Gout-indicative deposits

Puzzles

36. Place to play games
37. Book of Genesis character
38. Cleans oneself
39. Unloaded for money
40. Genus of flowering plants
41. Take a puff
42. Congressmen
43. God of battle in Scandinavian mythology

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5	7	6	3	8	4	2
6	3	4	2	6	3	7
7	3	4	2	6	3	7
8	1	5	9	7	4	2
9	6	2	3	1	8	4
10	3	5	8	6	4	9
11	6	2	7	5	3	1
12	4	9	7	8	2	5

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COMET SPORTS



Photo by Eric Fisher

LAYING UP THE ball for a two-point basket is Reed-Custer's Chase Isaac.



Photo by Eric Fisher

UNDER-HANDED LAYUP—Reed-Custer sophomore Kaiden Klein scores two of his 11 points during a double overtime victory against Wilmington.



Photo by Eric Fisher

MUSCLING HIS WAY in the middle to score two points against Wilmington is Reed-Custer's Vinny Bollino.



Photo by Eric Fisher

WORKING THE BALL to the basket during a double overtime victory over Wilmington is sophomore Comet Eddie Bryan.

Comets extend streak to four

The Reed-Custer boys basketball team is finding its stride at the right time.

The Comets picked up their fourth straight victory Friday night with a 56-49 win over Herscher at home, improving to 11-10 overall and 5-3 in the ICE Conference.

Matt Kuban and Jesse Tresouthick powered the offense, each scoring 18 points. Kuban added eight rebounds, while Tresouthick pulled down four as Reed-Custer continued its recent run built on balanced scoring and strong play on the boards.

Eddie Bryan provided muscle inside with six points and a team-high 10

rebounds, Chase Isaac chipped in five points and seven boards, and Kaiden Klein and Colton Waldvogel each scored five.

Two nights earlier, Reed-Custer outlasted rival Wilmington in a dramatic double overtime battle, 54-49.

Kaiden Klein delivered the decisive moment, knocking down a go-ahead two-pointer in the final minute of overtime before sealing the game with two free throws.

Tresouthick led the Comets with 14 points, Kuban added 13, Klein finished with 11, and Vinny Bollino contributed five.

"Huge team win,"

coach Tyler Schoonover said after the victory. "We got the job done on the defensive end and on the boards."

Reed-Custer also dominated Momenca earlier in the week, cruising to a 52-33 victory behind another strong all-around effort.

"It was a great all-around team win with balanced scoring," Schoonover said. "We got it done on the boards and on the defensive end."

Bryan led that contest with 13 points and 17 rebounds, Kuban had 11 points and six rebounds, Isaac posted 10 points and 13 boards, and Klein added

seven points.

The current streak began Jan. 14 with a 52-41 road win over Beecher, where Kuban scored 17 points, Klein added 11, Isaac had 10, Tresouthick scored nine and Waldvogel grabbed seven rebounds to go with his five points.

With four straight wins, improved conference standing and contributions coming from throughout the lineup, the Comets appear to be peaking as the postseason approaches.

And for Reed-Custer, the formula is becoming clear: defend, rebound — and let the scoring take care of itself.

Lady Comets topple Herscher

The Reed-Custer girls basketball team experienced heartbreak and resilience last week, dropping a two-point road decision at Beecher before bouncing back with a strong conference win over Herscher at home.

On Tuesday, the Comets came up short 48-46 at Beecher in a non-conference matchup.

Reed-Custer jumped to a 13-5 lead after the first quarter and later erupted for 21 points in the third, briefly seizing control of the game. Beecher responded with an 18-point fourth quarter to edge the Comets at the finish.

Junior Alyssa Wollenzien delivered a huge performance, pouring in 30 points, grabbing 10 rebounds and collecting seven steals while shooting 11-of-23 from the field.

Kamryn Wilkey added seven points, four steals and two rebounds, while senior Morgan Toler chipped in six points and five rebounds. Atiana Hood scored three points and added five rebounds.

Despite forcing 17 steals, Reed-Custer struggled at the free-throw line (6 of 16) and committed 28 turnovers, allowing Beecher to escape with the narrow victory.

Two nights later, the Comets responded with a strong second-half effort to defeat Herscher 48-41 in ICE Conference play.

Trailing 31-28 entering the fourth quarter, Reed-Custer dominated the final eight minutes, outscoring the Tigers 20-10 to secure the win.

Once again, Wollenzien led the charge with 21 points, seven rebounds and three steals, going 8-of-13 from the free-throw line. Harlie Liebermann provided a big boost with eight points, while Wilkey and Toler scored seven and six points, respectively. Hood added four points and five rebounds, and freshman Avah Thompson contributed two points and three rebounds.

Reed-Custer controlled the glass with a 31-28 rebounding edge and shot 12 of 20 from the free-throw line to pull away late.

With the win, the Comets improved to 10-11 overall and 3-6 in the ICE Conference. They will host Streator on Thursday before traveling to Peotone on Monday as conference play continues.



Photo by Zach Ohlund

SCORING FOR THE Lady Comets during a recent contest at Wilmington is senior Morgan Toler.



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