

Colclasure in the spotlight this month

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A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER



File Photo

DURING A PAST RC Cooks Scholarship Fundraiser event, Danielle Valiente, director of teaching and learning at Reed-Custer School District, passes out a sample of her dish. Each year, the Reed-Custer Education Association hosts the fundraising event to raise money for graduating seniors as they further their education by attending college or vocational schools.

Fundraiser will serve up delicious food for scholarships

STAFF REPORT

Food connoisseurs and hungry guests alike are coming out for a night to sample delicious food prepared by area cooks on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the 10th Annual RC Cooks Scholarship Fundraiser.

Attendees will taste test a variety of dishes made by Reed-Custer teachers, administrators and local business and community members while at the same time knowing they are helping to raise money to help Reed-Custer students.

The fundraiser, which is hosted by the Reed-Custer Education Association (RCEA), is held each year to raise scholarship money for the Reed-Custer High School graduating senior class, to help with their college expenses and post-grad-

uate endeavors such as formal vocational training programs.

Throughout the night, there will be a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and big ticket raffle items that are valued at over \$100.

Big raffle items include a 50-inch TV, power tool set, Ring doorbell and Kitchen Aide mixer. Door prizes are \$25 gift certificates and will be given out every few minutes.

The chefs will be preparing appetizers, main dishes, side dishes and desserts. Trophies are awarded to each category winner at the end of the evening.

Jamie Meyr, chair of Reed-Custer Cook-off Committee, said over the last nine years they've raised almost \$100,000 to award to Reed-Custer seniors.

This year, the goal of the event is to

raise \$15,000 for the class of 2020.

"Not only are we involved in kids' education now but we are very invested in their future, and we want to make going to college or going to a trade school easier," Meyr said. "The more money we can give to them to have those opportunities is important to us as teachers and educators."

Reed-Custer High School seniors can apply for the RCEA scholarship through April 10.

Tickets are limited, and can be purchased for \$25. Both the event tickets and raffle tickets are available at the Reed-Custer Attendance Centers and the Steven Hanks Administration Center.

Local businesses and organizations

SEE FUNDRAISER, PAGE 3

Cut that cable cord for good

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK
STAFF WRITER

Deciding how to watch TV today can feel completely overwhelming simply because of the sheer number of options available to viewers.

Do you choose a traditional cable subscription? Pick a couple of streaming services and stick with just those? Or do you decide to land somewhere in between — watching live TV on streaming services?

There's no denying that cable TV can be pricey, and often once introductory rates expire, you can find yourself paying hefty amounts each month, which a good chunk of is of just hidden fees for HD technology, regional sports, state and local communications services sales tax, franchising and other fees.

Prices are also rising. According to *Consumer Reports*, Comcast increased its cost for a basic TV package from \$30 to \$35 in December 2019 and AT&T had a price hike that varied by plan in January.

But those extra fees add up making the average cable bill in the U.S. over \$156 per month.

That, as well as the frustrating contracts, commercials and lack of on demand selection are just some of the reasons why in the last decade many have cut their cable to seek out something different.

Thomas Sargent, circulation assistant at the Wilmington Public Library, hosted a "Cutting the Cord" program at the library on Wednesday, Feb. 5, during which he outlined some free alternatives available to anyone.

Sargent said by switching from cable to live streaming, on-demand and free services, he's saving a significant amount of money.

"I'm saving about \$50 a month, so that comes out to

about \$600 a year," he said.

Here are a few ways you can cut the cable:

On-demand streaming

On-demand streaming services aren't perfect, and they certainly aren't immune to price increases, but they are popular for a reason. Out of all the options for watching TV, streaming services are by far the cheapest.

Some of the biggest services are Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu and Disney+, and they offer viewers the option of instantly selecting episodes of their favorite shows or movies, typically without commercials, and the ability to watch on essentially any device that has an internet connection.

Netflix is by far the most well-known. It offers plans that range from \$8.99 per month to \$15.99 per month; the price difference accounts for how many screens can be watching at the same time and whether Ultra HD viewing is supported.

Hulu Basic costs \$5.99 per month and gives you access to all of Hulu's on-demand selections, although you'll have to endure ads. However, if you upgrade to the \$11.99 plan you can watch ad-free.

Disney+ is the newest service that rolled out in November 2019. For \$6.99 a month you have access to countless Disney movies and shows, as well as other Disney properties like National Geographic documentaries and Star Wars films.

Amazon Prime Video is \$8.99 for those without an Amazon Prime account.

Movies and shows also come and go from streaming services, so you can always expect something new to watch. Many services also make original, quality content that you can exclusively watch on their platform.

Live streaming

If you don't want to give

SEE CABLE, PAGE 2

A friend to everyone

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK
STAFF WRITER

Even though Chrissy Durso lived in Braidwood for less than two years, she was a face in town that everyone seemed to know.

An active member of the community, Chrissy could be seen at every local festival and event talking with people and having a good time.

She was one who wasn't afraid to start up a conversation out in public, and if you talked to her, it's likely Chrissy found a way to brighten your day.

On Jan. 10, Chrissy passed away at the age of 44, but the impact she had on her family and the community is evident.

Bridgette Huffman, Chrissy's younger sister, said



CHRISSEY DURSO

that her sister had special needs. She describes her as someone who was "outgoing, outspoken, loving, she did everything for anybody."

Chrissy would stop in at the fire station every day. "She'd go in and say 'hi' or call them and say 'Hey, I'm on my way!'" Huffman said.

"She went everywhere and talked to everyone," she said.

She would also frequent businesses like Scruffy to Fluffy, and, her favorite, Emmy's Cafe.

Emmy's Cafe was Chrissy's spot, and she had her machine that she found luck on and stuck with it.

"She'd put like \$2 in and win 100 bucks," Huffman said.

Chrissy was also fun-loving. Her sister recalls her going

SEE FRIEND, PAGE 2

Lombardi's is now Arnie Bauer Chevrolet-Buick

STAFF REPORT

For three generations the Lombardi family kept Wilmington moving on four wheels, and at the end of January, transitioned the Chevy-Buick dealership on the east side of town to a different, third-generation family.

The dealership was purchased by Arnie Bauer Buick GMC, which has been serving the Matteson area for 75 years.

There are interesting parallels between the two fami-

lies, says Darrin Bauer, who will serve as the dealer principle at the Wilmington facility. Like Lombardi's last owner, Jim Lombardi, Bauer, is the third generation in the family business. Both dealerships were started by a grandfather, furthered by a father, and operated by the third generation.

The Lombardi name has been on a car dealership in Wilmington since 1958, when Jim's grandfather Nick purchased the business from the Butcher Brothers. Lombardi,

who was the Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year for 2019, started working in the shop washing cars and sweeping floors after school when he was 15, then became an apprentice to the technicians. He began selling vehicles in the summer of 1987, at which time he went to Northwood University and studied dealership management and marketing.

Jim has been running the

SEE LOMBARDI'S, PAGE 2



Photo by Ann Gill

MORRIS HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE Centers opened the doors to its new Diamond-Coal City Campus on Tuesday. In advance of its opening day the hospital hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by local officials, hospital staff and invited community members. Mark Steadham, president and CEO of Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, joined Diamond Mayor Terry Kernc in slicing through the ceremonial ribbon on Monday afternoon.

The doctor will see you now

Morris Hospital's Diamond-Coal City Campus now open

BY ANN GILL
STAFF EDITOR

It's was just about 14 months ago when the tips of six golden shovels pierced the ground to mark the start of construction on a 13,400-

square foot medical facility in the village of Diamond. On Monday, it was the silver tips of two oversized scissors that cut the ribbon to mark the facility's opening.

Flanked by hospital staff, community members and local elected officials, Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers

president and CEO Mark Steadham joined Diamond Mayor Terry Kernc in slicing

SEE DOCTOR, PAGE 2



Doctor

through the ceremonial red ribbon to mark the opening of the hospital's new Diamond-Coal City Campus.

"This has been 10 years in the making from the first time I begged for a facility here and I want to tell you it has exceeded our expectations," Kernc told Steadham.

Located at 1450 E. Division St., on the northwest corner of McGinty Street, the Diamond-Coal City Campus will be open seven days a week, providing walk-in care, laboratory, diagnostic imaging, physical and occupational therapy, and occupational medicine services for area employers, along with office space for physicians and advanced practice professionals.

"The addition of this campus will clearly provide the residents of Diamond, Coal City and really the whole surrounding area with quality healthcare and a lot of services," said Terry Halliday, mayor of the village of Coal City.

Clinic staff have been on site for several days training

and getting a feel for the new facility, and many expressed their excitement to be working in the new state-of-the-art clinic.

Exam rooms line one area of the facility and transition into the laboratory and imaging center that includes a CT scan, mammography and ultrasound rooms, as well as space for physical and occupational therapy.

As previously reported by the hospital, internal medicine physician Dr. Spyro Analytis, pediatrician Dr. Darakhshan Anjum, and family nurse practitioner Stacey Johnson will be based at the new facility, and Dr. Erik Muraskas, obstetrician/gynecologist, will have office hours there.

"As our communities grows so does Morris Hospital to keep up with the need, so we are very grateful for that," said Christina Van Peren, executive director of the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

The Diamod-Coal City Campus is part of a \$60 million, three-year master facility plan for the hospital that includes modernization

of the hospital's main campus as well as a second new facility in Ottawa and the conversion of an orthopedic surgical center to a multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center. The hospital's investment in the village of Diamond is \$7.1 million

"I want to take a minute to say thank you to Morris Hospital and all of their partners and all of their staff for not only the great quality of care that they provide here and around Grundy County, but for the very large investment they continue to have here," Van Peren said.

Speaking to a crowd of about 100 people, who packed into the lobby of the new facility, Steadham said, "we are very pleased and honored to be a part of the communities in a bigger way than we ever have before. Thanks to everybody who has made this a very successful endeavor and we are pleased to be here."

"Thank you for including us in your plans for the future and we welcome you to Diamond," Kernc told Steadham and she followed up her comments with a congratulatory hug.

Arrest made in Verona homicide

After an eight month investigation, a Yorkville man has been charged in the death of a Verona woman.

Grundy County Sheriff Ken Briley announced last week the arrest of 43-year-old Robert J. Turk in connection with the May 2019 death of Elizabeth A. Link.

A warrant for his arrest was issued Feb. 3 and he was taken into custody around noon the following day by Grundy County Sheriff's deputies who were assisted by members of the Will/Grundy Major Crimes Task Force and Oswego Police Department.

Turk has been charged with two counts of first degree murder. He is being held in the Grundy County Jail on a \$2 million bond and is scheduled

for arraignment in Grundy County Circuit Court on Feb. 20.

At approximately 5:40 a.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, Grundy County Sheriff's deputies responded to 3200 S. Verona Road for a structure fire. As fire officials extinguished the fire Link's body was discovered inside the residence.

Grundy County Coroner John Callahan stated the initial autopsy findings indicated Link died prior to the fire.

The coroner's office hired an expert witness to analyze evidence at the crime scene. It was discovered that the victim suffered inciseive wounds that led to her death, and based on this information, Callahan's office determined the cause of

death a homicide.

The coroner's office assisted the sheriff's office with the investigation as did Grundy County State's Attorney Jason Helland and the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Will/Grundy Major Crimes Task Force, Illinois State Fire Marshall and MABAS-IL 15 Division fire investigators.

The Grundy County Sheriffs office acknowledged all of the assisting agencies involved in the investigation and the community for its patience.

"This is truly a sad situation, and although we can't bring Elizabeth back we can serve justice and provide closure for her family and friends," Briley said.

Cable

up watching live TV but are tired of shelling out all the extra fees associated with cable, there is an in-between. Instead of paying for cable, you can now watch live TV with just an internet connection and a streaming device.

A one-time purchase of a streaming device, like a Roku or Amazon Fire TV Stick, allows you to watch your favorite on-demand streaming services, but also give you the avenue to buy into live TV streaming services.

The best part about live streaming is that you don't need to worry about cable boxes and installation, contracts and hidden fees. These services also offer many on-demand selections, giving you the best of both worlds.

Some of the bigger live streaming services are SlingTV, YouTube TV and Hulu.

Sling TV lets you choose from two channel packages, which are each \$30 per month after the introductory rate. You can opt for both packages for \$45 per month.

YouTube TV is \$49.99 per month and boasts its offering of over 70 channels as well as providing access to local and regional programming.

Hulu is probably most known for its on-demand service, but it also offers live TV. A subscription will get you 65 live and on demand channels for \$54.99 per month after your free trial, which you can cancel at any time.

Of course, with all of these live streaming services, you have the option of adding on additional channel packages for a monthly fee.

No monthly fees

But, if you're not looking to spend money on monthly fees, you're in luck.

Sargent said that antennas are a very viable option that many people are opting for over cable.

"It doesn't count against your data cap if you've got one," Sargent said. "Number two, if your internet goes out, you have a backup."

Sargent said it's not like the old days where antennas would only get you about 10 channels; depending on your location, you might be able to access upwards of 50 channels. You can buy an antenna



for as little as \$15 at Walmart.

In terms of streaming, though, Sargent explained there are many free channel systems and on-demand streaming services out there, if you're willing to sit through commercials every now and again.

PlutoTV is one that offers over 125 channels and 30 music channels. You can find comedy, kids shows, news, sports, classics and movies.

Xumo offers 145 channels with a mix of news, movies, sports, kids shows, food, travel, entertainment, lifestyle, music and technology shows.

SITRR offers a good mix of content in its 70-channel offering, with some channels dedicated to specific shows.

If you're looking for on-demand options, you can also find free services like Shout Factory TV, CW/CW Seed, IMDb TV, PopcornFlix, TubiTV, Sony Crackle and Comet.

Wilmington Public Library cardholders have even more choices available to them.

Hoopla is a platform that allows access a digital selection of movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows. Omni, Libby and OverDrive are also similar apps where patrons can find hundreds of movies, ebooks and audiobooks.

Other libraries participate

in these programs too, so if you're not a part of the Wilmington Public Library District you may still have access.

Something that all these services aside from antennas do require though is internet, and for some the price of good internet can be quite expensive. However, those who fall into the 200% poverty level qualify for the "Bridging the Gap" program, which will give you a personal hotspot for a reasonable price.

For assistance signing up, stop in at the Wilmington Public Library.

If you still can't find something you want to watch, you can always visit your library, where there are thousands of DVDs you can check out, and all you need is a library card.

Although there are more options now than ever for ways to watch TV, that can also be a good thing. The increased competition between companies is making for a new golden age of television.

These are just a few of some of the most popular alternatives to cable TV. There's a number of other options out there, so do your research before making the switch.

Also be on the lookout for additional programs at the Wilmington Public Library on ways to finally cut the cord.

Friend

to carnivals and riding every ride.

At Summerfest last July, *The Braidwood Journal* even photographed her competing in a pie eating contest.

"She got involved in things we didn't even know about," Huffman said. "I didn't know about a pie eating contest!"

Chrissy also had a kind heart.

Huffman said even though Chrissy didn't have much money, when she did have money she would buy gifts for people, or pick flowers to give to them.

"She would bring somebody she didn't even know stuff, that's how loving she was," Huffman said.

Chrissy was an active member in the Immaculate Conception Church commu-

nity and was learning how to become an usher.

"She just really wanted to be accepted, and this town really accepted her," she said.

Huffman also remembers her sister by her bear hugs, her interactions with her niece and nephew and her humorous personality.

"She played with my children. She would color and read and play Play Doh and bake brownies and cakes and sneak snacks that she wasn't supposed to — I'd yell at her for it. She'd hide it under her bed. I'd go looking for the snacks and couldn't find them, and here comes my kids with Reese's in their mouths," Huffman laughed.

Chrissy's services were held in Willowbrook on Jan. 17.

Huffman said she appreciated the outpouring of support from people in the Braidwood community, who drove up to southwestern sub-

urb of Chicago for her services during a blizzard.

"It's just crazy that in, not even two years, that my sister made such an impact on a town, one of the biggest impacts I've ever seen anywhere we lived. This is a community that accepted her more than any other community that we lived in," Huffman said.

Her favorite people were her niece, nephew, mother and grandmother.

Chrissy is the daughter of Laura Huffman (Michael Huffman), dearest sister of Adam Huffman and Bridgette Huffman (Bryon Baines), most cherished granddaughter to Mary Alice and the late Edward Zeman, proud aunt of Autumn and Michael, loving niece of Sharon Zeman, Donna (Michael) Boyle and Gary (Tina) Durso, beloved great niece of Joseph (Diane) Lucas. She was the special cousin to Eric, Matt and Keri.

Lombardi's

family business since 1992.

This is the Bauer family's first foray into the Chevrolet world. The family business started with the Oldsmobile line in 1945 and added Cadillac in the late 1940s. By the 1960s, Arnie Bauer was strictly Caddy, then added GMC in 1988 and Buick in 2006.

Arnie Bauer took over the Lombardi dealership on Jan. 29. The doors remained open, the shop continued to service customer vehicles, and all of Lombardi's employees are still on the job.

"It was important to us to

keep everybody," Bauer said.

While the family wanted to keep those familiar faces, there will be some additional staff brought on in the next couple of months.

Bauer's plan is to increase new and used car sales. Ideally, he added, the people being hired will be from the local area, and will include a sales manager, sales people and mechanics.

"We'll get more inventory starting to be delivered in April. We need space for that inventory. When we have an increase in inventory we'll need people to sell the cars, and when we sell more cars we'll need more service people," he explained.

The showroom is getting

a bright, fresh coat of paint, and Bauer has some other improvements in mind, including a drive-through lane that will come in the next couple of weeks; customers will drive into the garage to drop off their vehicle instead of parking outside and walking in.

The Lombardi website has been updated and upgraded, for those who prefer to do a little online shopping before visiting the dealership.

And, says Bauer, the dealership will have Corvettes.

"We're used to taking care of our customers and enjoying repeat business," Bauer commented. "It will be no different here."

Adult residents can apply for \$1,000 scholarship

Are you an adult who is considering going back to school?

Adult residents who are living in Reed-Custer School District 255U can apply for up to a \$1,000 academic scholarship through April 10.

The Reed-Custer Education Foundation is awarding the scholarship to a non-Reed-Custer High School senior who is planning to go back to school in the summer or fall of 2020.

The scholarship may be used at any accredited four-year college or university, two-year community or junior college, or trade school in which a course of study will lead to a bachelor's or associate's degree or certificate.

Applicants must complete the 2020 adult scholarship application, write a 500-word essay and provide three letters

of recommendation.

All winners will be announced prior to Memorial Day.

Scholarship payments will be made out to awardees' school of choice. Scholarship payments will be paid in equal installments each semester.

For more information and to apply, go to www.rc255.net/Pages/EducationalFoundation.aspx.

Contact the Reed-Custer High School Counseling Department with questions at 815-458-2166, extension 3304 or 3313.

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Braidwood police report

The following arrests were reported by the Braidwood Police Department for the week of Jan. 29 through Feb. 5:

- Joseph Shane Shepherd, 32, of Warrenville, was arrested on Jan. 31 for aggravated domestic battery. He was transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility in lieu of bond.

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 5,

the Braidwood Police Department reported 31 traffic stops, issued four citations, 18 warnings and 18 local ordinance tickets, received 110 calls for service and issued one warrant.

Editor's note: Persons named in the police report are innocent of any charges until proven guilty in a court of law.

Correction

In the February 5, 2020 edition of the *Braidwood Journal*, in the article "Coalition partners with 515 Fitness to host world-record breaking plank event," on page one it was stated that George Hood would try to break the Guinness World Record (GWR) for longest sustained plank by holding a plank for 11 hours, 11 minutes and 11 seconds. While Hood will attempt to break the GWR, that number is not accurate; the exact length of time he is aiming for is undetermined.

This newspaper tries to be fair and accurate in its reporting. When errors do occur, we appreciate the opportunity to correct them.

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Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

News and Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Skinned by Skinner, paying to work

They called it a depression, we would call it an economic downturn, most called it hard times.

Work was hard to find across the country. It was no different in Braidwood. Bad pay and hard-working conditions be damned, a job was a job no matter how you attained it. Set the way back machine for autumn 1883.

The depression of 1882 to 1885 started with the railroads. Railroads had been expanding at an incredible rate, but they found they had over extended themselves. Smaller roads went bankrupt, larger ones started layoff men. The downturn spiraled into all sectors and soon there were tens of thousands out of work.

However, the coal industry, while not unaffected, did have some jobs. Winter was coming and the big cities demanded heat. As a result,

the unemployed flocked to Braidwood. Not all of those hired had experience, this was evident especially at the "I" shaft where production was way down. Then the rumors started. At first even the *Weekly Press* of Joliet did not believe the rumor. The *Press*, known for its sensationalism, reported, "A whisper reaches us of the existence of an undercurrent of deep feeling pervading laboring circles in Braidwood. The circumstances as they have been poured into the "local" ear are of a character to create an impression that the smoldering elements of a great combustive sensation are underlying the social stratum of our neighboring little city.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Fire, however, is a proverbially dangerous toy and one with which we are not fond of playing."

"The conclusion reached from a review of the facts as they come to us through generally reliable channels is that if an individual or number of individuals in Braidwood are being illegally bilked of a portion of their hard earnings by any man, the remedy is at hand and if sought will surely fit the case."

"If a man alleges that he is compelled to pay a cash tribute for the privilege of working for his living, there are but two conclusions possible, either he is a born idiot or a deeply wronged man, and in the latter case cannot seek legal redress

too promptly. If, being the latter, he fails to avail himself of the protection afforded by law, his claims must be regarded as fishy - altogether too fishy for digestion by THE PRESS even on Friday."

But by Monday THE PRESS had changed its tune. "Just one week ago we referred to the discharge of the pit boss of the "I" shaft from the service of the C. W. & V. Coal Company, but we were not in a position to state for what reason, but now, the information then sought for being obtained, there is no longer any necessity for withholding from the public facts which they should have in their possession. For some time past the best coal mine on the prairie has not been producing the amount it should, and it is only just lately that the company have found out the cause."

"The very fact that out of

about 300 miners employed in this shaft, 200 are Bohemians and Italians, nearly all of whom have bought places of the discharged pit boss, through a middle man, and the amount of money so received by him, of which the company are cognizant, is over \$3,000." This state of affairs is of course an imposition on the miners, and at the same time prevents many a good man from getting work, some of whom would beg for a place but would not pay.

"Report says that the accused denies the charges, but he is reckoning without his host, the men are aware that the law in force in Italy, whereby a miner can be sent to the penitentiary for paying for a place is not in force in America, and they will therefore be glad to come forward and tell all they know, and to what extent they have been

victimized."

Finally, we read, "Skinner Skinned Them - Skinner was pit boss of the C. W. & V. Coal Co. at Braidwood, and has been there several years, and was considered irreproachable in every respect. It appears that in the mine are working an huge number of foreigners, who have been paying Skinner for situations, in most speculation he has made between \$3,000 (\$83,500 today) and \$5,000 (\$138,900). The miners knew that he they used to secure situations in the old country in the same manner, but never were to tell of it, because they were liable to be sent to prison. They thought it was the same in the country, and only by the action of Mr. Corey, superintendent of the mine, was the fraud discovered."

FOSSIL RIDGE LIBRARY NEWS

Every Monday-Lapsit, 10:30--11 a.m. An interactive program for children age to 3 years and their caregivers. Sing songs, do fingerplays and enjoy reading together. Caregiver must attend with child. Registration is required.

Every Thursday-Toddler Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Toddlers and their caregivers can explore and play with different toys and sensory materials each week. These activities will develop fine and gross motor skills, social interaction and language skills. Caregivers must accompany child during program.

Recommended ages: birth-four years. Registration is required.

Feb. 13-Half Day Movie Matinee, 1 p.m. Join us at the library to enjoy the movie Abominable with your child. Light refreshments will be served.

Feb. 17-Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m.

Feb. 18-Teen Cooking Classes, 5-7 p.m. Teens will learn how to prepare and cook delicious and nutritious food. Registration is required, 20 max. per session. Grades 6-12.

Feb. 19-Kids Cook, 5 p.m. This

instructor lead program introduces children to the joys of preparing and cooking food that is both nutritious and delicious. Grades 2nd-5th. Registration is required, 20 children max.

Every Friday-Fantastic Fridays, 3:45-4:30 p.m. Come to the library after school to play board games, video games, or make crafts with your family and friends. Light refreshments will be served, no registration required.

For more information check out the library's newsletter, go to www.fossilridge.org or call 815-458-2187.

Teen Dungeons and Dragons group

This season, the Fossil Ridge Public Library is offering high school students the chance to join a teen volunteer-run Dungeons and Dragons group, which meets every week from Jan. 7 until April 28 on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Dungeons and Dragons is a game of imagination and adventure. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, it's time to roll the dice

and join this campaign.

Dungeon Master Kaylee Holland will guide you, and all the necessary materials, manuals and snacks will be provided.

Registration for is required. The program is open to grades nine to 12.

The Fossil Ridge Public Library is located at 386 W. Kennedy Road in Braidwood. Call 815-458-2187 to register.

Lady Panther spikers sweep Bradley Central

The RCMS eighth grade volleyball team worked hard to beat Bradley Central on Thursday, 26-24 and 25-17.

Mackenzie Keller had a strong game offensively with eight kills and 11 service points. Lynlee Jubin played well defensively with seven digs. Adi Fierro played smart all match and ended up with 15 assists. The lady Panthers are 11-3

The seventh grade Panthers won against Bradley Central as well, 25-16, 24-26, and 25-22.

Wrestling Panthers place fifth in Bulldog Invitational

On Saturday, the RCMS wrestling team traveled to Mahomet, IL to compete in the 2020 Bulldog Invitational.

The tournament is made up of 16 teams from the southern area of the state. The wrestling Panthers placed fifth with two champions, two second place winners, a third place winner, and a fourth place winner and a sixth place finisher.

The two champions were Samuel Begler (100) and Rex Pfeiffer (155). Tyson Price (65) and Joey Ullrich (185) placed second. Ethan Pfeiffer (90) was the lone third place finisher and Aidan Dubrovich (215) placed fourth.

Zach Randall (275) rounded out Panther placers coming in sixth place.

Library offers metal and wood sign workshops

The Fossil Ridge Public Library District is holding metal and wood sign workshops on Feb. 26 and March 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m..

Decorate your walls with vintage-inspired metal and wood signs that you will create with your own personal style.

Registration (one class per person) is required. To accommodate as many patrons as possible, the library is offering two sessions of this program.

To register, call the library at 815-458-2187 or stop by the library at 386 W. Kennedy Road in Braidwood.

'Charlotte's Web' month at Reed-Custer Elementary School promotes literacy

STAFF REPORT

To promote literacy during the month of February, all students at Reed-Custer Elementary School are reading "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White and participating in various activities that align with the novel's plot.

The month kicked-off with an assembly on Feb. 3 during which Principal Heather Faletti and Assistant Principal Matt Peterson read chapters one and two of the book aloud to all students and teachers.

Every student received a copy of the book and they will continue to read the novel in their classrooms as the month progresses.

Students are also encouraged to get out into the community by going to local busi-

nesses to receive raffle tickets, which will enter them for a chance to win a prize.

McDonald's is also hosting a coloring contest and will honor a winner from each grade level.

Other special activities at school so far included wearing as much pink and black as possible on different days to represent Wilbur and Charlotte. Students in pre-kindergarten to third grade also participated in an animal judging contests for the best stuffed animal or best real life pet photo.

As the month continues, the RCES staff is hosting a County Fair family event from 5:30 to 7 p.m on Feb. 18. The event will include games, face painting, square dancing and county fair style dinner.

Students will continue to

show their style with other upcoming dress-up days, which include dressing like someone who works on Zuckerman's Farm from the book, dressing up as a vocabulary word from the book, and they will finish the month by

dressing like their favorite "Charlotte's Web" character.

After they've finished reading the book, students will cap the month off with watching the "Charlotte's Web" movie on the last Friday of the month.

Sheriff's sale of 151 N. Hickory St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff,
vs.
David P. Amoroso; et al. Defendant.
No. 18 CH 0944

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 13th day of November, 2019, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 20th day of February, 2020, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate: 02-24-07-302-012-0000 THE SOUTH 43 FEET OF LOT 3 AND LOT 6 (EXCEPT THE SOUTH 75 FEET THEREOF) IN BLOCK 7, IN EUREKA COAL CO'S SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 14, 1872, IN PLAT BOOK 1, (PART 1) PAGE 78, AS DOCUMENT NO. 84929, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE PORTION DEDICATED FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES AND EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS BENEATH THE SURFACE AND THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 151 N. Hickory St., Braidwood, IL 60408
Description of Improvements: Single Family Home
P.I.N.: 02-24-07-302-008-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Codilis & Associates, P.C.
15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527
P: 630-794-5300
F: 630-794-9090

Plaintiff's Attorney

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, January 29, February 5 and February 12, 2020.

MIKE KELLEY

Sheriff of Will County

Fundraiser

are invited to sponsor the event or donate door prizes. There are multiple sponsorship levels, and a \$100 donation will get the donor two tickets to the event. Donations should be made by Feb. 14. Those interested in spon-

soring should contact Jamie Meyr, RCEA-RC Cooks sponsor chairperson, at 815-458-2145. Those interested in donating can call Kathy Jones, RCEA door prize chair, at 815-458-2166.

The fundraiser is set for Saturday, Feb. 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., at High Point Golf Club in Essex.

Will County police blotter

The Will County Sheriff's Office provides a weekly blotter of activity for townships in The Free Press circulation area. Persons named are innocent of any charges until proven guilty.

Feb. 2

• Person(s) unknown in Jackson Township threw about a dozen eggs at a residence, striking the roof and siding.

Essex Self Storage to dispose of property

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, on Monday, March 9, 2020 Essex Self Storage will sell or otherwise dispose of the bed, toolbox and misc. boxes stored at Essex Self Storage, 815-365-2569, 445 S. East St., Essex, IL 60935.

Occupant: Phillip Garbin, Unit 237.
Property: Bed, dresser, toolbox and misc. boxes

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Feb. 12 and 19.

Braidwood Seniors Bingo to be held Feb. 24

The Braidwood Seniors are holding their monthly Bingo game at Reed Township Hall on Monday, Feb. 24 at 10 a.m.

Bingo will begin at 10:30 a.m. Come meet friends, play in a cheap game of Bingo and eat delicious food catered from the Whistle Stop Cafe.

Bingo cards are 5 cents per card per round. Lunch is \$7. The group is open to those 65 and older.

Space is limited, so call Mary Pittman at 630-450-4582 if you're interested in attending.

Reed Township Hall is located at 440 N. Division St. in Braidwood.

Colclasure selected for February Senior Spotlight

The Senior Spotlight winner for the month of February is Grace Colclasure.

Colclasure is the daughter of Dan and Angela Colclasure. During her high school career, Colclasure has been involved in volleyball, softball, FCCLA and student Council. She was a Student of the Month, a volunteer RCMS softball coach, a regional champion in softball, and was on the honor roll.

Her future plans are to attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn to play softball and major in Health and Human Services in order to become an occupational therapist.

Here are a few thoughts from Colclasure's teachers.

Mr. Cappel says that Colclasure is "an overall awesome person ... hard-working, positive, and honest."

Mrs. Gunier believes that Colclasure is "a leader on the softball team. She is kind to all and is a great role model."

Mrs. Sukley thinks that Colclasure is "one of the most mature high schoolers I have ever coached. She always wants to be better than her best and her work ethic is second to none. She continues to strive for excellence whether that be in the classroom or on the softball field. RCHS is lucky to have her!!"

Mrs. Arseneau feels that

Colclasure is "an amazing student! She is kind, polite, hard-working, dedicated and thoughtful. Grace is a student who can lead a group by example. She does not need to be heard in order to demonstrate to her peers. I am so excited to see all that she will accomplish in her future, and I am so happy to have been a part of her journey here at RCHS! Go Blue!"

Mrs. Leveille is glad she "had Grace in class when she was a freshman in our tiny honors biology class. Grace was flexible and very easy to get along with. She worked well with everybody in our class. She put her best efforts into all of her classwork even though she was busy with lots of extracurricular activities. I admire her self-esteem and confidence. She was a great helper in the classroom and always polite."

Mrs. Johnston says that Colclasure "is a quiet girl who lets her actions speak volumes. She is a great role model for younger students."

Mr. Wolf knows that Colclasure "is a fan of the University of Michigan. Despite this horrific character flaw, she is a kind, caring young lady who lives up to her name. She has taken on every challenge before her with a quiet determination and

tenacity that would make any parent proud."

Ms. Askew agrees that Colclasure "is wonderful! She is so hardworking, dedicated, and kind-hearted. Grace has an amazing work-ethic and is always more than willing to seek extra help to ensure she's learning. She is also the first one to help when someone else is struggling. She is such a joy to have in class and sets a great example for everyone around her!"

Mrs. Patton appreciates that Colclasure "is a hard worker in everything she does!"

Mrs. Benoit believes that Colclasure "takes challenging classes to prepare for her future — focusing on the learning instead of the grade. She has a strong work ethic, loves sports, has a great attitude, is respectful, and always has a smile on her face."

Mr. Newsom says that Colclasure "is very sweet and very kind. Simply put, she is just a genuinely good person."

Mr. Stafford feels that Colclasure is "a great kid. She is an extremely hard worker who is determined to be her best...always. And I love her passion for Ohio State football!"

Mr. Carrescia thinks that Colclasure "is a hard worker who is always trying to help others. She always tries her



Courtesy Photo

GRACE COLCLASURE WAS chosen for the month of February for the Senior Spotlight at Reed-Custer High School. Colclasure displays the positive values the school and district encourages, works hard in and out of school and is an active member in the school community.

best in everything she does. Grace will be successful in anything she does since she is motivated to succeed and has a great personality."

As a final thought, Colclasure's advice to younger students is, "It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed. In this life, we get nothing except by effort. The secret of success is having

a purpose."

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, we would like to congratulate Grace Colclasure as our February winner of the Senior Spotlight.

About Senior Spotlight

During the 2019-20 school year, Reed-Custer High School will recognize one outstanding senior each month in a program called "The Senior

Spotlight."

RCHS wants to recognize and honor seniors who represent the school and district in a positive light, who exemplify the values encouraged by the district, who work hard in and out of school, who are involved in various activities, and who are productive members of the school community.



Courtesy Photo

STUDENTS AT REED-CUSTER Middle School faced off in the 40th annual Spelling Bee last week. Back row, left to right: Erin Corcoran, Skye Poppenger, Julia Eaker, Scott Coronelli, Reese Damaschke, Lilly Basgen, and Tristan Randall. Front, left to right: Lily Blish, Taryn Catoire, Chris Foley and Ethan Smith.

RCMS students compete in spelling bee

On Feb. 6, 2020, Reed-Custer Middle School held its 40th annual Spelling Bee. Eleven students participated in the Bee. Congratulations to Lily Blish on winning first place, Julia Eaker who received second place, and Lillian Basgen who placed third.

These students will go on to represent RCMS in the Illinois Valley Conference Bee at Minooka Junior High on March 11. Lily Blish will also compete in the Will County Bee on March 10, 2020!



Courtesy Photo

THE WINNERS OF the RCMS spelling bee are (left to right): Lily Blish (first place), Julia Eaker (second place) and Lilly Basgen (third place).

What's for lunch at Reed-Custer schools?

**Feb. 17 to 21
R-C High school
and Middle School**

Monday- No school, Presidents' Day

Tuesday- Chicken nuggets with rice, pizza

Wednesday- Spaghetti with garlic bread, pork patty on bun

Thursday- Chicken stir fry w/ eggroll, turkey fritter on bun

Friday - Wild Mike's Pizza

Assorted sandwiches and salad bar available daily.

R-C Elementary School

Monday- No school, Presidents' Day

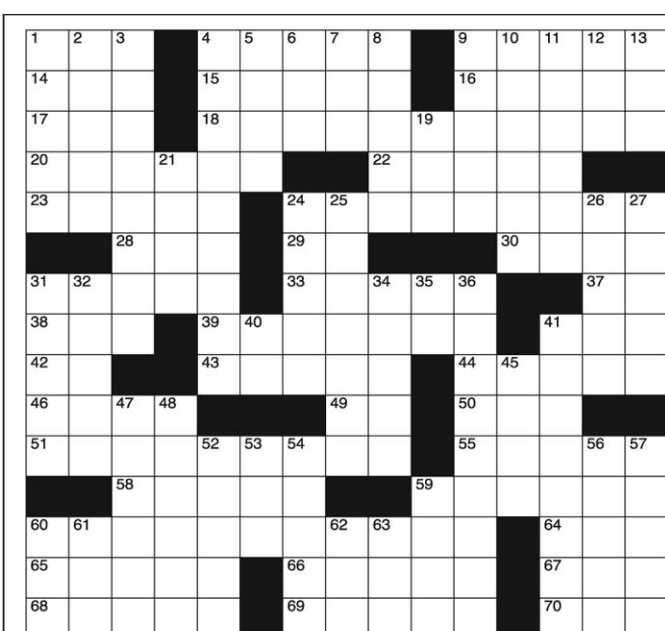
Tuesday- Walking taco, Spanish rice, corn, fruit, milk

Wednesday- Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, milk

Thursday- Grilled cheese, tomato soup, cottage cheese, fruit, milk

Friday- Pizza, corn, pudding, fruit, milk

Salad bar for third through fifth grades available daily.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Small deer
4. Khoikhoi peoples
9. South African statesman
14. Keyboard key
15. Remove
16. A conspicuous constellation
17. Data executive
18. Retired NASCAR driver
20. Tightens
22. A picture of the Virgin Mary
23. "The Mission" actor Jeremy
24. Confidently
28. More (Spanish)
29. Sports highlight show (abbr.)
30. Hand out cards
31. Distinctive Asian antelope
33. Arabic greeting
37. Of I
38. Hip hop trio
39. Meat roll
41. One's mother (Brit.)
42. _-GYN
43. Belgian city
44. Plucks
46. Leak slowly
49. Denotes a particular region
50. General's assistant (abbr.)
51. Divides
55. Kid
58. Inland Empire Expanded Learning Symposium
59. Engaged in conflict
60. Former CBS sportscaster
64. Characterized by unity
65. Working-class
66. Corners
67. _ de plume
68. Influential French artist
69. "Very" in musical terms
70. Financial account

CLUES DOWN

1. Long, flat abdominal muscles
2. Small Eurasian willow
3. Justified in terms of profitability
4. Required
5. River that starts in Turkey
6. Disfigure
7. A way of communicating (abbr.)
8. Leaks slowly
9. Shady place under trees
10. Made a speech
11. Long, angry speech
12. Mortar trough
13. Autonomic nervous system
19. Southern India island
21. Grab quickly
24. Ancient Mesopotamian city
25. With three uneven sides
26. Football visionary Hunt
27. Primordial matters
31. Facing towards the flow of a glacier
32. "A Delicate Balance" writer
34. Emits coherent radiation
35. Commercial
36. Groups of foot bones
40. Out of print
41. Partner to cheese
45. German river
47. Concluding speech
48. Spanish dish
52. Prominent California cape
53. Any high mountain
54. Ethiopian lake
56. Mr.
57. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
59. Large, flightless bird
60. Oil industry term (abbr.)
61. Something one can draw
62. Officers in charge
63. Greek island



Students recognized at annual 4.0 Breakfast

Courtesy Photo

THIRTEEN EIGHTH GRADE students were recognized for their high academic achievement at Reed-Custer Middle School's sixth annual 4.0 Breakfast for students and their parents on Friday, Feb. 7. Students were recognized for earning a minimum of a 4.0 GPA through 2.5 years, or 10 quarters of middle school course work. Pictured in the back row: Micah Crisp, Cameron Smith, Zach Randall, Rex Pfeifer, Mackenzie Welker, Hannah Budick, and Tommy Miller. Front row: Lily Heuer-Caton, Olivia Williams, Caroline Kulach, Jillian Doran, Elyse Lindsay and Maria Bragg.

Register for youth soccer

Online registration is underway for boys and girls wanting to play in the 2020 Spring season of the Reed-Custer Soccer Club (RCSC).

Registration is open for players ages 4 (as of April 1) and older from all surrounding communities. Birth certificates will be required for all new players.

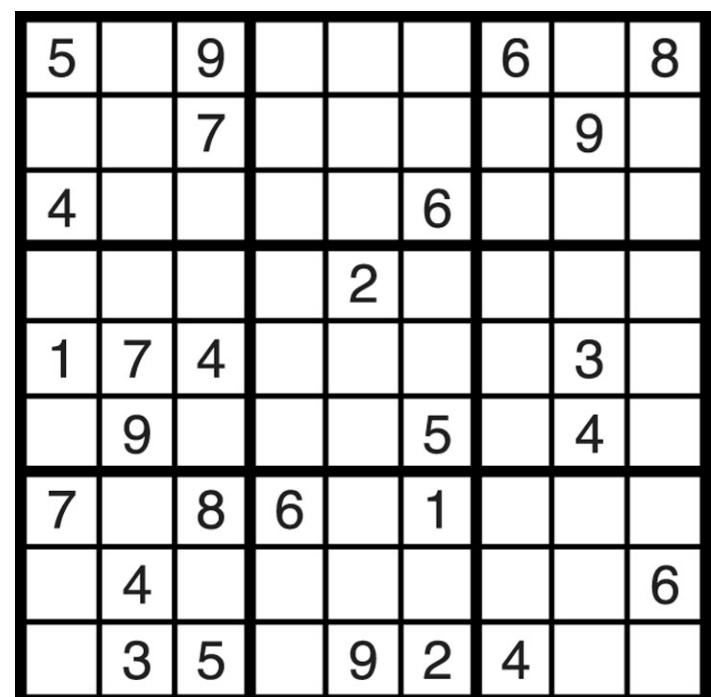
The player fee is \$120 for first child, \$110 second child

and \$100 for third and additional in the household.

Practices will start in March, games will be played April through the end of June.

In person registration will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St.

Visit www.rcscsoccer.com for more information.



SUDOKU - Here's how it works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

COMET SPORTS



Photos by Shawn Long

LADY COMET SENIOR Meghan Faletti takes a wide open three during Tuesday's win over Momence.



Photos by Shawn Long

COAST-TO-COAST—Lady Comet freshman Brooklyn Harding swiped the basketball from Momence and raced it down the court for two points during their 63-13 win over the Redskins.



Photos by Shawn Long

POST POINTS—Reed-Custer senior Kylie Balgemann drives it up the lane and into the paint, kissing it off the glass for two during Tuesday's senior night game against Momence.

Lady Comets with their 12th straight

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Reed-Custer girls basketball team won their 12th straight game, topping Manteno, 49-14 on Thursday.

And Reed-Custer had Coal City in the regional semifinal game last night (Tuesday). If they won, they will play the championship game at 7 p.m. on Thursday at home.

Reed-Custer 63 Momence 13

The Lady Comets shut the lights out on Momence Wednesday during senior night.

Five seniors were honored before the game and they responded by impressing the home crowd with an easy victory.

Reed-Custer (22-9, 12-2) delivered the blow with a huge, 35-4 run throughout the first half that gave them a commanding half-time cushion.

The Lady Comets weren't done yet as they put up another impressive, 20-2 run in the third and outscored Momence by one in the final quarter to close it out.

"It was a chance to get all our girls on the floor," said Reed-Custer coach Nick Klein. "We were a little sloppy at times but that happens when the pace is slower. We were trying to use our intensity to amp it up but it's tough once you get a big lead like that to get the girls to play tough throughout the whole game so that was a bit of a challenge."

The Lady Comet defense was tough to say the least as they attacked Momence straight out of the gate with a lot of pressure, recording 27 turnovers. They also capitalized very well, scoring 27 points off of their mistakes.

The Comets added 20 steals with a block. Meghan Faletti led them with four steals while both Kaily Collins and Jaden Christian nabbed three.



Photos by Shawn Long

NABBED FOR POINTS—Reed-Custer senior Jaden Christian stole the ball away and returns it for an easy two points during their senior night game against Momence.

Kayla Collins, Abrey Ricketts, Maddie McPherson and Brooklyn Harding had two steals. Daniele Cherry and Kelsi Dillon added

another steal. Cherry put up the lone block.

Reed-Custer hit on 39 percent of their shots from the floor, made eight threes and drilled 5-of-8 from the line.

"I honestly thought we were just trying to have fun," said Comet senior Kylie Balgemann. "And we all just seemed to mesh together and we were just playing our game."

Christian led them on the offensive side of the ball with 10 points, connecting on one of their threes. She added six rebounds with two assists.

Kayla Collins hit three of their threes with nine points. She also pulled down three boards with two assists.

"She has really done a nice job as this year has gone on," commented Klein. "She really became a good three-point shooter for us. I always knew she was going to be tenacious, defensively. She's quick as heck and she brings a lot of energy to the floor."

Ricketts and Dillon added eight points as both connected on two of their threes.

Ricketts collected three boards with three assists, while Dillon had three rebounds with two assists.

Kylie Balgemann chipped in seven points, four rebounds and an assist.

Kaily Collins had six points with two boards and an assist.

Maddie McPherson added five points, hitting on her lone free-throw shot. She also pulled down six boards with an assist.

Faletti added four points with two boards while Madi Jo Bradley, Lexi Mixner and Harding also chipped in a bucket.

Bradley collected four boards while Cherry had two and Mixner added another. Cherry chipped in two of the team's 20 assists. The Comets added 36 rebounds.

Comets can't catch conference-leading Panthers, three-game skid

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Gage Stamm had a big night with 18 points but the Reed-Custer basketball team couldn't come up with an answer for stopping conference-leading Manteno in a 56-41 loss on Friday.

The Panthers got off to a hot start with 37 first half points to go up 37-18 at the half.

The Comets outscored them, 16-11 in the third to make it a bit closer but were still behind, 53-34 with just one quarter to go.

And the Comet defense was just unable to stop Manteno, who outscored the Comets to shut the door.

The Comets hit on 38 percent of their shots from the floor, added four threes and knocked down 7-of-12 at the line.

Stamm led them with 18 points, hitting three of their four threes. He added seven boards and three assists.

Jacob Heisner was 6-of-10 from the floor with 13 points as they didn't have an answer for him. He also had seven rebounds with an assist.

Blake Foster added six points, draining their other three. He sank 3-of-4 from the line, pulled down four boards and added an assist.

Dylan Garrelts and Hayden Wollenzien added only able to muster 13 layups. Garrelts collected two boards while Wollenzien had a



Photos by Shawn Long

OUTSIDE HELP—Reed-Custer senior Ethan Martis shoots a three-pointer during Tuesday's Illinois Central Eight conference game against Lisle.

rebound and an assist.

Joel Hunt pulled down two boards while Jake McPherson and Tyler Warner collected a rebound each.

Ethan Martis added three assists.

The Comet defense was only able to muster 13 turnovers with just seven points off of those mistakes.

They compiled nine steals and a block.

Stamm led them with five steals while Foster had two.

Hunt and Martis swiped a steal, apiece.

The Comets will travel to Wilmington on Friday.

The last time these two squads played, Reed-Custer won 66-62.

Reed-Custer 32 El Paso-Gridley 60

The Comets faced a very good El Paso-Gridley team on Wednesday.

El Paso jumped in front with an 11-4 run in the first but the Comets came back with 17 second quarter points to narrow the deficit to nine, 30-21.

But El Paso just continued where they left off in the third as they finished off Reed-Custer with a 30-11 run the rest of the way.

The Comets hit 31 percent of their shots from the floor, connected on six threes and had no free-throw opportunities.

Foster and Stamm had eight points each to lead them. Both guys knocked down two three-pointers.

Heisner added six points with five boards and one assist.

Fitzpatrick and Williams had three points. Both guys connected on a trey, apiece.

Hunt and Wollenzien added two points. Hunt grabbed three boards with three assists. Wollenzien added a board and an assist.

Garrelts had two rebouds while Clement had another one.

Padera and Warner added assists.

The defense forced 19 turnovers and scored 16 points off of mistakes. They had eight steals with three blocks.

Hunt led them with three

while Martis swiped two. Foster, Stamm and McPherson added another steal. Foster had two blocks while Heisner swatted down the other.

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Bowen Sectional will include 52 state-ranked matmen

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Coalers, Comets and Wildcats venture on the Chicago (Bowen) sectional Friday hoping to place among the top four finishers to advance to state.

Coal City will send 12 wrestlers to sectional, Reed-Custer advances 10 while Wilmington qualified five.

This sectional will be one of the toughest in the state, with 52 state-ranked wrestlers among the 14 weight classes. The top four placers at sectional advance to state which will be Feb. 20-22 in Champaign.

106

Coal City's Evan Rivera (34-5) earned a bye in the first round and will face the winner of state honorable mention, Brady Collins from Lisle (22-10) vs. Chicago (Phoenix's) Vincent Moreno (11-2). The winner will get Rivera. Rivera has pinned Collins before so if it is Collins, Rivera will have the edge.

If Rivera advances he'll eventually run into four other state ranked contenders including Josiah Jackson from Bowen (20-1) or Walther's Josh Peterson (30-6), Chicago Hope Academy's Alex Amira, the eighth ranked wrestler and Saul Trejo Jr. of Immaculate Conception, the top ranked wrestler.

113

Reed-Custer's Ryan Tribble gets a bye after being the champion in a light regional. He'll face the winner of Guerin's state honorable mention, Tyler Lindahl (19-7) vs. Chicago Phillips Jaywon Amor (3-2).

The bracket also includes I C Catholic's state honorable mention, Michael DiBenedetto Jr. (20-6), Coal City's regional runner-up Mataeo Blessing (30-15) and Devion Sanderson (10-7). Tribble has two wins over Blessing so he'll have the edge if those two end up meeting again. Wilmington's Justin Lynn will hope for some luck against Depaul's Alex Johnson (18-9). If he does get past him, he'll have Monica Griffen from Bowen (15-4).

120

Reed-Custer's Bobby Mann will avoid Peotone's state ranked Pauley Keane for starters but he'll be thrown right into the ring against North Chicago's Darien Banks (10-11). If Mann comes out of that match, he'll battle Bogan's Jovon Coleman (16-5).

Bishop McNamara's fourth ranked Blaine Christie (35-7) will most likely be the one to greet Mann in the semifinals if he is to make it past Coleman.

The bottom of the bracket houses sixth ranked wrestler, Nicholas Renteria (31-6) from IC Catholic and Keane (38-1).

126

Zach Finch of Coal City (32-10) will gladly accept a bye before having to wrestle. He awaits the winner of Depaul's Mikel McClarin (19-9) and Bowen's DeAnthony Crawl (13-5). Lisle's regional champion, Norbert Guzik, awaits the winner of Phillips Heaven Morris (14-5) vs. Phoenix's Rafael Soto (25-10). The winner of that bout will most likely face Finch in the semifinal.

Bishop McNamara's second ranked Caleb MaGruder (36-6), Peotone's Marco Spinnazola (24-8) and Nazareth's Jackson Fowler (11-6) are sitting at the top of the bracket. Finch knocked off MaGruder 9-8 to claim the regional title so he will have the momentum.



Photos by Shawn Long

MAKE QUICK WORK—Reed-Custer senior Bobby Mann puts Wilmington's Aubin Shields in a headlock before ultimately winning in the first round at 120 pounds with a 37-second pin on Friday.

132

Lane Kutemeier from Coal City (24-19) will get down to work after his first round bye as he awaits the winner of Chicago Hope's Ethan Chaheine (22-18) and Ida Crown's Avi Zeller (1-9). Kutemeier will most likely come out of his quarterfinal match unscathed to face Bogan's Nathan Julious (10-4).

Peotone's Kevin Hogan (26-15) and Reed-Custer's Jonathon Romanetto (9-19) wait at the bottom of the bracket. Kutemeier has beaten both multiple times if either one advances. The Coalers senior is the only honorable mention wrestler in this lightly contested weight class. Romanetto will start with Bowen's Ron Tyler (13-5).

138

Coal City's Connor Huston will have the first round bye before facing the winner of Bogan's Lanell Forrow (16-10) vs. Phoenix's Tony Vega (11-7). Westmont's state honorable mention wrestler, Christian Zubiate (22-8) awaits Huston when he makes it to the semifinal match.

Regional runner-up, Reed-Custer's Adell Gamboa (35-4) may get another crack at Huston. He might have that chance in the finals. Bishop McNamara's Luke Christie (38-11) is another tough wrestler who waits in the middle of this bracket. Gamboa will start with North Chicago's Jose Carrillo (8-15). If he wins, he'll battle Phillips Trevon McClenneon (10-6).

145

Wilmington junior Jack Narine (24-8) has advanced to state two times before. He awaits the winner of Bowen's Trevon Smith (11-6) vs. Ida Crown's Meir Cohen (7-9). And Nazareth's

sixth ranked Alex Carillo awaits him in the semifinals if he is to get past his quarterfinal match.

Regional runner-up Gabe Ludes (25-19) will be looking to get revenge on Narine who owns the series lead between the two after beating him in the regional championship. Ludes will have to battle Chicago Hope's Franky Saez. If he wins, Gino Pascente from Lisle awaits.

Pascente (24-10), Chicago Hope's Saez (26-14) and Reed-Custer's regional third place winner Noah Windsor (11-11) are all contenders.

152

Reed-Custer's Jeremiah Kirby (18-18) will have a first round matchup with Marshall's Deshaan Alston (22-2). If Kirby gets past Alston, Chicago Leo's honorable mention, Jordan Anderson (24-8) will await Kirby.

Chicago Hope Academy's Oliver Willis is the man to beat. He waits in the middle of that bracket. Manteno's regional champion, Wyatt Young (27-8), honorable mention Jack Kelly from Lisle (24-8), ninth ranked Curtis Green from Westmont (34-3), honorable mention from Phoenix Jaylene Gore (24-6) and Wilmington's Marcus Morris (20-22) sit at the bottom half of this very highly contested class.

160

Coal City's David Papach (25-5) earns a much deserved bye after winning the regional. He awaits the winner of Chicago Hope's Kijun Willis (26-8) vs. Lisle's Brandon Easterling (3-1). Leadership's Nicholas Wilkerson (24-2) awaits the winner of North Chicago's Jesus Carrillo (14-8) and Samuel Jones (13-3).

Papach is the man to beat in this bracket, ranked third in the state but IC Catholic's seventh ranked wrestler, Brandon Navarro awaits

Papach at the bottom. Regional runner-up, Wilmington's Jake Romano (17-14) hopes to get another crack at Papach after falling in a pin. Romano will have his shot at Leo's Amir Pumphrey (11-14). If he does win, Navarro will be waiting.

170

Coal City's 13th ranked Ashton Harvey heads the class and will have a bye. He awaits the winner of Guerin's Juviny Noriega (16-12) and Marine's Erik Santiago (9-5).

Regional runner-up, Peotone's Sam Biedron (32-6), and Bishop McNamara's 14th ranked Donavon Golden (32-9) wait in the bottom of the bracket. Honorable mentions Jalen Erving (18-2) from Phillips and Ivan Hernandez from CMA-Bronzville (24-3) wait in this bracket as well.

182

Reed-Custer's 10th ranked Noah Curl (35-10) will await the winner of Westmont's Jaylin Lacy (28-9) and Nathan Perez from NAcademy (15-3). King's Semmion Brandon (6-1) is on the top of the bracket, awaiting the winner of Lisle's Joe Raineri (14-14) and Kevin Alvarado (7-6).

Nazareth's honorable mention Robert Gurley (29-2) sits at the bottom half of the bracket as one of the toughest wrestlers Curl will have to get past. Coal City's runner-up Dane Dearth (24-13) and Walther Christian's honorable mention, Aaron Reiger (35-2) join Gurley near the bottom of the bracket. Curl has beaten Dearth three times now so it's pretty clear, he'll have the edge if the two do match up. Dearth starts at the bottom with Leadership's Dylan Johnson (15-5). If he wins, Gurley will be right there waiting.

195

Coal City's second ranked Daniel Jezik (43-1) is favored to win this bracket. He'll await the winner of Leo's Martin Pumphrey (17-5) and Nazareth's Leo Rodriguez (11-15). After that, IC Catholic's honorable mention, Joseph Scott III (29-10) will most likely be Jezik's opponent in the semifinals.

Reed-Custer freshman Kody Marschner (31-7), Peotone's Logan Hartnett and Leadership's undefeated Taiwan Glover (16-0) sit at the top of the bracket awaiting their shot at Jezik.

Marschner will start his day in the top half of the bracket battling Lisle's Sean Zurek (6-3).

220

Gage Leake from Coal City (31-2) will get a first round bye before facing either Lisle's Luke Neylon (16-17) or Bowen's Christian Humphrey from Bowen (15-3).

The only other challenge for Leake will be Reed-Custer's Bobby Moorman (23-12), who he might see in the finals if the two make it that far. IC Catholic's Jadon Mims (35-11) and Wilmington's Nick Gornik (24-13) are other wrestlers in the bracket. Both could meet up in the semifinals if they play their cards right.

285

Coal City's Logan Miller (27-12) will get a bye in the first round awaiting the winner of Depaul's Willy Lopez (16-8) and Bogan's Lamarion Willy (7-6) but he might have to see Lisle's Michael Walker (30-0) in the semifinals. Walker outlasted Miller with a pin in both matches so the likelihood of a Miller win are slim.

Comet matmen crown two at Wilmington Regional

WB Y SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Reed-Custer wrestling team captured second place in the Wilmington Regional over the weekend with 163 team points. The top team was the Coalers who had 253.5 points. Peotone (112) and Wilmington (103.5) followed them in the team standings.

The Comets crowned Ryan Tribble (113) and Noah Curl (182) regional champions. Placing second were Adell Gamboa (138), Jeremiah Kirby (152), Kody Marschner (195) and Bobby Moorman (220). Placing third to also advance to the Chicago (Bowen) Section Saturday were Bobby Mann (120), Jonathon Romanetto (132), Noah Windsor (145) and Derrik Kuder (106).

Tribble (40-5) showed why he



Photos by Shawn Long

REED-CUSTER SOPHOMORE Noah Windsor gets his hand raised after pinning Bishop McNamara's Jacob Pelletier in the first round at 145 pounds during Friday's action.

was the top seed, needing just 20 seconds to pin Wilmington's Justin Lynn in the first round.

That set him up in the finals for a rematch with Coal City's Mataeo Blessing, who he destroyed last time in a 17-0 technical fall.

This time around Blessing made it closer but Tribble still came up victorious 7-3 to claim the crown.

Curl (37-10) powered through Wilmington's James Shewmake, pinning him in just over a minute to advance to the championship bout against Coal City's Dane Dearth, who Curl had beaten twice before in decisions.

This time around it was a different match but the same result as Curl wore down Dearth 7-1 to claim the title.

Gamboa (36-5) came in as the second seed with just Coal City's Connor Huston above him and he knew if he had any shot at the title, he had to beat him.

The Reed-Custer junior began his day with a tough match with Bishop McNamara's talented freshman, Luke Christie and Gamboa showed his experience, grinding out a 1-0 decision on an escape.

That put him in the finals with Huston and the Coal City junior was ready for Gamboa, winning by 12-3 major decision.

Kirby (19-19) went 1-1 in the class to earn second. For starters, he wore down Coal City freshman, Joey Breneman in a 7-1 decision.

But he hit a road block in the finals as Manteno's Wyatt Young upended the Reed-Custer junior 12-3.

Marschner (32-8) wore down Peotone's Logan Hartnett in a 3-0 decision in the quarterfinal round to advance to the finals for the opportunity to rematch Coal City's state champion Daniel Jezik, who the young Comet fell to in a pin the last time around.

But the Reed-Custer freshman was able to make this match closer as he hung around with the powerful Jezik for three whole rounds, falling in a 12-8 decision.

Moorman (25-13) pinned Peotone's Alex Cardenas in the first round. He followed that with a 4-2 decision over Wilmington's eventual third place winner Nick Gornik.

That put Moorman in the finals with Coal City's powerful Gage Leake, who outlasted Moorman pinning him

at 4:20.

Mann (40-10) had a full bracket featuring the state ranked Pauley Keane so this was not going to be easy by any means for the Reed-Custer senior.

He needed only 37 seconds to pin Wilmington's Aubin Shields to advance to the quarterfinals. Mann met up with the eventual champion, Peotone's Keane, who powered through him in an 11-2 major decision.

That bumped Bobby to wrestlebacks where he ended up shutting out Coal City's Derek Carlson in a 7-0 decision to bring himself that much closer to sectional qualification.

And he got that sectional berth with an 11-2 major decision over Manteno's Trenton Ziman to claim third place.

Romanetto (12-20) pinned Bishop McNamara's Elijah Pelletier to advance to the quarterfinal round with an opponent who had beaten him before, Coal City's Lane Kutemeier.

And Kutemeier prevailed as Romanetto dragged the match out but the Coal City senior came up with the pin about a minute into the second round to send the Reed-Custer senior into wrestlebacks.

Romanetto came back to win two straight matches to claim third. He started wrestlebacks with a 45-second pin of Harlan's King Ngotis.

Romanetto met up with Pelletier in the finals and pinned him in the third period.

Windsor (13-12) pinned Bishop McNamara's Jacob Pelletier in the first round to get things started.

That set him up with a quarterfinal matchup against Wilmington's top seed Jack Narine, who outlasted the Reed-Custer sophomore in a pin at the 4:13 mark.

Windsor was sent to wrestlebacks where he pinned Manteno's Malachi Baker to line up a third place match with Corliss junior Heaven Griggs. Windsor outlasted Griggs pinning him in 3:36 to secure third place and a trip to sectionals.

Kuder (9-24) was guaranteed a spot at sectionals with only three wrestlers in the lightweight bracket. He was pinned Bishop McNamara freshman, Jack Jeck in 1:36.

Kuder earned a bye in the third place match to claim third.

Landon Markle (126) and Colton



Photos by Shawn Long

REED-CUSTER FRESHMAN Landon Markle upends Manteno's Trenton Ziman during Saturday's regional bout at 126 pounds.

Berg (160) came up just short of placement.

Markle (22-9) wore down Wilmington's Jake Prescott in the first round, earning a 6-2 decision. That set him up with the eventual champion, Coal City's Zach Finch, who pinned Markle in 1:15 to send the young Comet to wrestlebacks.

The freshman pinned Manteno's Nathan Bajic to advance to the third place match with Peotone's Marco Spinnazola, who prevailed, delivering a pin with 12-seconds left in the match.

Berg (18-18) had a tough opponent to start his day as the eventual runner-up, Wilmington's Jake Romano outlasted him, securing a pin with 10-seconds left in the match.

The Reed-Custer junior fell to

wrestlebacks, where Bishop McNamara's Mason Scivally was ready as he pinned Berg in 1:18 to end his day.

Coal City will send 12 to sectionals including Evan Rivera (106), Zach Finch (126), Lane Kutemeier (132), Connor Huston (138), David Papach (160), Ashton Harvey (170), Daniel Jezik (195), Gage Leake (220) and Logan Miller (285) were their champions. They also had Blessing (113), Gabe Ludes (145) and Dane Dearth (182) place second.

Wilmington qualifiers include Narine (145), their lone champion. Romano (160) earned second while Justin Lynn (113), Marcus Morris (152) and Nick Gornik (220) all placed third.

**Blended Mushroom Nachos**

Recipe courtesy of Chef Evan Robinson
Servings: 4

- 5 shiitake mushrooms
- 5 white button mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic
- 1/4 cup chopped onions
- 1 tablespoon Mexican meat seasoning
- 10 ounces ground turkey

Cheese Sauce:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/4 cups Mexican blend shredded cheese

tortilla chips
salsa (optional)
guacamole (optional)
kale (optional)
romaine lettuce (optional)
tomatoes (optional)
cilantro (optional)
diced red bell peppers (optional)

In blender or food processor, pulse mushrooms, garlic and onions. In large saute pan over medium-high heat, mix finely chopped mushroom mixture with seasoning and cook 2 minutes. Add ground turkey, breaking into fine crumbles until completely cooked through. Set aside.

To make cheese sauce: In medium saucepan over medium-high heat, melt butter then add flour and whisk constantly, breaking up lumps. Stir 2 minutes then add milk and continuously whisk. Stir in cheese and mix with wooden spoon.

Assemble chips on serving platter; spread mushroom-meat crumble on top. Add cheese sauce and toppings like salsa, guacamole, kale, romaine lettuce, tomatoes, cilantro and diced red bell peppers, if desired.

Family Favorites with a ***BLENDED TWIST***

FAMILY FEATURES

If you are raising picky eaters, there's a cooking technique that makes some of kids' favorite foods – like burgers and nachos – more nutritious while still tasting delicious.

Mushrooms, with their inherent umami flavor, are a perfect addition to blend into meals to increase both flavor and nutrition. Chefs kicked off the trend by blending finely chopped mushrooms with meat for burgers that are flavorful, healthy and Earth-friendly, and now blended burgers are showing up in school cafeterias, supermarket meat counters and fast food drive-thrus.

"Blended entrees like burgers are a win-win-win for families wanting to eat better," said Dayle Hayes, registered dietitian and founder of School Meals

That Rock. "Mushrooms add delicious umami flavor, reduce fat and sodium in many popular dishes and kids love them."

Another fan of blending is MasterChef Junior finalist and teen chef, Evan Robinson. Robinson likes to blend with multiple varieties of mushrooms in family favorites such as tacos, burgers and stuffed peppers.

"I find that blending mushrooms into some of my go-to recipes helps increase the flavor while reducing the amount of fat and sodium," Robinson said.

If you're ready to start blending at home, it can be a simple process for introducing foods to even the pickiest of eaters. Recruit kids as kitchen helpers to tackle tasks such as wiping mushrooms clean and using their hands to blend the meat and mushrooms together.

For more family-friendly, blended recipes, visit Blenditarian.com.

A Cooking Technique You Need to Know: BLENDING

Blending involves mixing finely chopped mushrooms with ground meat for more nutritious, but still delicious, burgers, tacos, meatballs and more.

1. Chop your favorite mushroom variety to match the consistency of the ground meat. This can be done with a knife or food processor.
2. Blend the chopped mushrooms with the ground meat.
3. Cook with Mexican seasoning mix for tacos, marinara sauce for meaty ragu or salt and pepper for juicy, flavorful burgers.



CHOP



BLEND



COOK

**Pizza Burgers**

Recipe courtesy of Chef Evan Robinson
Servings: 4

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium portabella mushroom, finely chopped
- 2-3 white button mushrooms, finely chopped
- 1/2 small onion
- 1/2 clove garlic
- 2 teaspoons Italian-style herb seasoning
- 8 ounces ground beef
- salt, to taste
- pizza or marinara sauce

**shredded mozzarella cheese
hamburger buns**

In large pan over medium-high heat, saute extra-virgin olive oil, mushrooms, onions, garlic and herb seasoning approximately 5 minutes until vegetables are soft. Set aside and let cool to room temperature.

Blend mushroom mixture with ground beef. Season with salt, to taste.

Form into four patties and cook in same pan as mushroom mixture to preferred doneness. Top with dollop pizza sauce and mozzarella cheese. Cover pan to melt cheese then carefully transfer to buns.

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Wee Winter Carnival to be held on Feb. 21

Godley Park District is holding its a "Wee Winter Carnival" for all youngsters ages 2 to 5 on Friday, Feb. 21 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

There will be inflatables, carnival games, prizes, popcorn and much more.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The cost is \$5 per child through Feb. 20 or \$7 per child at the door.

Godley Park District is located at 500 S. Kankakee St. in Godley.



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- FEBRUARY EVENTS -

EVERY SATURDAY (Members Only) RACES*	EVERY SUNDAY QUEEN OF HEARTS (Members Only) 4 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 8 5-8 p.m. Steak Fry <i>Live Music 7-11 p.m. - "HARD TIMES"</i>	
Mon., Feb. 10 7 p.m. LOOM Meeting	
Wed., Feb. 12 7 p.m. WOTM Meeting	
Fri., Feb. 14 7-10:30 p.m. VALENTINE PARTY <i>Live Music - "JIB BROTHERS"</i>	
Sun., Feb. 16 9-11 a.m. Moose Riders Breakfast & Meeting	
Fri., Feb. 21 5-8 p.m. Fish Fry	
Mon., Feb. 24 7 p.m. LOOM Meeting	
Wed., Feb. 26 7 p.m. WOTM Meeting	

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Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit www.freepressnewspapers.com

Thursday, Feb. 13

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, only open each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, for questions call 815-216-3288
- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Mobile Workshop Center, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- 5 to 7 p.m., Will County electronics recycling, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.

Saturday, Feb. 15

- 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington, each Saturday
- Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Historical Society Museum open, 111 N. Center St., Braidwood, open each Saturday

Monday, Feb. 17

- 5 p.m., St. Vincent's Table, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, at this location during January and February
- 7 p.m., Ladies Auxiliary VFW meeting, Wilmington Moose Lodge, 32050 W. River Road, Wilmington, third Monday of each month
- 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington, each Monday

Tuesday, Feb. 18

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, only open each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Noon, Wilmington Rotary Club, Hayden's Crossing, 107 N. Water St., Wilmington, each Tuesday
- 12:15 to 3:30 p.m., Bridge Buddies, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Tuesday
- 5:15 p.m., TOPS IL 2264, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, each Tuesday
- 5:15 p.m., Wilmington VFW Bingo, Wilmington VFW Post 5422, 557 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington, doors open at 5:15 p.m. and the first game is at 6:30 p.m.
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Finance Administration & Land Acquisition Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., third Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., Wilmington
- 7 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Immaculate Conception Church Father White Hall, 110 S. School St., Braidwood, each Tuesday

Wednesday, Feb. 19

- 7:45 a.m., TOPS IL 1024, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington, each Wednesday
- 1 p.m., Wilmington Garden Club, Wilmington Island Park

Beat cabin fever with Forest Preserve programs

Looking for a way to beat cabin fever this winter? The Forest Preserve District of Will County is offering two programs that will get you out of the house and learning about important nature topics. Here are the two multi-installment programs:

Eco-warriors invited to sustainability series

If you've been wanting to do more to help planet Earth, or you've been trying your best but need more inspiration going forward, consider signing up for the Forest Preserve District of Will County's three-part "Leap into Sustainability" program. This new, free program is designed to help beginners as well as veteran sustainability fans, said Angela Rafac, an interpretive naturalist at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon, where the program will be held.

"The program is for anyone who wants to make a difference in their personal or professional lives," she said. "And it's also for people who want to get a refresher or find new ways to stay motivated."

The workshops will take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on three Saturdays, Feb. 15 and 29. Registration is required; call 815-722-9470 or go to www.reconnectwithnature.org.

Each session is an independent offering, and people can sign up for one, two or all three.

"We all need to be more conscious of how our daily actions affect nature," she said. "What we need to realize



COULD THERE BE a beekeeper in you? Area residents can sign-up for a beekeeping course offered by the Will County Forest Preserve. Residents with extra acreage are needed to offset bee population

is that our lifestyles impact the forest and the water. We need people to take action and want to take action. We need eco-warriors."

Help reverse the decline of honeybees with beekeeping course

If you want to find a new, fun hobby that can also reverse the decline of honeybees, enroll in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's "Bee a Beekeeper! Introduction to Successful Beekeeping" program. The six-week course runs from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 18 to March 24 at Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township.

Call 708-946-2216 to reserve a spot or sign up at www.reconnectwithnature.org. The program costs \$60 per person and it is for ages 18 or older.

The course will cover beekeeping's history and cost, the anatomy and life cycles of bees, hive equipment and management, and colony

District, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington, for more information call Carol at 815-476-2469.

- 5 p.m., Godley Public Water District meeting, Godley Public Water District Treatment Building, 440 S. Center St., Godley, third Wednesday of each month

- 6 p.m., Custer Township Fire Protection District Board meeting, Custer Fire Station, 21750 IL Hwy 113, third Wednesday of each month

- 6 to 7:40 p.m., Awana Club, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, each Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m., Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting, Reed-Custer Community Unit District 255, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood

- 7 p.m., Learn to Quilt, Wilmington Lions Club, 805 River St., each Wednesday

Thursday, Feb. 20

- 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Braidwood senior citizens' coffee, Fossil Ridge Public Library, 386 W. Kennedy Road, third Thursday of each month

- 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township Office, 120 N. Main St., Wilmington, meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month

Friday, Feb. 21

- 6 to 7:30 p.m., Wee Winter Carnival, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., for ages 2 to 5, all children must be accompanied by an adult, \$5 per child through Feb. 20 or \$7 at the door

Sunday, Feb. 23

- 7 a.m. to noon, Essex Lions Club breakfast, Essex Lions Community Hall, 217 Parls St., Essex, \$7 for adults and \$4 for ages 6 to 12, the museum at 218 Parls St. will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24

- 10 a.m., Braidwood Seniors (Bingo), Reed Township Hall, 440 N. Division St., Braidwood, bingo starts at 10:30 a.m., for those ages 65 and older, space is limited, call Mary Pittman at 630-450-4582

- 7 p.m., Village of Godley meeting, 150 S. Kankakee St., meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month

Tuesday, Feb. 25

- 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St., second and fourth Tuesday of each month

Wednesday, Feb. 26

- 6 p.m., Wilmington Area Historical Society membership meeting, Wilmington Historical Society building, 114 N. Main St., fourth Wednesday of each month

- 6 to 7 p.m., Caregiver Support Group, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., sponsored by Aperion Care Wilmington, last Wednesday of each month, call 815-476-2200

dynamics. People who have taken the course in the past have found it very educational and helpful, said Kate Caldwell, a Forest Preserve District interpretive naturalist who oversees the program, which will be taught by veteran beekeeper Mike Rusnak.

Honeybee numbers have been declining for years and that threatens the production of crops that depend on bees for pollination, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Honeybee populations are being challenged by man-made pressures including pesticides, monocultures and transportation stress.

"This class will make participants part of the solution," Caldwell said. "Becoming a sustainable beekeeper will help promote plant diversity by changing the factors that lead to bee decline."

Texas Hold'em to support Wildcat 9u softball team

The Wilmington Wildcats 9u Travel Softball team is holding a Texas Hold'em Tournament is set for Saturday, Feb. 22, at the VFW Post 5422, 557 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington.

The payout will be based on the number of players. There will be poker, raffle baskets, door prizes, food, beer and water.

The doors will open at 1 p.m. and the first hand will be dealt at 2 p.m. Player tickets are \$50, and non-player tickets \$20.

All proceeds will support the Wilmington Wildcats 9u Travel Softball team.

For tickets or information call Curt Hansen at 815-955-7188. Tickets will be available at the door.

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The sweet and sour Gin Sling

Some classic recipes go back so far that nobody is certain of origins, ingredients, or the proper way to serve the drink.

The Gin Sling is one such recipe, first appearing around 1790 with four defining characteristics: must include gin, must be sweetened, flavored and served cold. As a result there are literally hundreds of Gin Sling variants, today we will reconstruct this long forgotten and often overlooked classic.

The Gin Sling gets little to no love. The classic cocktail boom has chosen the Singapore Sling to represent the entire Sling family of cocktails and left the Gin Sling in the 19th century where it was wildly popular. Is the Singapore Sling an improved, and more exciting version of the Sling? Of course it is, but it is a different drink altogether utilizing cherry brandy, pineapple, triple sec, Benedictine, among other ingredients.

The consensus in the mixology community is that the original sling was very similar to a Gin Sour, using the classic combination of sugar and fresh lemon juice to build a "grown up lemonade", similar to a Tom Collins.

The Gin Sling is a key cocktail in the evolution of the "sour" platform. In the years leading up to prohibition sweet vermouth was dropped from the Sling-type drinks and replaced with different liqueurs depending on availability. In many cases nothing was added in place of the sweet vermouth, and the sour

platform was born using lemon, sugar, and spirit.

Sweet vermouth is the key to the classic Gin Sling. In addition to the full-bodied fruit flavor, the sweet vermouth also imparts a hint of pink hue on the classic Sling. The drink has plenty of balance, loads of complexity, and does not require any special ingredients. The "Sling" appears on bar menus all around the globe, but most of the time the Sling on a bar menu is a poorly made recreation of the iconic Singapore Sling. Use caution when ordering.

One thing for which the original Gin Sling does not receive enough credit is that the drink played a key role in the survival of gin. Remember, once upon a time gin was made in bathtubs in Detroit. The best quality gin came from Europe, but even the imported gin was inconsistent from batch to batch.

Simply put, gin could be a bit rough and in some cases, nearly undrinkable. The classic Gin Sling could take sub-par gin and make it palatable through the right combination of sweet and sour ingredients. Early mixologists had to be creative, sometimes "local" gin was all that they had to work with.

If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself. If you want to try this one on for size you will have to make it at home, unless your



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

local bar employs a die-hard gin fan with an appreciation for 200-year-old recipes.

By the way, this is a great first cocktail if you are new to home mixology. You will need a shaker, a strainer, and a tall glass. Let's get started.

Start with your favorite gin, no limits here. I like Beefeater, Ford's, and Tanqueray no. 10. Use your favorite and don't break the bank on gin for this one.

Choose a quality sweet vermouth; Noilly Prat is tough to beat for the price. Remember that vermouth will begin to spoil almost immediately upon opening, refrigerate after opening and discard after one week. Pick up the smaller 375 ml bottles if you find yourself pouring spoiled vermouth down the drain too often.

The simple syrup used in the classic Gin Sling is 1:1 sugar to water. Heat one cup of water in a sauce pan, stir in one cup of sugar and allow syrup to cool. It is always a good idea to have simple syrup in the refrigerator if you plan on mixing drinks at home. Do not buy the pre-made simple syrup, it is literally sugar and water. Save your money.

Fresh lemon juice is always best, and I wouldn't think any less of anyone that decides this cocktail needs an extra dash of Angostura Bitters.

Remember, the drink is

topped with club soda after straining into the glass. Soda never goes in the shaker, I am sure we all have a story from childhood that illustrates exactly why that is.

The Gin Sling may not be celebrated with the fanfare that the Singapore Sling receives, but if you're a fan of gin it is a classic that you absolutely must try.

The classic version of the Gin Sling is built in a shaker and served in a chilled Collins (tall) glass.

Combine in shaker:

1 1/2 oz. gin
1 oz. sweet vermouth
3/4 oz. fresh lemon juice
1 oz. simple syrup
1 dash Angostura

Aromatic Bitters

Shake with ice and strain into chilled Collins glass filled with ice

Top with club soda
Garnish with lemon wheel
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



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ILL to begin replacing pickup truck plates

BY COLE LAUTERBACH
THE CENTER SQUARE

Trucks in Illinois with older license plates will soon need new plates, Secretary of State Jesse White announced that his office will begin phasing out the oldest B-Truck plates beginning this month.

It's similar to the program

White's office started in 2017 with passenger vehicles. B-Truck plates that were made from 2002 through 2007 will be replaced this year. In 2021, B-Truck plates that were manufactured from 2008 through 2009 will be replaced and the process will operate continuously as such.

The older plates pose a

challenge for law enforcement to read quickly, White said.

Vehicle owners will be notified by mail if they qualify for the new license plates, the release said, and will be provided with a sticker for the rear license plate. They'll receive the new plates in the mail with a new registration sticker already affixed to the rear license plate.

"This is a forward-thinking, long-term solution that does not require a complete replating overhaul for passenger and B-Truck plates, which would cost around \$60 million," White said in a statement on Friday. "This plan removes older plates and replaces them with newly-designed plates within our current budget. This will ensure that no license plate on the road will be more than 10 years old."

DMVs have tamper-proof bins to dispose of the old plates.

There are about 1.3 million B-Truck licensed vehicles in Illinois, White said

Letter to the editor

Out-of-state student asks for Illinois artifacts

Dear ladies and gentlemen,
I am a student at Cascade Christian School, and I am writing a report on the state of Illinois. We are responsible for gathering as much information as we can about our state. If any of you readers would like to help me by sending any pictures, postcards,

used license plates, facts, products, etc. from your state, it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you very much,

Max
5th grader
Send artifacts to: Cascade Christian School, 601 9th Avenue S.E., Puyallup, WA 98372

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The plague

BRAIDWOOD—Who are Trump supporters? My Trump acquaintances are as follows. A group of co-workers who criticize food stamps and social programs to heal drug addiction and mental illness. They prefer that the down-and-out lay in the gutter. I know a regular churchgoer and church volunteer who resents helping hungry children, a heartless hypocrite. I recently met a man who cares about nothing except making money on the stock market, a greedy skank. My friend of 40 years is someone whose main issues are opposition to abortion, denial of climate change and dislike for unions. She's evangelical who considers everyone evil except her inner circle. I know of someone who's opposed to Social Security, Medicare and public schools. He's libertarian who opposes government programs that help everyday people. I know countless individuals who complain about immigrants even though all Americans are immigrants except indigenous natives who've been tricked out of their birthright. Conclusion: Trump supporters are nasty people whose world I try to avoid.

Kwame where are you?

COAL CITY—In response to the person who asked why the Illinois State's Attorney isn't investigating all the corruption going on in Springfield. The answer to that is Kwame Raoul is just another Mike Madigan political hack hand-picked to ignore what the Democratic party is doing. He's a past senator who was part of the system. He was elected to keep the status quo. It's the way Illinois politics works. Corruption.

Change by cooperation

SHADOW LAKES—I agree with Justice RBG's recent concerns regarding the hyper-partisanship existing in the country. Unfortunately, it's bipartisan. From the Democrats, we have frivolous impeachment, tax and financial record fishing expeditions, the Russia conspiracy hoax and scorched earth Supreme Court confirmation hearings, among many others. From the Republicans, we have endless failed attempts to repeal Obamacare, a manufactured email scandal, a weaponized Benghazi tragedy, false allegations regarding President Obama's birthplace and many others. The current Congressional abuse of power is truly a bipartisan exercise. Leaders should ask themselves whether something really needs to be undertaken if it does not have support from both parties. If the current situation indicates an over-abundance of Congressional resources and too much free time, then we should consider a part-time legislature. Most states follow this model. But here are many things that could benefit from more attention, such as the massive deficit, excessive taxation, creating the most favorable environment for business that is possible, ensuring the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, improving our educational system and strengthening a health care system that is too expensive for too many. There are many other things worthy of attention. If the leaders lead, the media must follow, and perhaps the result would be at least a slightly higher level of national discourse than we have seen over the last decade. We can and should disagree, but there is a way to express differences and move forward as one nation. Many who came before us showed how to do this. Those who are wise and prudent know here to find the proper examples.

Michael F. Tomasek

Healthcare cuts coming

CUSTER PARK—What do politicians hate? Well-informed citizens. When President Trump gave his State of the Union speech, he thought he could get away with lying about cuts to Medicaid/Medicare. Last week a physician encountered Pence in Iowa and grilled him about Trump's recent cuts to Medicaid and possible cuts to Medicare announced quietly on Jan. 30 by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, Document SMD# 20-001. The good doctor knows what he's talking about and is a director of the Committee to Protect Medicare. He told Pence that Trump's health care policy has been cruel, will now be worse and doesn't make long-range economic sense. When older sick people don't get necessary medical attention, they can't contribute productively to the community, they go bankrupt, they end up in nursing homes and the taxpayers pay the price. Trump doesn't care and lies as usual. But Pence is supposedly a man of God. Where is his heart? These cuts will further make us a nation of sick people. Gloria W.

The flu is worse

COAL CITY—I read in The Wall Street Journal that the outbreak of the coronavirus was showing problems in China the first week of December 2019 yet other countries were not made aware until recently. While not as bad as the denial and inaction that allowed SARS to go global in 2002, Beijing's response has been substandard. Now they're playing catch-up. If China is serious about public health, it needs to ban "wet markets." Wet markets are live animal markets such as the one in Wuhan. Farmed and wild species from around the world are packed tightly together and sold for human consumption. Viral components are exchanged between species, creating novel viruses that can be transmitted from animal to human and later mutated so that they can transmit between humans; SARS is thought to have originated at a wet market. Wet markets should be banned in China. To put things in proper perspective, right now the flu kills 35,000 Americans a year—it's a bigger worry. Just carry on as usual—wash your hands and cover your mouth when coughing.

Bury your heads

SHADOW LAKES—Watching President Trump's speech and his acquittal. You Democrats are definitely ostriches. You should bury your head in the sand because the only thing that sticks up from you people are your asses, and Trump has done very close to everything he has promised. Where unemployment is low in metropolitan areas, which are democratically controlled. So, Nancy Pelosi ripping up the speech is such a detriment to you people and most of you are so worried about the environment which the environment is going

to do well because God controls it, not the people. But I guess you people are not intelligent enough to understand that.

Dan Hill

Millions wasted

WILMINGTON—Well, it just goes to show you that Nancy Pelosi and her Democrats won't accept anything except spending millions and millions of taxpayer dollars to keep searching for things to get rid of Trump. It's not a political thing; it's personal between them, and all the Democrats are wasting millions of taxpayer money for this farce.

Park district's blank check

WILMINGTON—Why did the park district need to hire Campfire Concepts development for a plan and how much did that cost? Now they think they need more park space when they dumped the two Island Parks but kept all of the tax money. They think they need more money for pedestrians and bicyclists trails when they won't even cut grass for the parks now. They want an increase of \$100,000 in debt service when they get themselves so much in debt borrowing that they can't even pay it back. They say if they had the money they would have a hearing with the public before spending it. That's a loud "Buhh." No one asked the tax payers if they wanted to go in big debt to pay for an unwanted fitness center. This is nothing more than a private business they keep increasing more employees with benefits at our expense. Don't say "scale of levy below poverty line," when our neighbors have nuclear plants to pay for their greed. See where they will be if their "cash cow" nuclear facilities are closed down like they are saying will happen. The park district doesn't need a blank check when they are the ones that got themselves in this mess. They only have a few members that use the center and I bet a lot of them don't pay city taxes. We already pay for their same programs at the library.

Congrats Mr. President

TINLEY PARK—Congratulations to our President Donald Trump on his impeachment acquittal. As he is commander in chief, I was glad to see that he remembered the Code of Conduct of the U.S. Military. "I am an American Fighting Man. I will never surrender of my own free will." —Proud American Veteran

Pitch in the plan

WILMINGTON—Thank you to the person who wrote last week about the amount of revenue generated for Wilmington by the gambling machines. Yes. What a great idea. Part of that can be used for the beautification of Wilmington, if the city can be convinced to part with some of it. The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce has a team of folks working on just that, tourism and beautification of our Route 66 town. You will start noticing new signage pointing the way to parks, shopping, city buildings, antiques, etc. You will notice benches throughout town where you can rest for a few minutes after wandering downtown shops. As of Memorial Day, you will see Hometown Hero banners, honoring and remembering Wilmington military folks. We are reaching out to some of the larger businesses in the area for donations, but really, anyone can donate. People drive through town daily, not realizing they are on the Mother Road. How fortunate we are to be straddling it...places to shop on both sides of the street...at both ends of our portion of the Red Carpet Corridor. Signs will remind drivers of that, and maybe they'll stop and spend a little money in town. More tax revenue generated. Yay. Send a check to Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 724, Wilmington IL 60481 and memo Tourism. You will be seeing results very soon. Thanks from the Tourism and Beautification team.

Jackie Danalewich

Chamber of Commerce Secretary

More taxes

SHADOW LAKES—Below are in part for a newsletter from David Welter, State Rep. District 75. He is on the committee for property taxes, and ethics reform, for the state of Illinois. Quote, "Unfortunately, the task force turned out to be just one more example of a blue-ribbon commission that failed. Rather than bring forward substantive suggestions to provide relief, the reforms the Democratic members of the task force listed in their report focused on expanding the sales tax base to hit local families' pocketbooks even more without guaranteeing to reduce our property tax burden." This is only the beginning. Wait until we vote on the progressive income tax which I am sure will pass. Pass this along to for frees on the left, and please tell them to keep voting for these people on the left. Remember when the Democratic party was called the party for the working man, and the Republican party was for the rich?

Happy Cafe

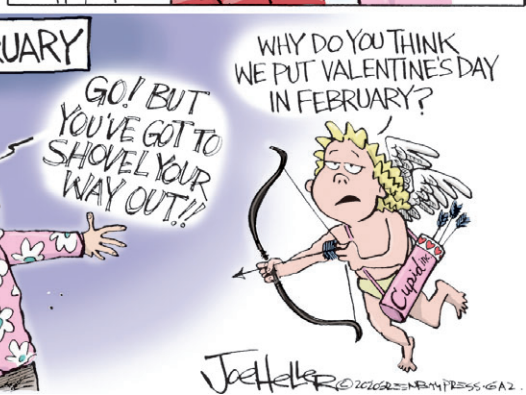
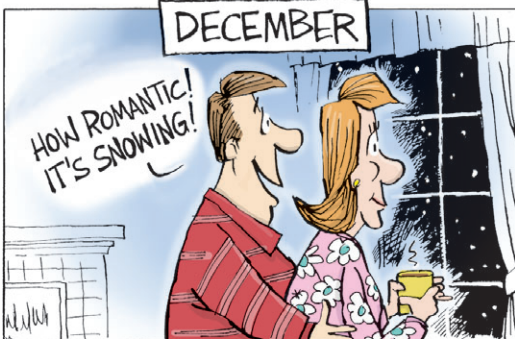
DIAMOND—Happy Cafe is very good and you get a lot of food. I don't know if you all noticed that they add a fee if you use a credit or debit card. So from now on if I go I will bring cash. They are sure making a lot of money on the 3.99 percent on every bill that is put on a card. I know businesses get charged for the use of these cards, but I haven't seen it put back to the customers before. Don't forget you are in a small town.

Romney cool

WILMINGTON—There's something happening here. What it is isn't exactly clear. A senator has never voted to remove a president of the same party, until now. A Republican senator shows profile in courage. Wow. We hope it starts a trend that won't end. Honesty, integrity, bravery, the new cool, the new rule. Follow your conscience. Guard your soul. The favor of the Lord is your goal. Romney's courage is redemption in some small way—and we say thank you, Senator Romney.

Prayer breakfast

BRAIDWOOD—When the National Prayer Breakfast becomes a place of evil, something's wrong, but President Trump makes it so. The threatening tone of Trump's vindictive voice at the prayer breakfast was frightening and I'm worried about the well-being of people who are



Trump's political enemies such as Mitt Romney. This is not right. This makes our country sound like a dangerous place, like one of those countries we read about in newspapers. A country whose people need to be rescued from its brutal leader. Now we are one of those countries.

Check your card

The primary election is March 17. It is time to check your voters cards to make sure they are correct and to verify you are registered to vote and the location of your voting place. There is no excuse not to vote. If you don't think you can get to the polls, call your county clerk's office and request an absentee ballot. It's easy, it's free, it's convenient. Voting is an honor and a privilege. Don't lose this right.

A former election judge

Socialist plants

SHADOW LAKES—This is in regard to a person that repeatedly called in with venomous attacks on Trump, A. Weidner from Custer Park. They call in constantly with Trump bashing, and I happened to notice in the Joliet paper on Feb. 2 there was another similar article from a Gloria Weidner in Wilmington, the same thing, bashing Trump up and down, left and right. Now, I suspect these might be socialist plants because it sounds scripted, everything that they put in there, that they're professional Trump bashers. Either that or it's a family affair.

Frank

Get REAL-ID

SHADOW LAKES—Perhaps someone can explain this to me? This state is now, on your request is, issuing the REAL-ID. Let's take a look at this. Without this, I cannot fly on an airplane or enter a government building. To obtain this special ID, you must present certain forms of ID. One of these is your birth certificate. I guess this is to prove you are a citizen of this country. I have been told this is for security? But when it comes to voting, one of the greatest privileges of this republic, I show nothing. Now, you are seeing certain groups pushing to let non-citizens vote. I wonder, who this could be? Oh yes, I have heard all the arguments about the old sick, etc. I am sure something could be worked out. What are these people using now for an ID?

Margot Lane

Rip the speech

WILMINGTON—Why did Nancy Pelosi rip apart President Trump's speech? Because Trump's lies were jumbo whoopee and Pelosi knew it. Despite what Trump said, preexisting conditions won't be covered. Obamacare was struck down in the courts in December by a lawsuit filed by 20 Republican governors at Trump's urging. Because about 150 million Americans suffer from preexisting conditions, Trump wants to hide the devastating news from voters until after the election so the ruling is delayed until at least November. Trump wants to prevent the mass hysteria Trump and all republicans would suffer at the polls if Trump would be honest because Trump and Republicans are responsible for half the population losing their coverage. Of course, Medicare and Medicaid are also hot potatoes. The website for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Jan. 30 that Medicaid has been cut by allowing states to use block grants. Medicare is in the planning stages for similar cuts. Thank you, Nancy, for the warning.

Remorse vs. revenge

COAL CITY—Remember the impeachment of President Clinton? It was difficult, but the country got through it. Although Clinton did wrong and made it worse by lying under oath, Clinton showed contrition and remorse. Clinton made no declaration of revenge, no inclination toward retribution, no vow of reprisal as President Trump is doing today. Furthermore, Clinton's transgression did not endanger national security and did not threaten the integrity of our elections as Trump did. That's why the contrast between the Clinton impeachment and the Trump impeachment couldn't be more vivid. Trump's behavior from start to finish resembles that of a third world dictator. And the saga continues as Trump's vengeance is just beginning. Is Trump a malignant narcissist who is dangerous to the country as psychiatrists warned us three years ago? You bet.

What a mess

COAL CITY—What was the village thinking when they designed the so-called beautification project on South Broadway as far as the parking goes? The high curbs to reach the sidewalks in front of the businesses is quite challenging for senior citizens and the disabled. There's no reason we needed such a big curb like that. Also, the arrows all down the street to turn left are very confusing since left turns for parking have always been illegal. Is it OK to do that now because everyone certainly is taking

advantage of it. I'm surprised there haven't been accidents due to this. Hopefully the construction workers will pick up the pace on the progress on this project once the weather breaks. I can't believe they left everything in such a mess for the rest of the winter. I don't blame businesses looking elsewhere to locate.

Heroes

CUSTER PARK—We've been blessed with heroes. After following his conscience Mitt Romney is the only senator throughout history to vote the president of his own party guilty during an impeachment trial. What follows is President Trump's vengeful attack against Romney revealing Trump's diabolical nature which will catch up with Trump in the end. The Republican Party weaklings will suffer for blindly following Trump. Romney, on the other hand, was rewarded by returning home to Utah basking in the praise and fanfare of his constituents. Likewise Democrat Doug Jones courageously voted the truth even though he could lose his senatorial seat this fall in the red state of Alabama. And Democrat Joe Manchin defied local right-wing pressure in West Virginia to defend the facts. We can be proud of the unity of the Democratic Party and we're happy that Mitt Romney bravely broke a historical record. These are great men to whom our country is indebted.

Gary Weidner

Over and over again

To Irene, Gloria and Gary: I am kinda new to sound-off and I'm not sure just how many folks call or write in, but it doesn't seem fair that you are in every week vocalizing your disgust and hatred towards, well, just about everything. Of course you are allowed to do this, but maybe you should consider taking a few weeks off from watching CNN and go see a funny movie, perhaps do some volunteer work or take an elderly person out for lunch instead of continuing to spread the hate over and over again. I believe we have all heard your point of views to the point of nausea. Go do something selfless. It can't be food for your health to be so upset all the time. You owe it to yourself and all the folks who read this paper.

Plan accordingly

BRACEVILLE—In response to Braceville rebuttal to the member that responded assuming I was an ex-member. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I have never in my 58 years of existence been a firefighter, therefore I've never worked for you. As mentioned, I am just a taxpayer concerned if my tax dollars are being spent wisely. I want to make sure I have protection without unnecessary delay, and just think it's ridiculous that this generation cannot plan for lunch accordingly. Construction workers that work 12-16 hour days in the summer can pack their own lunch and eat on site. You could always have food delivered or go to the grocery store ahead of time and cook your lunch. I was not intending for you to take my concerns as you do not deserve lunch breaks. I understand everyone gets a lunch break. I am merely questioning why preparations and planning cannot be done to bring food when you work so you do not have to leave the town. And if you do not have the money to pay for 24 hour coverage then why are you wasting money on gas to drive the vehicles out of town for lunch? Last comment and you will not hear from me again, do you really think your ex-members are mad at the department so much that you automatically assumed I was an ex-member? Interesting.

The perfect wall

CUSTER PARK—What is the latest on President Trump's promise to build the wall? The most recent update is that portions of the wall blew down last week. The excuse is that the concrete was not yet cured when strong winds happened to blow. That's embarrassing although understandable. But what is totally indefensible are the startling incidents since last November whereby segments of Trump's \$10 billion prototype impenetrable wall have been removed by \$100 reciprocating saws available at any local hardware store. Not only that, improvised ladders are sometimes found thrown over the wall. There is no excuse for this so Trump gets stuck with a red face instead of an orange one. These are our taxpayer dollars at work and this is Trump breaking his signature promise.

Gloria W.

A new low

COAL CITY—The Presidential Medal of Honor went to Rush Limbaugh. The medal has now become a symbol of hate. Disgusting.

Not a team player

COAL CITY—Two upstanding members of the United States told the truth under oath. For that, Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman and Ambassador Gordon Sondland got fired from their jobs. That is because they weren't team players. Another example of a hateful, sick president.

Put nature to work fighting your stress

Yes, we live in a pretty stressful world these days. Whether it's international events, job pressures, or personal problems, most of us are touched by plenty of stress-producing situations every day.

Though we may not be aware of the ways stress is affecting us, it can actually harm us. Experts report that stressful environments can be a direct cause of anxiety and depression in our lives. Studies have found that excessive stress may be at least partly responsible for headaches, drinking problems and a variety of serious health issues.

So how can you better manage the stress in your life? While it may not be possible in today's hectic world to live a

Counseling Corner

stress-free existence, there ways you can minimize the stress you may be feeling and to escape from it for at least a little bit. Researchers report that even small escapes from stress can offer real benefits.

Distractions are one way to reduce stress. Studies have found that adding a little nature to your life can be quite stress-reducing. Researchers say that people working in an office with no windows or just a view of a blank wall reported that the work environment

became more pleasant and less stressful when they were able to look out and see a trees and sky. Something as simple as adding a potted plant or two to the area where you spent most of your day can also play a part in giving you a positive distraction that can reduce stress.

Even better is just to escape from your normal environment, if only for a short time. And by "escape" we mean nothing more than taking a walk. You can stop thinking about stressful things with just a short lunch time stroll through a nearby park or down a tree-lined street. Time with nature is an opportunity to not focus on the things contributing to a hectic, stressful life. You can listen to the quiet of

nature, admire some budding flowers, or just smile at the squirrels scampering about — all things to take the focus off what is stressing you.

A little time outdoors is an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty around you and take a breather from the problems disturbing you. A short walk won't remove all the stress in your life, but it can give your mind a chance to relax and refocus, and that's a positive thing.

"Counseling Corner" is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

Women of the Moose to grant scholarship

The Wilmington Women of the Moose (WOTM-781) are giving their annual scholarship to a graduating high school senior from any school.

The senior must have a parent or grandparent who is a current member of the Wilmington Chapter 781 or the men's Wilmington Moose Lodge (LOOM-241).

Applications are available from any Moose member and

must be returned by March 14. Applicants must write a short essay about their career and college choices which will be voted on by WOTM members.

For an application stop at the Moose Lodge on West River Road, Wilmington, see any WOTM board member or call 815-476-6472.

Visitors welcome at Braidwood TOPS

When TOPS IL 2264 Braidwood chapter met on Feb. 4 the monthly offering of fruits and vegetables was presented to January best losers for TOPS and KOPS, Phyllis Saben and Lori Jackson. The KOPS numeral anniversary pins have arrived from national headquarters. Lucy Ellis met her goal 21 years ago. She has served for many years as assistant weight recorder which is an appointed position. Joyce Grundhofer is celebrating her first year at goal.

The 50/50 raffle still has no winner. Pick-a-

card contest will pick cards for two weeks on Feb. 11. The late arrival of the contest dealer caused this delay. The cry-can cash will increase to \$2 on Feb. 11.

T-shirts can be ordered to be received before Area Recognition Day (ARD) on April 3 and 4. This event is at the Sheraton in Lisle.

Visitors are welcome to attend meetings on Tuesday evenings at 110 S. Division St., Braidwood. Weigh-ins begin at 5:15 p.m. and the meeting opens at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Library to hold monthly book club meeting

Do you love reading? Meet other book lovers and join in a great discussion at the Wilmington Public Library's monthly book club.

The book club meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is Feb. 24.

During the February meeting, the club will be discussing "Mountains of the Mind: Adventures of Reaching the Summit" by Robert MacFarlane.

The library will take care of your holds so you don't have to.

Let the library know you're interested in joining .by calling 815-476-2834 or stop in at 201 S. Kankakee St.



Quiet hound and terrier mix

LYNN is a 1-year-old hound and terrier mix who is about 35 pounds. She is a quiet and well-behaved girl and has done well with the dogs we have paired her with. Adoption fee includes spay, rabies shot, distemper, heartworm test, microchip and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com.

Sound-offs, continued from page 4B State of USA

COAL CITY—The president's State of the Union speech pointed out the truth of USA progress since he won election to office. The USA is on the way up and democrats cheer very little, but I was surprised to see them rise to clap at anything he said so there may be a bit of hope yet. Bi-partisan action is needed wherever possible. Many democrats hate the USA and the party should get their crazy people out in November or become Trump republicans in the true party of the people. We are on a path that is working toward more prosperity for everyone. Energy independence and reasonable gasoline prices are one proof of this upward path that anyone can see. Democrats, get rid of your socialist nuts and move toward the moral and doable possibilities of the republican party. The USA can only be best when everyone is on the same page pulling for what will help everyone. The goal should always be equal treatment under the law for everyone. We have assumed the job of world leader and we should all be united toward that effort. History does not just happen, but is created by the great people who rise to the occasion and work hard to make it happen. We do not know the future but right now things are looking ever better and we should keep that progress going. The president's efforts are making historic gains and we should vote in November to keep us on this upward path. USA, USA, USA.

Trump's kids too

WILMINGTON—I see that the Republicans want to investigate Joe Biden's son, Hunter about his job at Burisma in Ukraine. The company was not under investigation at the time that the vice president asked that the prosecutor be removed. Vice President

Biden was carrying out official U.S. policy and on behalf of other countries and foreign banks in full view, not on some cryptic perfect phone call. And all this has been investigated and found no wrongdoing by the vice president or his son. You wouldn't know this if your primary source of news is Fox or other right wing media. It seems the biggest bone of contention is Hunter Biden's salary. So what about the millions Ivanka got from China? And as long as we are looking into presidential children's finances, let's investigate John Jr., Eric and Jared. Speaking of China, you might not know Mitch McConnell's wife is the daughter of a Chinese billionaire oligarch. So much for communism. But shouldn't Mitch recuse himself from any legislation concerning China as his wealth is dependent on his wife? Also, she is in Trump's cabinet. How is that not nepotism? In summary, if Barisma is to be the new Benghazi let's investigate the Trump kids and Mitch O'Connell too.

Penny Lane

Applaud Mitt

WILMINGTON—To the nosey person in Shadow Lakes who had the audacity to ask me if I promote abortion. You are obviously a Trump supporter so you probably think that abortion is synonymous with Democrat. I tell you you're dead wrong. I also applaud Mitt Romney for standing up for what he thought was the right thing to do. He is a man of conviction. That's the exact of Trump. Joanne

Double trouble

COAL CITY—I'm not sure how the new McDonald's thinks their employees could handle two drive-thru lanes when they can't even handle one.

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OBITUARIES

June Brownlee

WILMINGTON—June Erway Brownlee, 97, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

A complete obituary with service details will follow in next week's Free Press Newspapers.

Family and friends may sign the guestbook, upload photo-



graphs or share June's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/notices/June-Brownlee

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

Denise Payton

COAL CITY—Denise Renae (Fry) Payton, 62, of Coal City, passed away on Feb. 8, 2020 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home.

Denise was born in Rockford, IL on Sept. 8, 1957 to Dale and Dorothy (Brucher) Fry. She graduated from Eastridge High School in Kankakee and Mesa State College, Grand Junction, CO with an associate of applied science degree.

Denise is survived by her husband, James Payton of the home; a son, Dustin Westfall, of Grand Junction, CO; a daughter, Jaime (Westfall) Bartholomew, husband, Brandon, of Monessen, PA; sisters, Deborah (Fry) Hain, husband, George and Dianne (Fry) Denton; brothers: Randy Fry, wife Sally; Ron Fry, wife, Joyce and Rick Fry, wife, Dawn; stepchildren: daughter, Andrea (Payton) McCollough, husband, David; sons, Michael Payton and



Lawrence Payton and seven grandchildren.

A wake will be held at Ferrari Funeral Home, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City on Feb. 13, 2020 from 4 to 7 p.m. A memorial service will be held at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City on Feb. 14, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Bradley Shumaker officiating.

Inurnment will take place at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee at a later date following cremation.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions in Denise's name to the Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Waterstone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Friends and family may sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

James Petry

REDDICK—James Ray Petry, 68, of Reddick, passed away Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 at Morris Hospital.

Born Dec. 15, 1951 in Chicago, he was the son of Ray and Avon (nee Jeffries) Petry. James was a member of the Reddick Methodist Church and the Danish Brotherhood. He was a veteran of the United States Army and after serving three years he was honorably discharged. He retired April 1, 2013 after many years as a correctional officer. James was an avid bowler who was extremely proud of bowling two 300 games and two, 800 series. He enjoyed vacationing at his Florida home in the winter and camping in the summer with family and many wonderful friends. Most of all he loved his four dogs: Jasper, Bella, Nikki, Lily and Sox the cat. He helped everyone when needed, even upon death he donated his eyes.

Surviving are his wife of 29 years, Donna (nee Funk) Petry, of Reddick, who he married



Oct. 13, 1990; one son, Brandon Petry, of Reddick; two sisters, Donna (Roy) Hoegger, of Dwight and Jean (Joe Carruthers) Petry, of Joliet; one brother, Bob Bartlett, of Morris; two nephews, Nathan (Stephani) Hoegger, of Spokane, WA and Jeff Bartlett and numerous great-nieces and nephew.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the American Cancer Society or to the Livingston County Humane Society.

For more information and to sign his online guestbook log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is entrusted with the arrangements.

Victor Dingillo

WILMINGTON—Victor Dingillo, "Ace," 53 of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born March 3, 1966 in Chicago, Victor was a son of Esta Katherine (nee Edmonds) and Vito Joseph Dingillo Sr. He was raised and educated on the north side of Chicago and graduated from Carl Schurz High School.

Victor was the owner and operator of Northwest Auto Repair, which has been of service to Wilmington and the local area for more than 20 years. In his free time he enjoyed fishing, and was naturally a car enthusiast. Victor also loved collecting coins, however no hobby was greater than his family.

Survivors include his wife, Cindy, who he married Aug. 29, 1998; five children: Brian (Katherine) Kolinski, of Wilmington; Aja (Blake) Daniell, of Seattle, WA and Deanna Dingillo, Neena Dingillo and Dominic Dingillo, all of Wilmington; four grandchildren: Zane Kolinski, Nolan Kolinski, Blake Daniell, II and Violet Daniell; his mother, Kay Dingillo, of Kankakee; four siblings: Linda Williams, of Alabama; Connie (Jesus) Hernandez, of Braidwood; Julie



Dingillo, of Indiana and Rio (Loretta) Dingillo, of Joliet; his mother-in-law, Diane Rutherford, of Wilmington and numerous nieces and nephews.

Victor was preceded in death by his father, Vito Joseph Dingillo Sr.; siblings: Judith Ann Dingillo, Vito Joseph Dingillo Jr., Vincent Dingillo and Cindy Lebron and nephews, Francisco Dingillo and Mario Dingillo.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020 from 2 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 7 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Victor's memory to his family for their distribution.

Family and friends may sign the guestbook, upload photographs or share Victor's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/notices/Victor-Dingillo

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

Jeanette Peltier

COAL CITY—Jeanette "Jan" Peltier, 83, of Coal City, passed away peacefully Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020.

Born Dec. 9, 1936 in Chicago, Jeanette Angeline was a daughter of Frank Alois and Angeline Agnes (Michalaunis) Krejci. She was raised and educated in the western suburbs of Chicago and graduated from Cicero's Morton East High School with the class of 1954.

Jan worked for Harrington and King Perforating Company, and on July 23, 1983 she married Robert Peltier Sr. in Maywood, IL. Following her retirement in 1989, Jan and Bob relocated from Westchester to Lincoln Lake, where they made their home in Coal City. Jan loved country dancing, and was formerly active with not only the County Line Kickers, but also the Pairs Club and Coyote Moon. She was an excellent cook, and in recent years took pleasure in listening to her audio books and working crossword puzzles. In addition, Jan enjoyed being involved with the many activities at the Coal City Public Library.

Survivors include her children: Georgia (Phil) Leach, of Charlotte, FL; Michael (Isabelle) Peltier, of Lake-in-the-Hills, IL and Robert Jr. (Jill) Peltier, of Mt. Prospect, IL; son-in-law, Jim Johnson, of Hanover Park, IL; grandchildren: Julie Kay (Ralph) Schneider, of Germany; Jon (Julie) Johnson and Shad Johnson, both of



Hoffman Estates, IL and Malysa Semcken, Reilly Peltier, MacKenzie Peltier and Madysen Peltier, all of Lake-in-the-Hills; great-grandchildren: Gianna Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Ethan Johnson and Mia Semcken; cousins: Marjorie and Ed Kocka of Stickney, IL and special friends: Noma Fehr, Sharon Blake and Pat Christensen.

Jan was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Robert Peltier Sr. (2005), and daughter, Catalina Johnson (2014).

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020 between the hours of 12 noon and 2 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the visitation, and a private inurnment will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Jan will be laid to rest with her late husband, Bob.

Family and friends may sign the guestbook, upload photographs or share Jan's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/notices/Jeanette-Peltier

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

Gas prices continue to fall

Illinois gas prices have fallen 5.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.38/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations.

Gas prices in Illinois are 25 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 14.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the

cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.08/g today while the most expensive is \$3.29/g, a difference of \$1.21/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.42/g today. The national average is down 16.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 13.9 cents per gallon higher than a

year ago.

"The nation's gas prices continue to fall to fresh lows as coronavirus fears continue to put a choke-hold on oil prices, leading to the fourth straight weekly decline in the national average," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"All but a handful of states saw their averages decline over the last seven days, leading to plenty of smiling faces, but especially in the 21 states where at least one station is offering gasoline under \$2 per gallon. It's impressive that in those 21 states, a total of over 10,000 stations are offering such low prices. With continued worries of economic slowdown due to the spread of coronavirus, I don't think the impact to oil is done yet, and for now, motorists are poised to see another week of falling gas prices."

Wilmington Garden Club will meet on Feb. 19

The Wilmington Garden Club is meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Island Park District, 315 N. Water St.

The February meeting will feature Sandy Ascot from Muddy Paws Garden Nursery,

in Custer Park. Topics will be selecting and saving seeds, plants and milkweed for monarch butterflies, butterfly gardens and winter sowing.

Guests are always welcome. For more information, call Carol at 815-476-2469.

Christopher Lide

CUSTER PARK—Christopher Lide, 41, of Custer Park, passed away peacefully with his family by his side, Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 at Amita Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

He was born Dec. 8, 1978 in Grand Saline, TX. Chris was a professional fisherman who also enjoyed making his own baits. He was the president of Tri-County Hawg Hunters and a member of Illinois Bass Nation and Anglers Choice. He was a true outdoors man, that greatly enjoyed fishing and bow hunting. Christopher also enjoyed playing bags and beating everyone (which he did). He loved his dogs, Foster, Finn and Sadie.

Surviving are his wife, Samantha (nee Roark) Lide, of Custer Park, who he married Sept. 25, 2010 in Wilmington; one daughter, Taylor Lide, of Custer Park; father, Chuck (Mikke) Lide, of Braidwood; mother, Donna (nee Christenson) Lide, of Elwood; two sisters, Cassie (A- a ron) Flood, of Elwood and Kristy



(John) Urban, of Minooka and two nieces, Alyssa and Lindsey Flood.

Preceding him in death were his paternal grandparents, Margaret and Weldon Lide and maternal grandparents, Chris Christenson and Patricia Nathan.

Visitation for Chris will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020 from 3-7 p.m. with the funeral service beginning at 7 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to: C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation, 297 SW 41st St., Renton, WA 98057, www.castforkids.org.

For more information and to sign his online guestbook log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is entrusted with arrangements.

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Pritzker's State of the State address receives mixed responses

I've read and heard a lot of commentary about what Gov. JB Pritzker didn't say in his State of the State address last month. Some folks are still quite angry that he didn't address their pet causes.

And the previous day's guilty plea by former Sen. Martin Sandoval prompted the news media to focus mainly on the anti-corruption portion of the governor's speech. Behind his strong, quote-worthy rhetoric, however, were three concrete requests: 1) A ban on legislators being paid to lobby; 2) Disclosure of conflicts of interests and punishment for non-compliance; and 3) Forbidding legislators from becoming lobbyists immediately after leaving office.

The House Republicans are already on record in favor of a legislator lobbying ban, and House Republican Leader Jim Durkin has introduced a conflict of interest bill (HB3954) that would even require attorneys to disclose clients who could pose potential conflicts. Senate President Don Harmon offered support of the lobbying revolving door provision. Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady said he supports the conflicts of interest

disclosure bit.

House Speaker Michael Madigan did not indicate support for anything. The chairman he appointed to head an ethics commission, however, supported all three.

But beyond what Pritzker didn't say and beyond the corruption angle, the governor did get into some other substance which was lost in the shuffle.

On the subject of property taxes, Pritzker complained about the "perverse incentives in state law" that encourage local governments to "max out" their property tax levies "even when they don't need to." He was referring to an unintended consequence of the state's Property Tax Extension Limitation Law that essentially encourages units of government to tax to the cap every year for fear of forever losing that revenue. What Pritzker wants to do is not yet known.

Pritzker also proposed allowing citizens to initiate



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

consolidating or eliminating units of local government. The General Assembly has passed some limited, highly localized legislation on this topic. Pritzker wants to take it statewide.

Other governors have talked about ethics, property taxes and consolidation and ended up accomplishing little. Pritzker will have to use all of his considerable persuasive powers to move his agenda to the goal line. He spent a whole lot of his political capital on last year's mega-agenda and a governor's second year is never as "easy" as the first. There is generally an eagerness to help a brand-new governor achieve his goals, but that can wear off.

Pritzker's clean energy proposals included legislation "that reduces carbon pollution, promotes renewable energy, and accelerates electrification of our transportation sector."

That matches up with the three "pillars" of the Illinois Clean Jobs coalition. Pritzker also made clear that ComEd's hegemonic days are over: "I'm not going to sign an energy bill written by the utility companies."

Harmon told Public Television's Jak Tichenor after the speech that he didn't believe anyone was suggesting that Exelon and ComEd shouldn't be at the bargaining table. "What is encouraging to me," Harmon said, "is that they won't be the loudest voice in the room now. The governor made it very clear that he's going to amplify the voices of

other people."

On the social justice front, the governor said he wants to start phasing out cash bail. He also wants to follow "many of the recommendations made by the bipartisan criminal justice reform commission created by my predecessor, most of whose ideas were never adopted because of the rancor and dysfunction." Gov. Bruce Rauner drew widespread praise for his criminal justice reforms, but the issue got lost in his never-ending battles with Democrats.

Pritzker did have a pointed response to those who have been pushing him hard to hire more Democratic patronage workers.

Democratic insiders have been grumbling for a full year that their people have to go through the same hiring practice as everyone else and often don't wind up being picked.

In response, people within the administration have complained about how party bosses have been trying to shove an inordinate number of politically connected and unqualified or underqualified white men down their throats.

Pritzker insisted that his way of hiring has made the state better: "The old patronage system needs to die...finally and completely. The input of women and people of color need to be treated as essential to decision making - not as some token show of diversity."

It was a well-written speech, but the really hard part comes soon when he introduces his next budget, which, at last check, was projected to be \$1.8 billion out of balance.

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

Deadline Feb. 17 to sign up for EMT course

The Gardner Fire Protection District will host an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-basic course March 2 through July 2.

Classes will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 10 p.m. Applications are available at the Gardner Fire Protection District station, 206 Depot St. The application deadline is Monday, Feb. 17.

The EMT-Basic course is an entry level class into the growing field of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Fire. Most fire departments require a minimum of an EMT-Basic license.

The class will teach basic lifesaving skills for emergency situations. The graduate will

be able to take the state licensing exam and then become a licensed EMT-Basic.

EMS is a rewarding career in need of qualified individuals, nationwide. Requirements include a current CPR card, driver's license, high school diploma or GED, background check, completed application and proof of liability insurance.

Cost is \$850 which includes books, supplies and uniform shirt.

For more information about the class contact Amanda Fagan, EMS Captain, Gardner Fire Protection District via email afagan@pd@gmail.com, or call 815-557-0980.

Learn about bird migration

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is hosting "The Magical World of Bird Migration," from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

After the presentation, venture outside and view birds

with spotting scopes and binoculars. Feel free to bring your own binoculars, cameras and scopes.

The activity is free and for ages 18 or older. Register by Thursday, Feb. 20, at ReconnectWithNature.org or call 815-722-9470.



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FAITH

Rummage sale in Braceville Feb. 29

Braceville United Methodist Church will hold its semi-annual rummage sale on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be new items as well as gently used clothing, household items, toys and misc. Proceeds will benefit the church's children's ministry. The church is located at 106 W. Gould St. For more information call 815-237-8512.

Hallelujah Soup Supper will be March 7

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, invites the community to join them for their February "Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, March 7 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving delicious chicken noodle soup and chili. Each meal includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream and dessert.

Carry-outs are available. The cost will be \$9 for adults and children age 13 and older; \$4 for children age 6 to 12; \$2 for children age 3 to 5; and children age 2 and under eat free.

All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

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Thurs.: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., WIC (Women, Infant & Children clinic); 7 p.m., Church Council

Friday: 9 to 2 p.m., Preschool - Valentine's Party

Sat.: 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous

Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Adult Sunday School; 9:30 a.m. Worship service — Chancel Choir practice; 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School (Kindergarten through fifth grade); 10:45 a.m., New members class

Mon.: Presidents' Day, office closed; No preschool

Tues.: 7 p.m., Bell practice

The church offers preschool, Men's Club, Women's Group, Christian fellowship dinners, mission and community outreach opportunities, Sunday school, Chancel Choir and Praise Ringers Bell Choir.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
& Grace Lutheran Preschool
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Office: 815-476-9480
Pastor Kyle Johnson
Preschool Director Mary Kay Hays
office@gracewilm.org
preschool@gracewilm.org

Wed.: 10 a.m., Chapel time; 7 p.m., Choir practice

Thurs.: 10 a.m., Chapel time

Fri.: 9 a.m., Friday Crew, Vicar Johnson at classes

Sat.: 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers

Sun.: 9 a.m., Worship with communion; 10 a.m., Coffee Hour; 10:30 a.m., Council meeting; 10:30 a.m., Confirmation/Youth; No Sunday School

Mon., Feb 17: Lamp articles due; 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous;

Tues., Feb. 18: 10:30 a.m., New group: Stitchin' Group, bring your crochet, knitting, embroidery, crewel, cross-stitch, etc. to Grace or yarn to learn

Wed., Feb. 19: 10 a.m., Chapel time; No choir practice

Sunday, Feb. 23: 10:15 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., Sunday school for ages 2 to 10 beginning this Sunday

THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
109A Jackson St., Wilmington IL
815-476-1675
Pastor Skip Schroll
skipssandy@gmail.com

Fri.: 7 p.m., worship/prayer

Sun.: 10 a.m., worship/the word/prayer

ROSE OF SHARON MINISTRY
29 Aqueduct • Diamond, IL
Rev. Jan Quiet • 815- 228-9585

Sun.: 2 p.m., service

Gospel Sing is on the second Saturday of each month at 5 p.m.

Christian Singles meets at 6 p.m. on the third Friday of each month.

A healing service is held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m.

BRACEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
106 W. Gould Street • P.O. Box 46, Braceville, IL
Pastor Karen Fabian
815-237-8512

Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship, first Sunday with Holy Communion

United Methodist People meet on the second Tuesday of each month, time and location to be determined

Women's Bible study is held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are on Friday at 8 p.m.

Youth groups are held on Wednesdays. JAM (Jesus and Me - kindergarten through fourth grade) and EDGE (Exploring and Discovering God Everywhere - fifth and sixth grade) are from 3 to 4:30 p.m.; and STATIC (Standing Together as Teens in Christ - seventh grade through high school) is from 6 to 8 p.m. Youth group leaders are Terri Valeriano, Lynn Jencon and Shirley Bookwalter.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
West River RoadWilmington, IL
815-476-4060

Tue.: 7:30 p.m., Midweek meeting, Christian Life and Ministry

Sun.: 10 a.m., Bible topic: Discourse on Bible Topic All interested persons welcome, no collections taken.

JOLIET JEWISH CONGREGATION
250 N. Midland Ave. • Joliet, IL
815-741-4600
Rabbi Charles Rubovits
www.jolietjewishcongregation.org

Fri.: 7 p.m., service

Sat.: 9 a.m., service

Religious school for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade features Hebrew and Bar/Bat Mitzvah training. Call the synagogue to register.

All life cycle events and Jewish holidays celebrated. Social programs include congregational Shabbat dinners, Seders, folk dancing, bagel and lox brunches, book clubs, adult education classes and other special events.

Chili dinner planned for Saturday, Feb. 15

There will be a chili supper open to all at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield Street, Coal City, on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The menu includes chili, coleslaw, corn muffins, homemade desserts, and beverages.

The cost will be \$7 for adults, \$4 for ages 3 to 12 and children under 2 will be free. There will also be hotdogs available for an additional cost of \$1.

There will be a pound purse auction and themed basket raffle. Come out and enjoy the fun.

Self-worth workshop offered on March 1

The workshop will be held at Island City Baptist Church at 120 Vine St. in Wilmington.

To RSVP to this program, call 815-476-9750 or email wilburncounseling@gmail.com.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Wilmington, IL
The Rev. Sebastian Gargol
Deacon Jay Plese
School Principal: Nancy Schwab

Rectory 815-476-7491; School 815-476-6220; Religious Education 815-476-6220; Kuzma Cottage 815-476-2030, Hours: 9 – 11 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

Schedule

Morning Mass 8 a.m. on Tues., Wed. and Fri.; Saturday Vigil at 4 p.m.; and Sundays at 7 and 11 a.m.

Wed.: 10 a.m., Legion of Mary in the St. Rose Church meeting room; 5:45 to 7 p.m., REP

Thurs.: 6 to 7 p.m., Holy hour/confessions

Thursday, Feb. 20: 4:30 p.m., Finance meeting; 7:30 p.m., Parish Council meeting

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
110 S. School St. • Braidwood, IL
Rev. Robert Noesen, Pastor
Rectory: 815-458-2125
Emergency: 815-418-5714
www.icparishbraidwood.org

Weekend Mass: 9:30 a.m., Sunday

Tue.: 8 a.m., rosary; 8:30 a.m., communion service

Thu.: 8 a.m., rosary; 8:30 a.m., Mass followed by confessions

The Adoration Chapel in Fr. White Hall is open 24/7, but unlocked daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. A code is available for those visiting the chapel before or after hours. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to make a commitment, or access the code, call Bill Scheer at 815-458-6800.

Study the Gospel of Mark. Attend weekly ongoing bible Study sessions in Berst Hall, 180 S. Kankakee St. Morning and evening sessions will be available. For more information and to sign up call the Parish office at 815-634-4171

Assumption Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish have teamed up with area Christian Faith Denominational churches in the area to serve Monday Evening dinners for the poor. Other charitable services including Food and household items can be received through Help for Hope Organization which is supported by Assumption Parish each week. For assistance, call 815-815-518-2000.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
195 S. Kankakee St. • Coal City, IL
815-634-4171
Reverend Robert Noesen
stmaryassumptionparish.org
WELCOME!

The doors of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish have, and continue to be, open to all parishioners, visiting Catholics, vacationers in need of Mass and the Eucharist and non-catholics who are welcome to hear the gospel message.

Sunday Mass: 4 p.m., Saturday; 7:30 and 11:15 a.m., Sunday; confessions are heard from 3:20 to 3:45 p.m. on Saturday.

Daily Mass and devotions

Monday - 8 a.m., rosary, communion service

Tuesday - 8 a.m., rosary, communion service at Immaculate Conception in Braidwood; 6:30 p.m., Mass at Assumption Parish

Wednesday - 8 a.m., rosary, confessions, Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Thursday - 8 a.m., rosary, Mass at Immaculate Conception in Braidwood

Friday - 8 a.m., rosary, Mass at Assumption Parish

First Friday - 8 a.m., rosary, confessions, Mass

First Saturday - 8 a.m., rosary, Immaculate Conception Novena, Mass with the distribution of the Sacrament of the Sick

Additional Devotional Prayer

Life at Assumption Parish

Monthly Devotional prayers [Novena] to Our Lord and His servant, Saint Peregrine, patron saint of those who suffer with cancer or any incurable disease or condition, Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - first Tuesday of the month following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Mother of the Eucharist Perpetual Adoration Chapel is across from the church at 195 S. Kankakee St. The chapel is a place of silent prayer in the presence of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is solemnly exposed for adoration 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Everyone is encouraged to stop in anytime, make regular visits and sign up for a specific time of adoration each week.

Study the Gospel of Mark. Attend weekly ongoing Bible Study sessions in Berst Hall, 180 S. Kankakee St. Morning and evening sessions will be available. For more information and to sign up call the Parish office at 815-634-4171

Assumption Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish have teamed up with area Christian Faith Denominational churches in the area to serve Monday Evening dinners for the poor. Other charitable services including Food and household items can be received through Help for Hope Organization which is supported by Assumption Parish each week. For assistance, call 815-815-518-2000.

HAVE FAITH IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SUBSCRIBE FOR HOME DELIVERY TO SAVE 30% OFF THE NEWSTATND PRICE.

CALL 815-476-7966

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
80 N. Garfield St.
Coal City, IL
815-634-8332
newhopepresbychurch@gmail.com
The Rev. Mark Hughey

Thurs.: 10:15 a.m., Bible Study

Sun.: 9 to 10:15 a.m., Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship service

Mon.: 10:45 a.m. Meals on Wheels

Tues.: 7 p.m., Al-Anon meeting

Office hours are usually Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting: All members please attend our annual meeting on Feb. 12 following the worship service. We will review last years' budget and committee reports, and approve next years' budget and officers' slate. A soup potluck will follow the business meeting. Please bring your favorite soup to share. A sign-up sheet for food will be on the tri-fold board. Save the date!

Committee Night, Feb. 12: 6 p.m., Worship & Fellowship; 7 p.m. Property Committee

St. Vincent Table: If you have any questions you may call Cindi at 815-735-1432. United Methodist Church, Coal City, will host the months of January and February from 5 to 6 p.m.

Women's Association: Always collecting in the narthex cabinet: box tops, can tabs, and "Least Coin" for missions.

Sign up on the tri-fold board for the food pantry and Meals on Wheels at least a week in advance.

Elizabeth Ministry – The Rosebud Program: Each rosebud in front of the sanctuary is for a couple building a family. Yellow rosebuds are for those trying to conceive, trying to adopt, or suffering infertility. Pink rosebuds are for those who are pregnant. Red is for those who have given birth or have had a successful adoption. White is for those suffering the loss of a child. Instructions for adding persons to our Elizabeth Ministry prayers are on the table in the narthex. Questions may be directed to Alyssa Hicks.

Prayer Gathering is the first Sunday of each month from 10 to 10:15 a.m., in the Session/adult class room. Everyone is invited. Questions can be directed to Freda Davis.

CHRISTIAN LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Rt. 113 and I-55 • 2960 E. Division St.
Diamond, IL
815-518-5441
www.clachurch.org

Randy Adams, Lead Pastor - Joe Drick, Pastor

Sun.: 8 a.m., prayer; 9 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 10 a.m., worship service

Wed.: 6:30 p.m., Kids Connection, Metalshop Youth Group and adult elective studies

ESSEX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
114 W. Waverly Street

Sun.: 9 a.m., children's Sunday school; 9:30 a.m., adult Bible study; 10:30 a.m., worship

Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
3950 N. Goose Lake Rd.
Morris, IL
(Corner of Pine Bluff, Lorenzo and Goose Lake roads)
942-0675
Pastor Caleb Counterman

Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship service, children's service; 6 p.m., worship

Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 E. Jefferson St. • Gardner, IL
Rev. Greg Olson
Church 815-237-2227
Cell 309-203-9758

Sun.: 10 a.m., worship, word and sacrament

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Office hours are on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

LIVING STONES COMMUNITY CHURCH
25124 S. Fryer St. • Channahon, IL
815-325-8476

Pastor Joe Popischill invited bikers and people of faith to church on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Bible study follows.

Blessings of bikes coming soon.

IGNITE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1180 W. 1st St.
Braidwood, IL
Ignitechristianchurch.org

Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship

The non-denominational church offers children's church and weekly men's and women's Bible study. Visit the church on Facebook.

CHURCH OF HOPE
Monroe & Jefferson Streets; Gardner, IL
Pastor Jan Chandler; 237-8312

Sun.: 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., worship

Wed.: 8:30 a.m., Pastor's prayer and lectionary study group

Thu.: 8:30 a.m., church prayer group

COAL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6805 E. McArdle Rd.
815-634-8670
The Reverend Bradley D. Shumaker
www.coalcityum.org

Wed.: 9 a.m., Women's Bible Study in the church library; 10:30 a.m., Alcoholics Anonymous in the community building

Thurs.: 1 to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, food distribution, enter from the south entrance

Sun.: 8 and 10:30 a.m., Worship service; 9:15 a.m., Sunday School; 8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous

Mon.: 9 to 11 a.m., Coal City Food Pantry, food distribution, enter from the south entrance; 5 to 6 p.m. St. Vincent's Table (during January and February)

Sat.: 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous in the community building

Fourth and fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade junior high, and ninth through 12th senior high youth groups meet two Sundays of each month. Fourth and fifth grade meets from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and sixth through twelfth grade from 5 to 7 p.m. Gatherings include dinner. All students are welcome. Call the church office for more information or email cccumc@sbcglobal.net.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
110 S. Division St. • Braidwood, IL
Pastor Justin Kinder
815-458-6211
msbbraidwood.com

Sun.: 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., worship

Wed.: 6 p.m., prayer meeting

Office hours are Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Awana will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1824 Church St., Wilmington, IL
Dallas Henry, Lead Minister
Elijah Coleman, Worship & Arts
Jake Copeland, Youth
Dacia Lambert, Children's
Karen Jackson, Children's
815-476-6734
www.fccwilmington.org

Sun.: 8:30 and 10 a.m., worship service and children's worship for nursery through fifth grade; 10 a.m. Bible classes for adults, high school and junior high; 5:30 p.m., Collision for sixth through twelfth grades

Family groups meet throughout the week in Wilmington, Braidwood and Coal City. Call the church for more information.

Moms Connect meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. Check out the new web page at www.fccwilmington.org/moms-connect.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
303 S. Kankakee, Wilmington, IL
476-4673
Rev. Bill Luttrell
wilmingtonnazarene@sbcglobal.net

Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., coffee and fellowship; 10:45 a.m., worship

Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting

Sat.: 9 a.m., Men's prayer breakfast

RITCHEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Route 102
Wilmington, IL
815-476-6166

Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship service

Communion with Pastor Brent Phillips is on the first Sunday of each month.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
106 S. Lincoln Street
Braidwood, IL
Pastor Dale Tolly
Church: 815-458-6317
Pastor: 815-922-2212
www.firstpresbraidwood.org

Sun.: 9 a.m. Sunday School, primary grades to jr/sr high; 10 a.m. worship service

Wed.: 9 a.m., Ecumenical Bible Study

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1440 Sunset Dr.
P.O. Box 202
Wilmington, IL
815-476-2616
Britton Roth
815-476-7659
Steve Gibson
815-634-4396
www.wilmingtoncoc.com

Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Bible classes; 10:35 a.m., worship; 5 p.m., afternoon worship

Wed.: 7 p.m., Bible study

HARVEST WORSHIP CENTER
32111 S. Rt. 53
Wilmington, IL
217-218-2507
217-218-2506
Welcome Pastors Sam and Faith Carr
Speaker Angie Carr

Sun.: 4:30 p.m., service

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
14936 W. Peotone Rd.
Wilton Center, IL
478-3440
The Rev. Sebastian Gargol

Mass schedule: 9 a.m., Monday and Thursday; 5:45 p.m., Saturday; 9 a.m., Sunday

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Fridays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

NEW COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
705 E. Washington St
Morris, IL
Pastor Kevin Yandell
Children's Director Patsy Phillips
815-942-4255

Sunday worship: 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Nursery and children's programs offered

Family worship with classes for children ages newborn to 11-years-old

Wed.: 7 to 8 p.m., Family worship with classes for all ages

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines

Classified Display

The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

Reach over 42,200 readers with a classified ad in The Free Press Newspapers
• The Prairie Shopper
• The Braidwood Journal
• The Coal City Courant
• The Free Press Advocate

Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$21; 2 wks. - \$25;
3 wks. - \$28; 4 wks. - \$30
\$1.20 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

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

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



ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TRAINING/EDUCATION

AIRLINE CAREERS
FOR NEW YEAR - BECOME AN AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECH. FAA APPROVED TRAINING. FINANCIAL AID IF QUALIFIED - JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE. CALL AIM 800-481-8312

WANTED TO BUY

Freon Wanted: We pay CASH for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-598-1758 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

FOR FREE

Free entertainment center. Good condition. 17 1/2" deep, 49 1/2" high, 58 1/2" long. Located in Braidwood. Call 815-458-0137 ca6a-9b

HELP WANTED

Area No. 1 Club is looking for life guards for the 2020 season. If interested please e-mail areano1secretary@gmail.com or call Gina 815-355-5624 or Jacob 815-693-3964. ca 7a-10b

Field Tech position available. Apply in person for details. Brown's Carpet Care, 513 N. Kankakee St., Wilmington. ch2a-tfn

The Braidwood Recreation Club is hiring for the 2020 Season. **Concession Stand** - Must be at least 16 years old. Operating hours are from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day; open daily 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 7 days per week. Must be willing to work flexible hours and duties include stocking, cleaning, and customer service. Shifts will be approximately 5 hours each. One individual will be hired as an Assistant Manager. **Custodians** - Must be at least 16 years old and be open to a flexible schedule. **Certified Lifeguards** - All applicants must be CPR and Lifeguard Certified and be at least 16 years of age. Proof of Certification must be provided at time of application. **Gate Guards** - Average 5 hour shifts. **Pro Shop Clerks** - Must be 21 years old; duties include stocking, cleaning, and customer service. Must have open availability for holidays, days, evenings, weekends. Applications can be printed off the Club Website at www.braidwoodreccclub.com or picked up at the office. Please call with questions (815)458-2150. ch6b-9b

Godley, 2 BR, 1 BA, water/ sewer/ garbage included, sec. dep., no pets, \$800/month 815-693-9141. ch7a-10b

2 BR, \$825 per month. First Month and \$825 security deposit. 815-690-6977, ch24b-tfn

Mazon, Large 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit. Close to school. Off street parking. Storage. Easy access to Morris, Dwight, Seneca. \$775 and \$795. Advantage Realty, 815-791-5875. Joan Eslinger. ch7b-11a

2 BR, \$825 per month. First Month and \$825 security deposit. 815-690-6977, ch24b-tfn

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2 BR, \$825 per month. First Month and \$825 security deposit. 815-690-6977, ch24b-tfn

HELP WANTED

Multi-disciplinary medical center in Diamond, IL is looking to fill two positions. We are looking for a part-time **Medical Biller** (ChiroTouch experience preferred but will train) with pay to be discussed and a part-time **Independent Contractor - Massage Therapist** that pays \$25 - \$35 an hour based on experience, with the incentive of a hiring bonus after 90 days. Please fax your resumes to 815-634-0756 or e-mail diamondtherapy@yahoo.com. cc5b-8b

HOMES FOR RENT

Coal City-145 E. Blackstone St., 1 BR, stove & fridge furnished, \$650/mo., 815-634-8800.ca 6a-9b

Diamond, 1620 Patmore, 2 BR, 1 BA, decent kitchen w/ all appliances, 1 car garage, repainted and new floors, \$1,000/month, no pets call 815-941-4832. cc7a-10b

HOMES FOR SALE

Home for Sale by Owner, Wilmington, brick, 1-2 BR, 113 S. Water St., needs TLC. Zoned commercial so would make good rental income property with fix up; or good starter home. \$67,000 Call Eric, 815-922-7966. ca43a-tfn

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

FIREWOOD
Dry, seasoned oak firewood \$129, cherry BBQ firewood \$169. Wood racks \$49, Camping Wood \$99. The best firewood & quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc4b-11a

Western Ultra Mount Snow Plow with controller. 8 foot, currently on Chevy 2500 HD. \$2,500 obo. Call evenings and ask for John 815-955-0800. ca6b-9a

MISCELLANEOUS

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

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

2 or 3 BR mobile homes available for rent or sale. Rent from \$799-\$899. Includes water, sewer & trash removal. Please call & talk to Eric about financing options. Call 815-237-2290 for more information. cc3a-10b

PETS

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

Professional Dog Grooming- Jai's Dog Spa, Coal City. Over 11 years experience, gentle at-home environment, one on one services for stress-free experience, travel services available at extra cost, please call (815) 518-5361 for questions and inquiries. cc5a8b

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 204 E BALTIMORE ST., WILMINGTON, IL 60481 (commercial building). On the 27th day of February, 2020 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **FIRST AMERICAN PROPERTIES AND ACQUISITIONS, INC Plaintiff V. DIPTI,LLC, DIPTI GAS INC, VEDANG SUBWAY, INC, SUPERIOR 66, INC WILLIAM H WHITMORE IV, ANIL PATEL, CHITTRANJAN P PATEL, BHADRESH DOSHI, SIERRA PETROLEUM COMPANY, INC, WORLD FUEL SERVICES, INC, D/B/A/TEXOR PETROLEUM, QUIKWAY RETAIL ASSOCIATES II, LTD DISTRIBUTOR, WILMINGTON MOBILE INC, SAHAJNIL INC, WILMINGTON SUBWAY**

REAL ESTATE

INC. UNKNOWN OWNERS, NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN TENANTS, OCCUPANTS AND LEASE-HOLDS Defendant.
Case No. 18 CH 1190 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **law office of paul bjekich** **LAW OFFICE OF PAUL BJEKICH 3225 CORPORATE DR JOLIET, IL 60431 P: 8155574825 F: 815 730-0107** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 2020

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 151 N Hickory Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family Home). On the 20th day of February, 2020 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Plaintiff V. David P. Amoroso; et al. Defendant. Case No. 18 CH 0944 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Codilis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in The Free Press Newspapers Wed., Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12, 2020.**

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Friday, February 21st at 10:00 a.m.

See Photos @ www.bradleyauctionsinc.com/For Questions about Equipment contact Sellers @ 815-671-1546

TRACTORS

2012 Massey Ferguson 8660, Dyna VT, M.F.W.D., C.A.H., Cab Suspension, 5-Hyd. Remotes, Datatronics, Auto. Steer Ready, Front Weights, 480/80R50 Michelin Rear Tires & Duals, 380/80R38 Michelin Front Tires & Duals, 1,507 Hrs., Ser. No. B244056
2012 Massey Ferguson 2680 H.D., M.F.W.D., C.A.H., Synchronized Shuttle/8 Forward & 8 Reverse, M.F. DL260 Loader w/Joystick Control, 84" Bucket, Skid Steer Hook-Up, 2 Hyd. Remotes, 540/1,000 P.T.O., 18.4-34 Rear Tires, 14.9-24 Front Tires, 985 Hrs., Ser. No. 31024BX07005
1997 Massey Ferguson 261 Utility Tractor, ROPS Bar, 540 P.T.O., 1 Hyd. Remote, 16.9R30 Rear Tires, 7.50-16 Front Tires, Ser. No. 5971E25002 Farnall "H" Tractor, (Running)

CASE-IH COMBINE & HEADS

2008 Case-IH 2588 Combine GPS, Pro-600 Monitor, 3 Speed Rotor, Rock Trap, Chopper, Dbl. Chaff Spreader, Tilt Feeder House, Bubble Up Auger, Grain Tank Extension, 2,100 Engine Hours/1,558 Separator Hrs., Ser. No. HAJ303885 **NOTE: This combine had extensive rebuild done the summer of 2018 by Stoller's I.H., and did not run the fall of 2019. Invoice available for work done on day of auction.**
2008 Case-IH 2208 Corn Head, 8 Row, 2-Speed, Hyd. Deck Plates
2007 Drago 8-30 Corn Head, Self Adjusting Deck Plates, Case-I.H. Flagship Hook-up
2006 Case-I.H. 1020 Grain Platform, 25 Ft., Hyd. Fore & Aft. Unverferth HT-25 Head Moving Trailer, 25 Ft.
EZ Trail 672 Head Moving Trailer, 25 Ft.

2-SEMI TRACTORS

2007 Sterling, Day Cab, Mercedes Benz 450 H.P. Engine, 10 Speed Meritor Trans., 435,390 Miles, (Green)
2000 Volvo, Sleeper, 425 H.P. Cummins, 10 Speed Meritor Trans., 815,000 Miles, (White)

LARGE JLG MAN LIFT

JLG 40 RTS Man Lift, All Wheel Drive, Gas, 40 Ft. Lift, 6 Ft. x 14 Ft. Platform
LG. PULL SPRAYER
Gregson 1,000 Gal. Pull Sprayer, 80 Ft. Hyd. Boom, Hyd. Pump, Radar, Raven 450 Controller, Cruiser Navigation Screen/Light Bar, Helix Antenna (GPS), Hyd. Width Adjust Wheels, Fresh Water, Flush Wash Down Tank, 320/90R46 Tires
GRAIN CART-GRAIN WAGONS
2005 Brent 674 Grain/Auger Cart, Scale, (Red); Parker 2600, 400 Bu. Side Unload Wagon Set Up For Seed Tender, Christianson Seed Vac, Honda 340/10.7 H.P. Engine (Electric Start), Elect. Controlled Air Lock, w/Brakes, Parker 2600, 400 Bu. Side Unload Wagon w/Brakes, D.M.I. 470 Bu. Side Unload Wagon w/Brakes & Tarp
FARM EQUIPMENT
Case-IH 1250 Planter, 16 Row-30", Bulk Fill, Shark Tooth Row Cleaners, Precision Planter 20/20 Monitor, V-Drive Meters, True Count Row Clutches
2014 Woods BW 180 Batwing Mower, 1,000 P.T.O. (Small), Deflector Chains, 6-Solid Tires
J.D. 980 Field Cultivator, 24 Ft., 5 Bar Spike Harrow
I.H. 470 Tandem Disk, 21 Ft.-7-1/2" Spacings
J.D. 510 Chisel Plow, 5 Knife, Pull Type Woods Cadet 72 Rotary Mower, 6 Ft. Set of Chem-Farm S. Steel Saddle Tanks, 500 Gal., w/Mountings
EZ-Flow Spreader, 10 Ft., (Pull)

GRAIN AUGERS

Westfield 71 Ft. x 10 In., Swing Away, Low Profile Hopper, Mechanical Drive Hutchinson 61 Ft. x 10 In., Swing Away, Low Profile Hopper, Mechanical Drive Westfield 71 Ft. x 10 In., Swing Away, Hyd. Drive Hopper
Westfield 32 Ft. x 8 In., Truck Auger, P.T.O. Drive

LIVESTOCK & UTILITY

TRAILERS

2007 Corn Pro Livestock Trailer, 6 Ft. x 16 Ft., Tandem Axle, Bumper Pull, (Grey)
2008 Sure Trac 6-1/2 Ft. x 12 Ft., Single Axle Trailer, Stell Rail Sides, Drive On Rear Ramp
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18 Concrete "H" Feed Bunks, (7 Large & 11 Small)
Foremost Cattle Head Gate (Auto. Catch)
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3 Point Bale Mover
Bale Spear (Skid Steer Mount)
Fencing Supplies
1968 JEEPSTER
1968 Jeepster Commando, 225 Dauntless Buick V6 Engine, 3 Speed Manual Trans., 20,230 Original Miles, (Red)
BASS BOAT & TRAILER
1984 Sea Nymph 16 Ft. "Pike Attacker" Alum. Bass Boat, 25 H.P. Mercury Motor, Tiller Steer, Live Well, Trolling Motor, w/ Shorelander Trailer
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Dual Wheel Dolly (For Semi's)
Lincoln 225 Amp AC Welder
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2	9	6	3	1	5	8	4	7
7	2	8	6	4	1	9	5	3
9	4	1	5	8	3	7	2	6
6	3	5	7	9	2	4	8	1

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Are e-scooters green or a pollutant?

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the environmental impact of these dockless e-scooters I see all over town now?

— Jim M. Salisbury, CT

By now, you've certainly seen dockless e-scooters in your town or somewhere nearby. Some 85,000 of these electric-powered, phone-unlockable mini-vehicles crowd the streets and sidewalks of 100 different metro areas across the U.S. In 2018 they surpassed dockless e-bikes as the most common app-rentable transport option nationwide, with riders taking them on some 38.5 million trips.

These e-scooters are often marketed as "green" or "carbon-neutral" because they run off electric batteries instead of fossil fuels, but consumers shouldn't think they're getting a completely guilt-free ride. A recent lifecycle analysis from North Carolina State University assessing the "cradle-to-grave" environmental impact of e-scooters found that bicycling, walking and buses are all "greener" ways to get around.

A rider hopping on an e-scooter doesn't necessarily think about the carbon emissions and other impacts involved with manufacturing,

transporting and maintaining these otherwise low-impact electric vehicles.

"If you only think about the segment of the life cycle you can see, which would be standing on the e-scooter where there's no tailpipe, it's easy to make that assumption," says Jeremiah Johnson, an NC State professor and study co-author. "But if you take a step back, you can see all the other things that are a bit hidden in the process."

While relatively light and small, e-scooters must carry a battery in addition to their basic frame and electronic systems. Producing these batteries takes a heavy toll on the environment, although no worse than similar types of batteries used in e-bikes and even electric cars. Besides the batteries, the aluminum used to create the e-scooters' frames and the rubber for their tires add to their environmental footprint.

The NC State researchers found that about half of an e-scooter's carbon footprint is created during production, while most of the rest (43%) comes from collecting and recharging them every night. In general, e-scooters are charged by freelance workers known as "juicers." At the end of each day, they take e-scooters off the street and typically charge them up at home via their own power outlets (likely not from renewable sources). Furthermore, the majority of juicers pick up e-scooters in gas-powered cars or trucks. The upshot is that the common charging process is a long way from being carbon neutral.

That said, e-scooters are



Courtesy Photo by Brett Sayles, Pexels

A RECENT LIFECYCLE analysis found that bicycling, walking and buses are all "greener" modes of transport than dockless e-scooters...but are they as fun?

currently about twice as efficient as the average car in per passenger miles per gallon (in this case CO2 units emitted per passenger carried a distance of one mile). However, a car carrying more than one passenger can reach the same or even better levels of efficiency as an e-scooter. Buses, when fully loaded, easily beat e-scooters in per passenger efficiency, while bicycles easily beat buses.

Of course, e-scooters are sure to become more efficient in the future as both the pro-

duction and pick-up processes get greener. As a consumer, you can improve the situation by using e-scooters to replace car trips, but bikes or buses are still a better choice as far as the planet is concerned.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

Take a leap, learn about sustainability

The Forest Preserve District of Will County invites you to "Leap into Sustainability," from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays in February at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon. On Feb. 15, attend "Sustainable Ideas to Sustainable Actions" and on Feb. 29, come to "Sustainability for the Soul."

This series will present opportunities for lifestyle changes big and small and teach participants the small steps they can take to make sustainability part of their lives and how to stay energized for future challenges. Free; ages 18 or older. Register by the Thursday before each session at ReconnectWithNature.org or call 815-722-9470.

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2020

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*According to Bankrate.com the average tax refund last year was \$2,899 x the number of Free Press Newspaper households = \$63,778,000

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