

Spoofers, continued from page 1

tions.

- Request that you withdrawal funds from your bank account.

The only time the Braidwood Police Department would ever accept money from you in person for a bail bond is AFTER you have been booked for a crime and fingerprinted.

The police department will never call to inform you that we are on our way to arrest you. We would much rather show up in person while you are there.

Unfortunately, in today's world scammers are getting better at what they do. They use very personal information obtained from various sources in an attempt to extort the vulnerabilities of unsuspecting individuals.

Always remember, if something doesn't seem right or you get that funny feeling in your stomach, trust your instincts. Report suspected fraud to your local authorities.

Ambulance, continued from page 1

patients there.

When someone requests ambulance transportation to Silver Cross Hospital, BFPD is required to seek approval for transport. The approval must be granted every time a request for transport to Silver Cross Hospital is made. If the request is denied, BFPD cannot disregard the order.

The patient's condition is also considered. For example, a patient with chest pain may not be approved for transport to Silver Cross Hospital due to the urgent nature of the emergency.

Charges for calling 911

BFPD also received questions about being billed for calling 911, or for fire department assistance. Residents are not likely to be billed for calling 911. Fees are associated with ambulance transport and vehicle accidents and vehicle fires. For vehicle accidents and vehicle fires, the fire department will recover the amount allowable by the insurance company, if applicable.

"We often respond to 911 requests for help that do not require transport to a hospital," Pemble said. "For the majority of these instances there is no fee associated with the service.

If there are multiple requests for an ambulance, have no fear. The BFPD will request mutual aid from neighboring communities, and BFPD also assists neighboring communities.

BFPD works closely with Braidwood Police Department and the ESDA, who may assist in ambulance calls. This is routine.

Medical helicopters

The hospitals previously listed have limitations for patients needing an immediate level of higher care. Medical helicopters have specialized staff with higher levels of training, different medications available for use and different protocols.

According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the cost of an air ambulance trip is between \$12,000 to \$25,000.

Many insurers will pay what they deem reasonable use of an air ambulance. However, the company might disagree, and the remainder of the bill may be the patient's responsibility.

"The [Facebook] post quickly gained attention, more than we expected," Pemble said, "And residents asked for us to make a post on our page."

BFPD wants residents to stay informed. For information about ambulance services or fire-related topics, please call the BFPD at (815) 458-2000.

Council, continued from page 1

zoning board within approximately six weeks.

Details on whether it's on land annexed into Braidwood or nearby Coal City were not provided. Either way both towns should benefit from workers who would shop, eat and buy gas here.

Police report

Commissioner Ron Wilczak provided police department statistics for Feb. 11 to Feb. 24. Total calls 239; reports 18; arrests 5; charges 8; traffic stops 67; citations 23; written warnings 46; semi-truck violations 4 and parking tickets 3.

Bills and payroll

The council passed a motion by Commissioner Earling to pay bills in the amount of \$88,032.51 and payroll of \$93,576.61.

Wilczak also congratulated the Reed-Custer Middle School Cheerleaders who took first place at the IESA State Cheer Competition in February. The team, parents, and coaches were honored by Mayor Karen Hart and the city council.

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 March 20, 2025 Essex Self Storage will sell or otherwise dispose of the wet saw, copper tubing, generator, and stainless cabinets stored at Essex Self Storage, 815-365-2569, 445 S. East St., Essex, IL 60935

Occupant: Slobodan Ivanisevic, Units 84 & 203

Property: wet saw, copper tubing, generator, and stainless cabinets

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 5 and 12, 2025.

Custer Township looking for bids for tar and chip

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CUSTER HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, WILL COUNTY
18721 Bauer Rd., Custer Park, IL 60481
Advertisement for Bids
Time and Place of Opening Bids
Sealed proposals for the improvement described below will be received at the office of the Custer Highway Commissioner. Please mail sealed bids to the Custer Township Highway Commissioner, 18721 Bauer Rd., Custer Park, IL 60481. Bids will be received until Tuesday March 18, 2025.

Bids will be opened and read publicly at 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Custer Town Hall, 35332 Grant Street, Custer Park, IL 60481.

Description of Work
Advertisement for Bids for Tar and Chip.

Must contact Highway Commissioner for details.

Bidder Instructions
Plans and proposal forms will be available by contacting Bill Marquardt, Highway Commissioner, 708-372-2500.

The Highway Commissioner has the right to reject any and all bids.

Special Provisions
Prerequisite of Bidders in accordance with Section 102.01 (b) of the Standard Specification will be required of all bidders on this proposal.

Bill Marquardt, Custer Township Highway Commissioner
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 5 and 12, 2025.

VOTERS ARE THE BEST READERS OF NEWSPAPERS
Let them know your platform by printing it in the local newspaper call 815-476-7966

Braidwood to hold hearing for Comprehensive Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS
PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Please take notice that on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 7:00p.m. a Public Hearing will be conducted by the Plan Commission of the City of Braidwood at the Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408 for the purpose of hearing testimony regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan for the City of Braidwood. The proposed Comprehensive Plan is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the City Clerk.

All interested properties are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. For more information, please contact the City of Braidwood City Clerk's office at 141 W Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408 or at 815-458-2333.

Sarah Weaver
City Clerk for the City of Braidwood
Published in the Braidwood Journal, March 5, 2025.



READY TO ROAR—Bill Mincey of Coal City (left, wearing headphones) has done all he can to prepare the engine on this top fuel dragster for ScottRod Racing.

Thrill of racing sends Coal City man to Florida

BY MIKE LOOMIS
CORRESPONDENT

Coal City residents tuning in to drag racing action this weekend may spot a familiar figure on their TV screens. Bill Mincey, a longtime resident who serves on the village's board of trustees, will be part of the pit crew for a team competing in the 2025 Amelie Motor Oil Gatornationals.

Held in Gainesville, FL, on March 6–9, the race is the season opener for the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Mission Foods Drag Racing Series. As part of ScottRod Racing, Mincey's role is to service the right-side engine head of the team's Top Fuel car.

"It's just a lot of fun to be part of a team and watch these cars go 300 mph," said Mincey, 64. A retired firefighter who spent 30 years with the Matteson Fire Department, he's had a lifelong interest in racing. "Since I was a little kid, after church on Sunday we'd go to the U.S. 30 drag strip in Indiana and watch the races."

Part of Mincey's extensive experience includes six seasons with the Crete-based Luigi Novelli Racing team as well as time as a crew member with driver Buddy Hull's team.

In addition to the Gatornationals, Mincey will travel with ScottRod Racing to three other events this season.

At the Gainesville event, two qualifying heats are scheduled for both Friday and Saturday, with only 16 dragsters qualifying

to compete on Sunday.

"There's a thousand things that can go wrong," Mincey said, noting that each engine head contains 180 parts. The dragsters are about 300-inches long and weigh approximately 2,500 pounds with the driver.

Because of the immense power and heat produced by the 11,000-horsepower machines, the engines must be rebuilt after each run.

"When it comes off the line and travels the length of the car, it's already at 100 mph," Mincey said. The dragsters consume 14 gallons of fuel in just three seconds as they accelerate up to 300 mph and beyond.

The tires double in size as the car moves down the quarter-mile track. A rear wing provides the down force necessary to keep the car stable and prevent it from lifting up. The dragsters are direct drive, without a transmission system.

"You have to be on your 'A' game or that car will be back on the trailer going home," Mincey said.

The G-force in NHRA Top Fuel dragsters can reach 5.2 Gs as they accelerate. That force then swings to a negative 4.0 Gs when the driver deploys the parachute to slow the car. Along with a helmet and gloves, the drivers wear a three-quarter inch thick fire suit for protection.

The ScottRod Racing team is owned by Scott Farley and his wife, Michelle Torromeo, who are both pilots for UPS.

"We met Bill in the pits at a race when he was with Buddy Hull Racing," said Farley – who also drives the



Courtesy photo
BILL MINCEY of Coal City knows the intricacies of an 11,000 h.p. engine for top fuel dragsters. He said there are 180 moving parts in each head of an engine, and "there's a thousand things that can go wrong."

dragster – when reached at his team's facility in Ellington, Ct.

Recognizing Mincey's knowledge of the specialized engines and enthusiasm for racing, they kept in contact and Mincey eventually made his first appearance with Farley's pit crew team at a race in Reading, Pa., last September.

A resident of Coal City since 1995, Mincey has

been on the Village of Coal City's board of trustees since being appointed in 2023 to replace Dave Spesia when he became mayor. Mincey also sits on the village's planning and zoning committee.

The finals for the Amelie Motor Oil NHRA Gatornationals is scheduled to air 6 – 9 pm CST on Sunday, March 9, on FS1.top fuel drag11,000

you're aware of the forecast and remember the forecast is for general conditions for a wide area/timeframe.

Conditions can and do change rapidly so being ready for that is necessary. For more specifics on Weather Safety, you can visit <https://www.weather.gov/lot/severeprepare>

For an additional source of weather preparedness, as well as updates on local conditions such you can visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BraidwoodESDA>

Commentary

Are you prepared for severe weather?

BY JOSH BOLATTO

The first week of March in Illinois begins Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois. This is the time when the weather generally starts warming up with severe thunderstorms to soon follow.

While you should always be ready for changes in weather, this week highlights specific knowledge each day and actions to help ensure you're always prepared for such events.

Monday: Receiving Weather Info. Take the time to ensure you can receive the most up to date information from trusted weather sources. Check your mobile device can receive WEA alerts and weather app notifications.

Make sure you have a NOAA Weather Radio programmed (and new batteries as a backup if power goes out), and know local radio and television stations that will break into programming to broadcast severe weather warnings. Having multiple methods to receive weather information is necessary!

Tuesday: Tornado Safety. The first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. brings a test of the Outdoor Warning Sirens, which happens every month at this time. Concurrent to this test for March will be the statewide tornado drill.

Practice your response to a tornado warning as if a live event is occurring. Ensure your

safe location is ready and your family knows the location, and take this time to prep an emergency kit to have available in that location so it will be ready if you have to make a quick entry to it!

Wednesday: Lightning Safety. Never be outside in a lightning storm as there is no safe place. Stay away from trees and tall objects, water sources etc. If inside stay away from electrical equipment or electronics in the event your home is struck.

Thursday: Hail/Wind safety. While many people think hail/wind just causes property damage, many

forget that its damage can create dangerous situations like downed trees or downed power lines.

Friday: Flood safety. Quite often drenching rains can create quick flooding conditions in low lying areas. This is hazardous to drive through as standing water can cause hydroplaning, disable a vehicle, and if the water is moving, it may have enough force to tip a vehicle. Never drive through flooded roads!

Although officially Severe Weather Preparedness Week ends on Friday, March 7, being prepared for weather events never ends. Always ensure



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• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

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

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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

Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
The Braidwood Journal,
111 S. Water St., Wilmington IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$46 Grundy & Will counties; \$53 other Illinois counties and \$60 out of state

The birth and early history of Essex

Today we set our sights south to the town of Essex. Set the w a y b a c k machine for December 19, 1879.

We first read of Essex's birth announcement in the Wilmington Advocate, "Essex is boom-

ing as a new railroad town. Messrs. Odell and Loneran are about putting up corn cribs there, it is said. Town lots have been staked off and a railroad depot located, so report says." Odell was an entrepreneur from the Wilmington area originally, but he had his hand in almost every town in the coal field, including the one named after him.

In the same issue we read of a Braidwood merchant investing in the new town. "Mr. Rankin, of Braidwood, is said to be putting up a dry goods and grocery store in Essex." And in the following spring, "Mr. Rankin is busily engaged in erecting his creamery in Essex."

By June of 1880 the village



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

of Essex was platted in Kankakee by J. Cappell and C. White. Ed Albert was named the first post-master. After only six months the new village had grown up to adulthood.

And what is a town without a hotel, especially a railroad town. In September of 1880 we read, "D. B. Reid's hotel in Essex is complete, and will be known by the public as the Wabash House."

Although we don't read that much about the coal mines in Essex, they were the largest employer. And at the same time the Diamond mine disaster happened, the tremendous rains of 1883 affected Essex as well.

We read on February 23, 1883, "Work in the mines in Essex has been suspended the past week on account of the water. The furnace at shaft No. 1 was submerged to the boiler, but in all probability work will soon be

resumed." Luckily no one was in the shaft at Essex when the flooding started.

On May 5, 1883 it was announced in the Wilmington Advocate, "The coal shaft at Essex was sold on Tuesday last to the Eureka Coal Company; which has two large shafts in operation in the suburbs of Braidwood. As to the price paid we are not informed. From present indications Essex will soon loom up as an important coal mining town, second only to Braidwood and Braceville. The new and magic burg is to be known as Clark City" I find the last sentence very interesting because as far as I know, Essex's name was never changed to Clark City.

In addition, Essex was one of the few mining towns that also quarried stone; we read in the fall of 1883, "Large quantities of excellent stone for all kinds of building purposes are being taken out at Mr. Austin's quarry, two miles east of Essex."

Although Essex had no river like Wilmington or Custer Park, there was a large grove of trees in the

area. In fact, there were quite a few soft maple trees in the grove. In the spring of 1883 we read, "Mr. A. Palmer has a number of soft maple trees on tap and is making sugar and syrup of excellent quality."

This grove of trees proved to be a community gathering spot. We read of upcoming Fourth of July celebration at Essex in the June 23 Wilmington Advocate, "The Fourth at Essex - The congregation of the church of St. Laurence, at Essex, will celebrate the coming Fourth-of-July with a vim. The Miners' band, of Braidwood, has been engaged for the day, and the ladies of the parish will supply and dispense edibles which the most epicurean and fastidious can not fail to relish.

Speaking of Essex as a picnic ground an admiring writer says: "There are few places so well adapted for picnic parties as the groves in and around Essex, situated on the Wabash and Pacific and Kankakee and Seneca railroads. It is well wooded, the shade trees providing abundant protection from the sun's rays.

Excursionists can not possibly get tired or fatigued. The clear, grassy sward on one side, and the high, verdant foliage on the other form a landscape that must be seen to be admired, as no words can express the delights and charms of the spot."

By 1885 small businesses were flourishing. This was great for the town, but not so much for Mr. White. "December 11, 1885 - Wilmington Advocate Particulars concerning the burglary of White' store in Essex on the night of the 3rd are at hand."

"It seems that the three masked burglars entered with a false key. Thos. Nelson was asleep in the store, and, when awakened, was confronted with a revolver. The safe was then ransacked of \$90, the property of a Mr. Royce. Nelson's watch and gun were taken, and about \$40 from the money drawer. Nelson was then gagged and bound to his bed with cord. The rascals also took some goods and then Mr. White's team and buggy from the stable. The latter property was found near

Braceville on the day following."

And again, a year later, "August 20, 1886 - Mack M. White's store in Essex was robbed last night and a large amount of goods was stolen. Also notes amounting to from \$1,000 to \$1,500, some of which were payable to himself and others to John M. White, and still others to Wm. McIntosh. All persons are hereby cautioned against purchasing said notes."

We leave you with a few lines on the brighter side of life, "The most notable marriage that has been recorded in Essex for many years was that which was consummated by a couple last Sunday. The parties are Italians. The lady is 67 years old and is the mother of 17 children, 12 of whom are now living. The man is 28 years old. The new bride to all appearance "is just as young as she used to be." Squire Gregson tied the knot."

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs

Tuesday, March 11- Well-Read Book Club, 1-2 p.m. Dive into thought-provoking reads and engaging discussions with the Well-Read Book Club. We'll explore books that challenge your perspectives each month and ignite meaningful conversations. Join us and connect with fellow book lovers. March's Title: Eddie: The Life and Times of America's Pre-eminent Bad Boy, by Chris Lynch.

Teen and Tween Programs

Monday, March 10, 6-7 p.m. Eat Your Science: Mystery Meringue. An educational and delicious science program. Each month, you can participate in and explore various science experiments and demonstrations featuring edible ingredients. This unique experience will allow children to learn about science and taste many final products, making it an entirely edible STEM activity. Grades 3rd through 8th are preferred.

Wednesday, March 12- TikTok Makeup Trends, 6-7:30 p.m. Join GlamBat Studios for a beginner makeup class for teens. Use the provided tools and materials to learn essential tips and techniques through a live demonstration and hands-on practice. This fun and interactive class is perfect for teens exploring makeup in a supportive and creative environment. Don't miss this opportunity to build confidence and have fun while learning makeup basics.

Children Programs

Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20 & 27- Toddler Time, 10-11 a.m. We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us weekly to

explore various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.

Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27- 5:30-6:30 p.m. Listen and Create Storytime, This program is specially designed for children aged 3-5. Children can explore new books every week and engage in a fun craft project. Please make sure to dress in clothes that can get messy, as the craft project will involve getting creative with various art materials.

Wednesdays, March 12, 19 & 26 -Lap-Sit, 10-10:30 a.m. Let's instill a love of books in children from birth to three years old. This program is designed to introduce your child to the wonderful world of books. Caregiver participation and guidance are required as we read, sing, and do finger plays.

Wednesday, March 12- Half-Day Movie Matinee: Despicable Me 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Bring your own refreshments or enjoy light snacks.

Wednesday, March 12- Chess Club for all ages, 5-7 p.m. This club is a drop-in session style, and members can attend at their leisure to learn or enhance their skills and play against other players. All ages are welcome.

Tuesday, March 18- Play-doh playdates, 10:30-11 a.m. Join us for a Play-Doh workshop! Display your creativity using our Play-Doh and tools. This program is for children aged 2-6.

Registration is required for all programs. For more information call 815-458-2187.

RCHS puts Kelly Wilson in the Senior Spotlight



The Senior Spotlight winner for the month of March is Emma Wilson. Emma is the daughter of Clayton and Kelly Wilson.

During her high school career, Emma was involved in FCCLA, World Culture Club, the RC Chatter, Safe School Ambassadors, Softball, Volleyball, Academic Challenge Team, and National Honor Society.

She was also a Student of the Month, an ACE winner, an R-C Athlete of the Week, an Illinois State Scholar, a Silver Medalist (Charcuterie Board) at the FCCLA State competition, awarded ICE All-Academic in Volleyball and Softball, has College & Career Pathway Endorsements in Early Childhood Education, and was on the High Honor Roll.

Her future plans are to attend Illinois State University to major in Early Childhood Education.

Here are a few thoughts from Emma's teachers.

Mrs. Meyr thinks that Emma is "bright and bubbly. I love how dedicated she is to her academics. Anytime I see Emma, she has a smile on her face! Emma is polite and a great role model for others. I wish her much success in her future!"

Ms. Chinksi believes

that Emma is "friendly and outgoing. She is a dedicated student and athlete. Emma always seems to be happy and having fun!"

Mrs. Rankin is thankful that Emma is "an outstanding student. She gives her best to everything she does and is always willing to help those around her."

Mrs. Arseneau says that she "LOVES, LOVES, LOVES this 'child'! She has always been such a bright and hard-working student. It has been so fun to watch her grow up into the fearless and fun leader that she is! Emma is smart, strong and confident. She is someone I can always rely on getting things done the right way, the first time. I have loved watching her bloom as a teacher through the Little Comets preschool and now teaching internship. Her future students are so lucky to have her, and I cannot wait to see all that she accomplishes after her time here at RC!"

Ms. Giffin acknowledges that "attending a new school is frightening for kids...and adults. When I started at RCHS, Emma was immediately warm and welcoming. Her positivity is contagious, her love for her school is evident, and her motivation is intrinsic. She is an impressive young woman!"

Ms. Zastrow appreciates that Emma is "a fantastic young woman that I am extremely proud to know! I am thankful to have had the opportunity to teach her and work closely with her. Emma is a leader in the classroom and FCCLA and I cannot wait to see all of the

great things she does when she leaves RCHS!"

Ms. Mountain says that she has "loved having Emma in class. I got to know her well last semester in our one on one math class and it turned out to be so much better than either of us were expecting! She has a strong desire to succeed and this will lead her to be successful in all that she does!"

Mrs. Lee thinks that Emma is "truly an exceptional person and student. Her kindness, maturity, and dedication to her work have always stood out to me. She consistently goes above and beyond in both academics and her relationships with her peers. Her kind heart and upbeat attitude inspire me to continue to lead with kindness each day. It has been a joy to have her in class for the past three years, and I am so proud of everything she has accomplished. I'm excited to see where her bright future will take her, and I have no doubt she will continue to achieve great things."

Mr. Gleixner believes that Emma is "a great student and person. She constantly has a smile on her face and has come into her own over the course of her high school career. She is the epitome of what a Reed-Custer student should be: smart, kind, out-

going, and hard working."

Mr. Welsh appreciates that Emma is "a passionate and caring young woman. We are fortunate to have her in the National Honor Society, and we look forward to welcoming her into the teaching profession in a few short years."

Mr. Wolf says that Emma is "a quiet soul with an infectious smile. She tries her very best in everything she does, and that makes her admired by the people that know her. She has a very bright future ahead of her and I'm happy to have had her in my classroom."

As a final thought, Emma's advice to younger students is, "It's ok to not know what your future holds; you are still learning from your experiences and developing your character. Just enjoy the journey and take in the sights along the way."

"If you are ever feeling lost, just remember you are still growing." -Lizzy McAlpine

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, we would like to congratulate Emma Wilson as the March winner of the Senior Spotlight.

Guerra named to dean's list

Anthony Guerra, of Braidwood, was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington.

Guerra is a first-year student majoring in psychology, earning a GPA of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight As.

Donate blood for a chance at Hawaiian trip

One lucky blood donor will score a trip to Hawaii.

The city of Braidwood will team up with Versiti Blood Centers to host a blood drive.

The blood drive will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26 in

the council meeting room at Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St.

To register visit www.donateblood.versiti.org and click on the "Donate Now" link. You may also contact Josh Bolatto at (815) 458-2342 Monday

through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

While pre-registration is desirable, walks-ins are also welcome.

Every donor will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a trip to Hawaii.



REED-CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL
HOME OF THE COMETS

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2025

MR. JASON CAPPEL

"Helps us when needed"
"Listens to students"
"Calm"
"Friendly but serious"
"He's the best!"



CONGRATULATIONS TO the RCHS February Teacher of the Month, as voted on by the student body, Mr. Jason Cappel! Students had the following comments to share about Mr. Cappel: "Helps us when needed, listens to students, calm, friendly but serious, and he's the best!" Cappel, who is in his 14th year at Reed-Custer, teaches Special Education.

Trenkamp petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

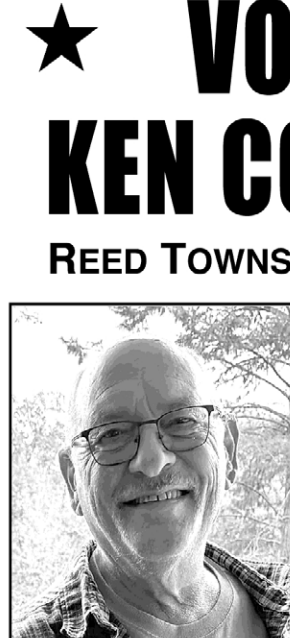
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the petition to change the name of MICHELLE LYNN TRENKAMP to the new name of MICHELLE LYNN MEENAN, Case No. 24 MR 187

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Michelle Lynn Trenkamp, adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 15th day of April, 2025 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Michelle Lynn Trenkamp be changed to Michelle Lynn Meenan.

/s/ Michelle Lynn Trenkamp
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 5, 12 and 19, 2025.



VOTE

KEN CORBIN

REED TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Hello, my name is Ken Corbin, and I am running for the office of trustee in Reed Township. I would be deeply grateful for your vote on April 1st. As a lifelong resident and graduate of Reed-Custer High School, I possess intimate knowledge of our community. My professional background comprises 33 years at Caterpillar and 14 years of service with the Reed Township Highway Department. I am currently a member of the board and would appreciate your vote.

Thank you. Ken Corbin

Paid for by Ken Corbin

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

Think again

BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood residents beware. If you think that by voting out the current mayor and two of the four commissioners, you'll be getting the city administrator off the payroll, think again. If you'll recall, back on May 9, 2023, Mr. Altiery was appointed to the position of Supervisor of Streets and Public Improvements. This is a position which is controlled exclusively by the Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements. Seeing as how this commissioner is not up for election, Altiery has been making it well known throughout town that if he is let go from his position as City Administrator, he will still be employed in his secondary capacity. Perhaps the Truth Seekers need to start aiming their cannons at that life rope.

For sale

BRAIDWOOD—Looks like they're selling more than just cars over there on the west side of Braidwood off the frontage road. Must be all that good smelling cologne bringing them in. Becky.

Coal City proud

COAL CITY—Kudos to the Coal City Wrestling team for taking first place at state. Way to go Coalers!

Incompetence

WILMINGTON—Those who are firing the federal workforce should be fired themselves because they made errors such as: nuclear experts were fired by mistake and had to be rehired but couldn't be found; scientists who worked on bird flu vaccines were fired by mistake; National Park employees were fired who knew the codes to the bathrooms. Musk and Trump are running the government like the key-stone cops and therefore the former should be fired and the latter should be impeached after the midterms when Democrats once again have the majority. Who has ever witnessed such incompetence? Certainly not in the previous administration and certainly not in any administration in my lifetime. Trump is possibly getting too old and frail and his mental faculties are failing him. After all, he thinks Ukraine invaded Russia. He thinks Zelensky is a dictator and he thinks Putin is not a dictator. It's time to put Trump out to pasture in an old folks home. Irene

Bare minimum

BRAIDWOOD—Manipulation is when they lack the effort and give you the bare minimum while acting like they're trying hard in giving you the top tier. This is the current administration.

Their appointments

BRAIDWOOD—Mr. Lyons recently announced to the public that if elected Mayor, he will not be re-appoint Mr. Altiery to his position as City Administrator. That's part one of a three part answer. The residents of Braidwood still need to know who you plan on appointing to the positions of City Clerk and Chief of Police. Answers to both of those appointments need to be disclosed as well since knowing who will be holding those positions after the election is also very important to the voters. Mrs. Hart, we are still waiting for your answers to all three positions.

FYI—Todd Lyons has gone on record stating he was going in a different direction with the city administrator and will work with the council to find an administrator with communication skills, knowledge of policies and procedures, someone with a college degree, strong leadership skills and experience in municipal government. Especially someone who understands grants, local laws and codes and who will work towards the city's financial future. Lyons said before he does anything he will have to see what the financial condition the city is in. "I will not be changing any other positions at this time. I want to see that responsibilities are being met in each position. If people are doing their jobs there is no reason to blindly remove them. I have had conversations with people who have been told I was removing them to let them know that is not the case," Lyons said.

Blatant disregard

Commentary

Create energy independence at home

BY MADELINE FABER

As more frequent extreme weather events pose a threat to aging infrastructure or cause power outages, more homeowners are looking for ways to improve their energy security.

One homeowner, Eric Williams, has built a system that allows his home to function as a small-scale "nano grid," capable of running independently from the main utility when needed.

His system includes a Sol-Ark 15 kW inverter and 9.6 kWh of battery storage. The inverter directs energy between his solar panels, battery and home, ensuring a seamless flow of power.

The battery stores excess solar energy, which can be used during outages or when electricity rates are

high. This setup allows his home to switch to battery power instantly during a grid failure, so smoothly that even the clocks don't reset.

To test his system, Eric disconnected from the grid for 99 hours last fall. His battery reliably powered essential systems like refrigeration, freezing, lighting, and Wi-Fi.

While it couldn't continuously sustain air conditioning, he managed energy use by shutting off non-essential devices.

For homeowners in rural areas or places with an aging power grid, solar and battery storage offers reliability, cost savings, and greater energy independence. Batteries allow homeowners to shift their power use to times when electricity rates are lower, reducing dependence on the grid

and cutting costs.

Setting up a system like this requires planning, and finding knowledgeable contractors can be a challenge. But as solar and battery technology improves, home energy independence is becoming more accessible.

While going fully off-grid isn't realistic for most, a well-designed system can provide resilience, affordability, and sustainability, offering homeowners greater control over their energy future.

Faber is policy associate for the Center for Rural Affairs, nonprofit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

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The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel.

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the baseball cap has a reason to smile as he cheats us all.

By then

SHADOW LAKES—The U.S. House of Representatives just approved the budget resolution. Trillions of dollars of spending cuts, the amount of money that the Trump administration wants to cut from social programs. It's impossible to accomplish without cutting into Medicaid. Food stamps another vital programs for the American people. It's gonna take maybe a year or two before we start to see the results of what the Trump administration is doing. All I have to say to you, Trump supporters is that there's no doubt in my mind that by then the blind fold will fall off your eyes.

Putin's puppet

COAL CITY—Trump crashes and burns as he deliberately plays as Putin's loyalist for the cameras on the diplomatic stage and the credit goes to Zelensky because Zelensky vividly sees Trump's dishonesty and sees through Trump's smoke. Sadly heads of state now hold their noses while they shame themselves by bending their knee to Trump. But Zelensky has integrity and recognizes integrity when he sees it and he knows to never trust Trump. Whether or not negotiations will continue remains to be seen, but what Trump and Vance did in the Oval Office weakens our nation and strengthens the savage Russian war criminals who demolish hospitals and schools and threatens us also.

Russians come next

ESSEX—I finally figured out why King Trump wanted to get rid of all the migrants in the United States of America. King Trump is making room for the people he really loves. The Russians

Signed Dipstick

Lord help us

BRAIDWOOD—To "Why he resigned" and all residents of Braidwood. Jim "Moose" Mikel had so many ways to protest his friend's firing. He could have spoke up at meetings, he could have voiced his disgust to the public that voted him in, he could have continued to fight and represent the public for who voted him in but instead he just quit. If I quit my job it's very unlikely I would be hired back. Only you have a little luck on your side that Braidwood doesn't vote for the best candidate, they vote for who's been in the city the longest or who's the most popular, and that's what got the city in the problems we had in the past. Now we have Facebook posts every day and the "Truthseekers." Lord help us in these elections any more.

The Holy Land

SHADOW LAKES—I'm watching the news on channel 2, 5 and 7 and what is going on in the Middle East should really no concern to anyone because if you've read the Bible this is a war that is going to end all problems in the world. We, the Bible people. Dan Hill

Zelensky defies Trump

RITCHIE—It was a day of exhilaration when the cowards, the craven, the gutless were shown how it's done. As a testament to Zelensky's courage proven by fighting a butcher during three years of war and now standing up to Trump's duplicity, Zelensky answers that he trusts neither Putin nor Trump. And well he should not. Trump is never to be trusted and Putin less so. Zelensky's achievement is twofold. Republicans are further exposed for the spineless weaklings that they are and Europe must now face the reality that Trump supports Putin in Putin's quest for European domination.

Cheers and jeers

WILMINGTON—Zelensky is a hero for not apologizing and jeers to Trump for destroying America's top leadership in the world order for the past 80 years. And what does it tell you that a summit was planned between Trump and Putin immediately after the Oval incident? It reveals that the Oval Office incident was staged by Trump and verifies Trump's collusion with Putin during the 2016 election from the get-go. Even Zelensky's modest clothing was criticized during the argument while Musk gets away with wearing a baseball cap and weird outfits including during a formal meeting of the Cabinet. But you may ask, why did Trump pull this stunt that weakens America? Most Americans have never lived in a country

that isn't the richest in the world and 81% of Americans distrust Putin. But Trump will be happy consorting with his dictator buddy and will most certainly become a full-fledged dictator himself which is not what we voted for. Yes, it appears we've lost our democracy as Benjamin Franklin warned.

Cleaning the mess

WILMINGTON—This is in response to Penny Lane's recent submission. It appears that you only receive your facts from the MSM (Main Stream Media) and The View who are blatant gaslighting liars who bend and bow to the Liberal Democrats. In fact it was recently brought to light that USAID funneled money to Socialist George Soros. Look up who George Soros really is and what he does. He certainly should not have been the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by Biden. He is a corrupt evil person who wants to destroy our country from the inside out. Regarding the high price of gas-you can thank Joe Biden for that when on day one of his presidency he signed an executive order shutting down the Keystone pipeline killing thousands of jobs which led to the high inflation we have had to endure under him resulting in more inflation on everything we purchase. Biden caused it all. He called it Bidenomics-what a joke. Trump inherited this mess. On the subject of felons, Hunter Biden was a convicted felon only to be pardoned by his father and the entire Biden crime family. Hmm sounds like they are all guilty. Wonder why the US has such an extensive case of bird flu leading to the slaughter of thousands of egg laying chickens when other countries do not? Mexico has plenty of eggs and they fly, chickens do not. Our ducks and geese in the park are just fine, as are the locals who raise chickens and sell their eggs. The FDA, under Biden, ordered entire flocks of chickens slaughtered when one case was found instead of isolating the sick from the healthy. How about Biden and his open borders allowing all the illegals into our country? Guess who paid for this mess? We did. So much was covered up under Biden to protect him and him and his reckless agenda, but again, the MSM covered for him and was paid to do so through our taxpayer dollars. Seems our taxpayer dollars were funneled to various other sources. This is called money laundering. The Democratic party is nothing more than a corrupt money laundering machine. If you like your tax dollars funding all that has been uncovered and wasted, keep voting Democrat and repeating their lies and coverups. In closing, who was really running the country under Biden? It certainly was not him. So don't admonish the Republicans, or MAGA zealots, as you call them, when they have to clean up the mess that Biden and his gang created.

Unbelievable until now

BRAIDWOOD—Remember the book, The Art of the Deal, written in 1987? It was about Trump but it was written by a talented author named Tony Schwartz who interviewed Trump and got to know him very well. After the book was finished and Schwartz observed Trump's dealings from afar, Schwartz was appalled at Trump's mean-spirited business practices and began to donate all royalties he received from the book to charity. When Trump was campaigning for his first term as president, Schwartz gave interviews on TV in 2016 with the hope of discouraging votes for Trump and made a prediction which I found hard to believe at the time. But now I see that Schwartz was right on target when he warned that a Trump presidency would likely mean the destruction of western civilization as we know it. Sadly Schwartz's prediction possibly came true on Feb. 28 when Trump lost control in the Oval Office causing our proud nation to lose its status as leader of the free world. Ukraine and Europe are now in crisis mode and Trump aligns our country with Putin's savage dictatorship that is determined to regain its status as the 'evil empire' as President Reagan called it. As for me, I am wishing the best for Ukraine and the free countries of Europe because our nation is already lost to the evil forces of tyranny.

You charge, you pay

SHADOW LAKES—This is regarding an ad I just saw on television about credit card debt that is not really your fault? Well, whose fault is it for charging so much money? Dan Hill

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Budget cuts 9.1% in core state services

The latest report from the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability shows that spending on four "core" state services in the governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget will be 9.1 percent less in real dollars than it was back in Fiscal Year 2000.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

Those four core services are education, health-care, human services and public safety.

The CTBA has been tracking this number for years. And although they didn't mention it in their latest report, that 9.1 percent figure is actually a remarkable improvement. It's also food for thought whenever you see claims that Illinois' spending is at record levels.

For core services, at least, we're still far below where we were 25 years ago.

But that gap has closed a lot.

The Fiscal Year 2014 state budget's core service expenditures (before the two+ year state budget impasse) were 28 percent less than in FY2000, according to CTBA at the time.

So, the "structural deficit," as CTBA calls this

comparison to 2000, has fallen by more than two-thirds in real dollars since 2014.

Fiscal Year 2022 ran from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. CTBA reported back then that expenditures on those four core services were 22.3 percent below that of FY2000, after adjusting for inflation.

That means the structural deficit will fall by 59 percent in just four years, if the CTBA predictions and the budget hold up through next June 30.

Using federal pandemic money to pay off billions in state debt was a huge help. And the state pension funding problem, which has historically crowded out necessary spending, has stabilized. Yes, the payments grow every year, but they've stayed somewhere around 20 percent of the total budget for several years.

Pension payments in the FY16 budget were \$6.7 billion. They're budgeted this coming year at \$10.6 billion. After inflation is calculated over that 10 years, that's about a \$1.75 billion increase in today's dollars (about \$175 million a year), and it will be lower than that by the end of June

2026 when the fiscal year expires.

Speaking of pensions, the governor has proposed spending an additional \$78 million in the coming fiscal year to make sure the state doesn't have a "safe harbor" problem with Tier Two retirees.

The state passed what's called a Tier Two pension plan because the original plan - which had been grossly underfunded and overpromised for decades - was simply costing too much to be affordable. The plan reduced pension benefits in several ways for new hires.

However, under federal law, state pensions have to be at least equal to Social Security benefits. And when the state lowered benefits, at least some folks won't receive that bare minimum when they retire.

The penalty for not meeting the minimum requirement is severe. All employees would have to be put into the Social Security system and the state would have to give those workers retroactive Social Security benefits for up to 10 years, which could be billions and billions of dollars.

In addition, new hires wouldn't be contributing into the pension funds, which would deprive those systems of revenue.

The teachers' unions, however, say they want to go well beyond that mini-

mum requirement. Taking care of the safe harbor issue would benefit mainly high-wage employees like principals. They want more money put into the system to increase benefits to encourage more people to become teachers in the first place and keep them on the job.

The Illinois Federation of Teachers released a statement last month saying the governor's proposal was just "the beginning of a broader repair to a grossly unfair" pension that hobbles Illinois' ability to recruit and retain educators. Our members will continue to press for a proper and full legislative repair to Tier 2 pensions this session."

The Illinois Education Association's statement last month said it wants "a fix to Tier Two that allows all those who serve students in Illinois an equitable retirement and that entices people to stay in the profession."

That proposal would cost a huge amount of money. A study done for the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability found that the union proposal would cost the state \$1.13 billion extra this coming fiscal year.

The governor has never seemed enthusiastic about that plan, hence his \$78 million proposal.

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

Scrap metal can be recycled during electronics drop-offs

Don't throw that old frying pan in the trash bin. Now you can take it and other scrap metal items to a Will County electronics waste recycling drop-off held the second Thursday of the month in the parking lot of the city hall, 1165 S. Water St., Wilmington.

Small scrap metal items being accepted including cookie sheets, pots and pans, car jacks, chains, keys, copper pipe and fittings, nuts, bolts, screws, hand tools, metal door knobs, silverware, tool boxes, watches, wire hangers, wire screens and more.

Will County's next free electronics drop-off event will be Thursday, March 13, from 5-7 p.m.

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

items without assistance from each vehicle.

All electronic items (broken or obsolete) are accepted. Items include: televisions (limit 2), computers and monitors including desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets, e-readers), printers, electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players (iPods, MP3s), CD/DVD/Blu-ray players, DVD players/recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, computer speakers, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Also air fryers, all types of telephones, calculators, camcorders, cell phones, CB radio/CB scanners, digital/SLR cameras,

digital photo frames, digital projectors, electric lawn mowers, electric scooters, fans, GPS devices, hands-free phone headsets, Instapot, microwaves, power tools, radar detectors, radios, rice cooker, shredders, stereo receivers, string lights, toasters and toaster ovens, UPS/battery backup devices and vacuum (stick, robot, canister) and tollway responders.

Save the date

Save the date for "Our Couture Closet", a family-friendly fashion show/auction to support "Our Caring Closet", on Sunday April 13, at the Wilmington High School. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

KC to serve corned beef and cabbage

The Knights of Columbus Council 1574 will serve a corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 15, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the Father White Hall, 110 S. School Street in Braidwood.

The dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, carrots and potatoes.

Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will benefit the Immaculate Conception Church and Council functions.

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Demand, HPAI drive record egg prices

BY RHIANNON BRANCH
FARMWEEK

Consumers are experiencing the highest egg prices in history driven by increased demand and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which could keep the market elevated for a while.

The latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics puts the average retail egg price at \$4.90 per dozen nationwide.

"That's an all-time high and a lot more expensive than what consumers are typically dealing with," Brian Earnest, lead animal protein analyst for CoBank told FarmWeek. "I think back 10 years ago when it was pretty common to see \$1 per dozen or less."

He said HPAI is one of the main causes, noting the current outbreak has had more of a year-round impact than the previous outbreak in 2015.

"Now it has been found in all 50 states and has had an impact to supply every month since February of 2022," Earnest said.

As a result, there are 8% fewer egg laying hens in



Courtesy photo by Illinois Farm Bureau

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN influenza (HPAI) and demand are driving up egg prices to historical highs.

U.S. production compared to two years ago, and Earnest said consumer demand has also shifted in that time frame.

"We've seen big growth in demand of cage free eggs," he said, using California as example of a state that has elected to go completely cage-free.

"There's roughly 39 million residents in California and there were roughly 9 million table egg laying hens that were depopulated as a result of bird flu in California," he said. "Their ability to feed their residents eggs that were produced within the state was severely impacted."

But Earnest said even without HPAI, a boost in demand would still have prices somewhat elevated, noting that eggs have become a staple item for innovation in quick-service restaurant entrees, and consumers have latched on to emerging trends like all-day breakfast.

"We moved from consuming roughly 275 eggs per capita annually in the U.S. in the 2015-time frame to nearly 300 by the time we got to 2020, so that's a pretty big increase in consumption," Earnest said.

He said lingering impacts from demand could prolong the higher price environment through

Easter and even Mother's Day.

"We may be seeing a peak in terms of shelf prices here in the next 3-4 months, but the summer months typically bring softer demand to the egg case," he said. "That's when I think the industry has an opportunity to get caught back up."

The decrease in supply has left shelves temporarily bare in some regions.

"I think the West Coast might be feeling a little bit more of an impact than what the Midwest would be seeing just due to proximity of where major production is," Earnest said.

But eggs are still being produced, he said optimistically.

"Overall, the system works pretty well," Earnest said. "If it can work through these market deficiencies, I think we'll start seeing price ration demand a little bit and then work towards inventorying where there are empty shelves."

As poultry producers ramp up biosecurity measures and migration season winds down, he is hopeful concerns will ease in the

Buy a fishing license is an investment in conservation

When anglers purchase an Illinois fishing license, they're paying for more than fishing privileges for the year. They're investing in conservation, education, and economic activity all over the state.

Illinois fishing licenses – among the most affordable in the nation – went on sale March 1 for the 2025 season. Fishing license purchases help enhance the outdoor experience for everyone and ensure future generations can enjoy Illinois' vast aquatic resources.

"The successful management of quality fishing opportunities relies on the commitment and support of anglers, and that starts with buying a fishing license," said IDNR chief of fisheries Mike McClelland. "By purchasing a fishing license, anglers are ensuring sport fishing, hatchery production, and habitat enhancements are here for current and future generations to enjoy in communities throughout Illinois."

The division of fisheries is supported by the sale of fishing licenses and associat-

ed stamps. General revenue from Illinois tax dollars does not fund vital fisheries programs, such as research, fisheries management, hatchery operations, invasive species prevention, outreach, and other initiatives.

Additionally, the Sport Fish Restoration Program of 1950, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, distributes funding to states through the federal excise tax on purchases of fishing equipment, motorboat fuel, and outdoor accessories. The distribution is based on land size and each state's fishing license sales.

A standard, non-discounted resident fishing license costs only \$15. All license and stamp fees can be reviewed online. Anglers 16 and older are required to have a fishing license in Illinois. Exclusions apply to active-duty military and people with disabilities. Visit <https://ifishillinois.org> for more information about fishing in Illinois.

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Euchre tourney to support So. Wilm school Parents Club

The South Wilmington Grade School Parents Club is hosting a Euchre tournament on Saturday, March 8, at Rury's in South Wilmington.

Registration begins at 5 p.m., with play starting at 6 p.m. The entry fee is \$25 per person, and participants will have plenty of chances to win with raffle baskets, a 50/50 drawing, a Liquor Pull, and more.

Come enjoy a fun night of cards while supporting a great cause. For more information, contact the South Wilmington Grade School.

summer months.

"But for now, we're continuing to monitor a very difficult situation for farmers and consumers alike," Earnest said.

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

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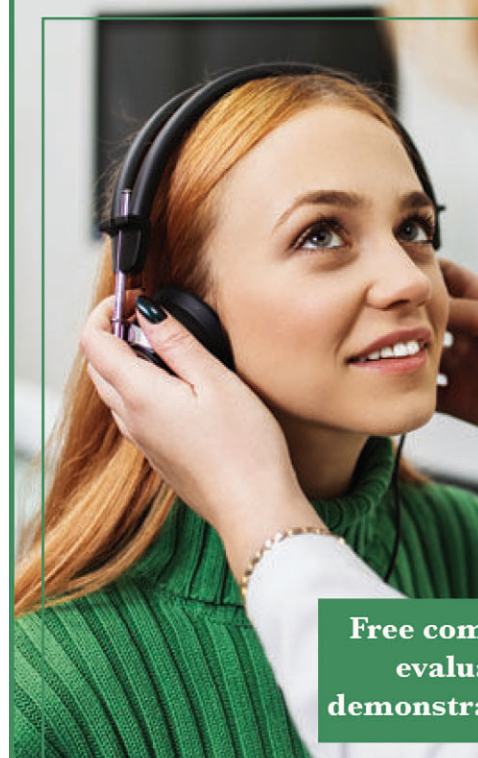
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OBITUARIES

Joan L. Blaine

COAL CITY—Joan L. Blaine, 89, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on her birthday, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, at the ARC of Dwight.

Born Feb. 27, 1936 in Coal City, Joan Leona was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Beard) Funk. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1954. On June 4, 1955 Joan married Robert Blaine in the Coal City United Methodist Church, and together they shared 52 years of marriage in Coal City until Bob passed away in 2007.

She was a very active member of the Coal City community for her entire life. Joan was a devoted member of Coal City United Methodist Church, volunteered regularly with the Coal City Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels, and served as secretary to the Coal City Little League Baseball Association and ran the concession stand for many years. She was always helping Bob with the Coal City Athletic Boosters Club, in addition to being a member of the Coal City Area Club and the Uniroyal Club. Joan was a hard worker, first holding employment with the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, later working as a school bus driver for the Coal City School District for several years, until she gained employment with the Department of Energy at Argonne National Laboratory until she retired at the age of 70.

Throughout all of Joan's responsibilities, family was always the center of her attention. She was a steady presence at all of her children's and grandchildren's activities and sporting events, cheering them on and showing them she was their number one fan. Joan treasured memories made on family camping trips to Florida and fishing trips to Minnesota. She managed to find some time for herself, enjoying bowling with her regular league and taking trips to Las Vegas with Bob and family. Joan was a massive fan of all sports, whether it was watching the Chicago Cubs or Coal City athletics. Her legacy of family

and community spirit resonated with so many people who crossed her path over the years, sharing her gifts with so many and leaving an impact that will last for generations.

Survivors include her two sons: Robert E. (Betty) Blaine Jr. of Summerville, SC and Joseph (Susan) Blaine, of Coal City; six grandchildren: Katie-Lynn (Jim) Ludes, Leslie (Chris) Neitzel, Robyn (Joe) Barrette, Matthew (Jamie) Blaine, Tiffany Blaine and Justin (Aubrey) Blaine; eighteen great-grandchildren: Gabe, Dylan, Evangeline Jo, Conner, Payton, Camryn, Cathryn, Henry, Brady, Ryder, Beckett, Austin, Tristan, Karly, Elena, Easton, Brooklyn and Blake; sisters-in-law: Dee (the late Ivan) Provance, Doris (the late Bill Scharman), Betty Watson and Barb Funk; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, husband and one brother, Richard Funk.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 North Broadway Street, in Coal City on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 between the hours of 4 and 7 p.m. Funeral services were held Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at Coal City United Methodist Church in Coal City. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington where Joan was laid to rest with her husband, Bob.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Joan's memory to: Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArde Rd., Coal City, IL 60416 or Coal City Athletic Boosters Club, P.O. Box 70, Coal City, IL 60416.

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

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.



Dorothy Aicher

COAL CITY—Dorothy (Dottie) Ann Aicher, 90, of Coal City, formerly of Pitman and North Cape May, NJ, passed away peacefully, while her daughters held her hand, on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025 at Lightways Hospice Care in Joliet.

Born Jan. 8, 1935 in Philadelphia, PN, Dorothy was the daughter of Roland and Elizabeth (White) Smith. She was raised and educated in Philadelphia and later Clementon, NJ. Dorothy relocated to Illinois and lived in the Chicago area for some time until returning to the east coast in Clementon. She worked as a supervisor and fundraising coordinator, providing Christmas baskets to families in need, for 18 years with the Camden County Board of Social Services until she retired and settled in North Cape May. Dorothy relocated to Coal City in 2022.

Dorothy was an active woman who always took care of herself, and took great pleasure in roller skating. She had a group of friends that met nearly every Monday morning to skate, and she continued with this pastime until the age of 85. Dorothy also enjoyed playing bingo, most recently at the Braidwood American Legion, as well as trying her luck at casinos playing the slot machines. She was a strong, independent woman whose family and friends were the most important thing in her life. Dorothy was selfless, a true caregiver, whose natural compassion and kind spirit was undeniable. Of Catholic faith, she prayed each night for family and friends. Adored by her grandchildren, they affectionately called her Gramstar. She was the glue that held her family together, always

needing to make sure that the people she loved knew that, "Everything is going to be okay."

Survivors include five children: Joseph (Maria) Barsuglia, of Simi Valley, CA; Frederic (Diane) Barsuglia, of Clayton, NJ; Michael (Lis) Barsuglia, of Harrisville, NY; Kathleen (the late Don) Goad, of Braidwood and Lori Zelenka, of Coal City; four grandchildren: Frank Barsuglia (Cathy Schachtschneider), Tracy (Tim) Bernico, Joseph P. Barsuglia (Tricia Eastman), and Anna (André) LeComté; four great-grandchildren: Korey Wren, Tinley Bernico, Gideon LeComté, and Hayzel LeComté; and nieces and nephews: Nancy (Jack) LeBano, Barry (Vicki) Stevens, Jeff (Kathy) Stevens, and Jeanne (Marty) Babos; and dear family friend, Jim Smrekar.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, and her beloved partner, Thomas Sandifer; one grandson, Christopher Simmons and two sisters: Elizabeth Sandifer and Dolores (Ray) Stevens.

Per Dorothy's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in North Cape May, NJ.

The family requests any memorial contributions be made to Samaritan's Purse in lieu of flowers.

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

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.



Patricia McLuckie

COAL CITY—Patricia McLuckie, 83, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 at Ascension Mercy Medical Center in Aurora with her daughter by her side.

Born Oct. 21, 1941, in Chicago, Patricia Irene was the daughter of Robert Henry and Jewell Beatrice (Austin) Igel. She was raised in Chicago, where she completed her education and graduated from high school. Patricia built a dedicated career in secretarial services and retired from Diageo North America, formerly Gordon Spirits.

A woman of Catholic faith, Pat found joy in reading and was known for her warm and gentle nature. Never one to speak ill of others, she had an incredible gift for seeing the good in everyone she met. Patricia's kindness, compassion, and unwavering positivity will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Above all, family and her grandchildren were such a cherished part of Pat's life. She leaves behind a legacy of grace, love, and quiet strength that will be cherished forever by all her family and friends.

Survivors include her husband, John who she married May 21, 1991; daughter,

Cheryl (Mark) Johnson of St. Charles, IL; step-son, John M. (Lisa) McLuckie, of Wilmington; grandchildren: Ashley (Ben), Kayla (Ethan), Kristen (Tyler), Sierra, Logan, John James "J.J." and Adam (Allison); two great-grandchildren: Hudson and Leo; her sister, Michelle "Mike" Lundberg, and one brother-in-law, Dale (Shirley) McLuckie.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial visitation will be held at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025 from 9 a.m. until time of memorial service, 11 a.m.

Pat will be privately laid to rest in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery at a later date.

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

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves, Fruland & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.



Jim Bozich

COAL CITY—Jim Bozich, 76, of Coal City, passed away Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025 surrounded by family at his home.

Born Feb. 4, 1949 in Elizabeth City, VA, James Leonard was a son of Steve and Gladys Bozich. He was raised and educated in Joliet, graduated from Joliet West High School with the class of 1967, and went on to honorably serve in the United States Army, where he completed two tours in Vietnam. Jim met the love of his life, Peggy (nee Malone), and the two of them began their lives together, marrying in 1991. Jim worked as a master cabinet maker and retired from Euro Tech Designs in Plainfield, IL following many years of service.

Jim had a deep love for the outdoors, where he found joy in fishing and wood-working. His greatest pleasure was sharing his passions with his grandchildren, teaching them how to throw a cast, and sink a hook. He was a dedicated coin collector and a recycling enthusiast, always being mindful of preserving the world around him. His love for life extended to concerts, and restoring his cherished 1998 Mustang. Though he was a homebody at heart, Jim always made sure his home was filled with the love and laughter of family. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather—someone whose unwavering loyalty and protective nature made him the rock of his family. To all who knew him, Jim was

a natural leader with a strong personality, someone you could always count on.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy; children: Dan Davidson, Shawn (Amber) Davidson, Amanda Davidson, James Bozich Jr., Jason Bozich, Brian Bozich, Kim Hale; grandchildren: Zach Davidson and William Davidson; great-grandchildren: Myia Davidson and Kai Davidson; two sisters: Faye Warner and Debrah Tracy, and one brother, Ken Warner, as well as many cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Steve and Gladys, and his brother-in-law, Tom Malone.

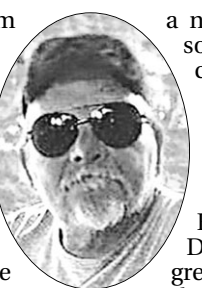
Cremation rites have been accorded and a celebration of life is being planned for a later date.

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

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jim's memory to Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook, upload photographs, and share Jim's obituary via social media by logging onto www.ReevesFuneral.com.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Reeves, Fruland, & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.



David Morgan Sr.

MORRIS—David A. Morgan Sr., 90, of Morris, passed away Sunday, March 2, 2025 in Morris.

Born Aug. 11, 1934 in Joliet, David Allen was the eighth of fourteen children born to Harry V. and Martha Mae (Little) Morgan. His early years were spent in Joliet, where he attended A.O. Marshall Grade School. His family then moved to Channahon and attended Minooka High School. On July 16, 1954 Dave married Judith Brown in Morris and it was there they made their home and raised their family.

He worked for Caterpillar Tractor Company in Aurora, IL for over thirty years as a mechanic in the automotive maintenance department until he retired in 1991. Dave was an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Morris where he served on several committees and as a Church Elder. He took great pleasure in fishing and enjoyed many fishing trips with his son and grandson. He was fascinated by researching family history and celebrating his family's legacy.

Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Judy Morgan of Morris; two daughters, Christine (David) Perry and Alane Morgan, both of Morris, and one son, David A. (Danielle) Morgan, Jr. of Falls Church, VA;

five grandchildren: Kevin (Rachel) Grieff, Mark Grieff (fiance: Rachel Couch), Noah Perry, Brady Morgan, and Brenna Morgan; one great grandson, Logan Grieff; one sister, Barbara Creevy, and one brother, Thomas Morgan; his godson, Scott (Theresa) Creevy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

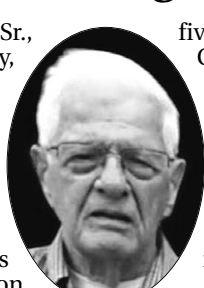
Dave was preceded in death by his parents; ten brothers: Harry, Art, Raymond, Herb, Jim, Don, Bill, Leo, Ken, and Dwight; and one sister, Lois Meyer.

Per his wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and memorial services are being planned for a later date.

Preferred Memorials may be made as gifts in Dave's memory to the First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Jackson Street, Morris, IL 60450, or to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 200 North La Salle Drive, Chicago, IL 60601.

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

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves, Fruland, & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Morris.



Jose "J" Padilla

COAL CITY—Jose "J" Padilla, 77, known as "J" passed away Feb. 24, 2025 at St. Joes Hospital. "J" was born July 15, 1947. He grew up in Joliet and later moved to Coal City where he spent the rest of his life. He was frequently seen walking his dog Bravo. He played guitar and was an artist. "J" loved to read and spent a lot of time at the library. He also enjoyed going to Dons and Spiveys where he would play Santana on the juke box. He will be remembered as a kind and friendly per-

son.

Jose "J" is survived by his siblings: Peter Padilla, Mary Zapel, Teresa Riesche, Rosa Foote, Lucy Gombash (Frank), Michael Padilla (Laura), David Padilla, Modesto Padilla, Anita Kursell, Elena Padilla and Anthony Padilla; many nieces and nephews; long time partner and loving friend Tina Hendrex.

Preceded in death by his parents Maria and Modesto; sister, Angelina Smith.



Joan Selbego

COAL CITY—Joan M. Salbego, 90 of Coal City, formerly of Goose Lake, passed away Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 at her home.

Born Jan. 30, 1935 in Chicago, Joan Marie was the daughter of Charles Bernardini and Helen Sue (O'Connor) Rea. She was raised in Tinley Park and graduated from Thornton High School with the Class of 1953. Joan worked as an occupational therapist for several years at Oak Forest Hospital and later worked in interior decorating.

She was involved in civic organizations such as being a Dame of the Knight's Templar, and was honored to be inducted into the Order of St. Joan D'Arc for her efforts in supporting military veterans. Joan was privileged to be the Hostess for her brother, Brigadier General Patrick Rea at many of his military service events.

She was a member of Coal City United Methodist Church and found great pleasure in the arts. Joan loved music and especially painting and coloring in her later years. She had a green thumb and enjoyed working in her garden as well as bird watching. Joan was fortunate enough to be surrounded by her family, living at times with four separate generations. She brought people into her life as if they were her own family, and she will be remembered for her strong faith and her kind, loving soul.

Survivors include her three daughters: Marci (Darrell) D'Agostino of Coal City, and Tammy (Dr. Gerald) Engstrom and Jammie Winsor, both of Oregon; eleven

grandchildren: Eric, Shawn, Shanan, Stacy, Matthew, Jason, Ashley, Jaclyn, Bret, Janelle, and Erica; 10 great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Barbara Salbego, and many nieces and nephews.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents: Charles Bernardini and Helen (Eddie) Rea; her husband, James Andrew Salbego, whom she married on July 30, 1967; one son, Frank (Kathy) Mason, one brother, Brigadier General Patrick Rea, and one brother-in-law, Robert Salbego.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 North Broadway Street, in Coal City on Thursday, March 13, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will follow at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 East McArde Road, on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral services and private inurnment will take place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood, IL.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Joan's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church.

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

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.



Mildred Overland

SHADOW LAKES—Mildred Roberta (Scholinsky) Overland, of Shadow Lakes, passed away peacefully at her home on March 1, 2025 with her family by her side.

She was born on Sept. 14, 1936 to William and Mary Scholinsky, of Chicago. She was married to her husband, Roy Overland for 63 years. They were residents of Shadow Lakes for 30 years and had many friends within the community. Millie will be truly missed by family and friends.

She is survived by her children: Leroy (Barb) Overland; Patricia (George) Lane

and Edwin (Jan) Overland; grandchildren Christopher (Sarah) Overland, Justin (Eliana) Overland, Patrick Lane and Michael (Jacki) Lane; great-granddaughters: Olivia, Leah and Ava Mae Overland and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her siblings: Dorothy, Virginia, Lorraine and William.

As Roy passed away in 2020 during Covid and a memorial service could not be planned, the family is planning a combined memorial service for them both to be held at Shadow lakes Community Center later this spring.



OBITUARIES

JoAnn McCormick

JOLIET—JoAnn Carol McCormick passed away peacefully at her home in Joliet at the age of 88, surrounded by love. JoAnn was born on June 15, 1936, the daughter of the late Desmond Reilly and late Elizabeth Biermacher. She grew up in Joliet and was a graduate of Joliet Central High School. JoAnn was retired and spent her working life as a bookkeeper, cafeteria worker, and bus driver. She enjoyed spending time in TOPS Club and going to lunch with other retired school and bus workers. She enjoyed reading, watching game shows, and solving word search puzzles. JoAnn found great joy volunteering as an usher at the Rialto Square Theatre for over 25 years. She will be missed by her cats, Bella and Simba. JoAnn is survived by her sons, Michael (Alissa) McCormick, of Wilmington and David (Elizabeth) McCormick, of Joliet;



granddaughters, Elizabeth (Nick) Wallace, of East Dubuque, IL and Hadley McCormick, of Libertyville; great-grandson, Dominick Wallace and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert L. McCormick; her parents, Joseph P. (Elizabeth) Biermacher and brother, Donald (Mary) Reilly. As it was her request, cremation rites have been accorded and inurnment will take place at a later date at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood where she will be laid to rest with her husband. For more information visit her Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com to share a favorite memory or leave a condolence. Arrangements have been entrusted to Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, Joliet.

The truth about green corridors in cities

Dear EarthTalk: What are so-called "green corridors" in cities and how do they help mitigate climate change?

-- Peter Q, Boston, MA



Green corridors, or ecological corridors, are strips of vegetation and natural landscape dispersed throughout a city. From simple, street-lined rows of trees to interconnected networks of parks and pathways, these developments provide a flexible, natural solution for the climate effects of urbanization. One of the most pressing environmental hazards cities face today is the urban heat island effect. Large buildings, expansive roads and other man-made infrastructures absorb more heat than surrounding rural areas, leading to significantly higher temperature levels. When combined with global warming, these uncomfortable living conditions can be very detrimental for urban residents. Local air quality also deteriorates from industrial and transportation pollution. With an expected 68 percent of world population in cities by 2050, according to the U.N., the health situation in urban environments will only grow worse. Green corridors offer a promising start to mitigating these urban issues, allowing cities to naturally lower temperatures through evapotranspiration, a plant process that releases water vapor to cool the surrounding air. Increased vegetation will also allow more hazardous particulate matter (PM2.5) and carbon dioxide (CO2) to be absorbed, reducing greenhouse gas concentration and improving air quality. Columbia's second-largest city, Medellín, launched a green corridor initiative in 2016. Since then, environmental planners there added rows of vegetation along the most polluted avenues, maximizing the amount of CO2 intake from their \$16.8 million investment. Mauricio Correa, a researcher studying environmental engineering at a Colombian University, found that the 8,800 trees planted became effective

"green barriers" against particulate matter and reduced average city temperature by two degrees Celsius. Fighting climate change isn't the only thing green corridors can do. Historically, wildlife has rarely been welcomed into urban life, experiencing drastic changes in the ecosystem. However, nature-based infrastructure can promote biodiversity and provide animal species with a safe habitat. Green corridors are indeed multi-purpose and flexible. To maximize the limited space in busy cities, green corridors can function as recreational centers, city facilities and much more—all while mitigating climate change. Green corridors can be an effective solution for any city anywhere. In New York, the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway consists of almost 32 miles of bike path lined with various plant species. Urban "Nature Ways" in Singapore mimic the natural rainforests by incorporating trees with canopies stretching across the roads. EarthTalk® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Seated yoga, seasonal sights offered March 9

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will be hosting Seated Yoga and Seasonal Sights on Sunday, March 9, from 11 a.m.-noon at the at Three Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon. This program includes a 30- to 35-minute all-levels seated yoga session and 25- to 30-minute natural world exploration. Both sessions will take place in the Grand Hall. Bring water and wear comfortable clothing. Free, ages 12 or older. Register by March 8.

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Scrub smarter: Bathroom hygiene tips

Bathrooms are filled with germ-breeding objects, and your toilet isn't the sole culprit. Showers, toothbrushes, soap dispensers and any surface can be added to the germ list, according to Kaylin Heinz, an infection preventionist RN with OSF HealthCare. Heinz offers some cleaning tips for the different areas of your bathroom.

Shower Cleaning tips

"When you're cleaning, go from top to bottom," Heinz says. "If you start cleaning your tub and

then you clean your shower walls, you're going to have to re-clean the tub. When you're getting out of the shower, think about the moisture that's there. That's where the bacteria and fungus are going to grow, so you're going to want to get rid of that moisture if you can."

The moisture buildup isn't limited to linens, Heinz says. She recommends wiping down any moisture seen in the shower before getting out. Use a Squeegee, towel or paper towel to dry the area.

Normally, you should clean your shower at least once a week. If many people use the shower on a daily basis, or if someone is sick, Heinz says it is best to clean it every day.

Charles Gerba, PhD, a microbiology professor at the University of Arizona, told Reader's Digest that bathmats and other fabrics are some of the dirtiest items, because people step on them with dirty shoes, and they stay wet and damp the longest.

Bathtubs' path to bacterial and fungal infections

If you have a cut on your body, you can introduce bacteria or fungus to the area during a shower.

"You can get athlete's foot or a staph infection just through the tub and not cleaning," Heinz says. She adds the film on the bottom of the shower or bathtub is a clear sign of where bacteria is living. Make sure to scrub the area, clean it and let it dry completely. If you notice discoloration in your shower or bathtub, Heinz recommends cleaning it immediately.

Bathroom cleaning tips

"Your toilet can aerosolize and throw germs up onto surfaces within about five feet," Heinz says. "With flat surfaces, it can collect dust or other things that are in the air, so make sure you're wiping those down frequently. At least weekly, if not daily."

Heinz recommends cleaning areas of your bathroom twice. The first time is for cleaning, the second time is for disinfecting. And don't forget about the soap dispenser! Heinz says since this is one of the first places people reach to clean their hands, it's one of the dirtiest places in the bathroom.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the surface you're wiping stays wet the entire time of contact to make sure germs are killed. You should clean surfaces with water and soap and scrub them before sanitizing or disinfecting them.

According to the CDC, "Cleaning removes most germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces. Clean with water, soap and scrubbing. Sanitizing reduces germs to levels public health codes or regulations consider safe. Sanitizing is done with weaker bleach solutions or sanitizing sprays. Clean surfaces before you sanitize them. Disinfecting kills mo

st germs on surfaces and objects. Disinfecting is done with stronger bleach solutions or chemicals."

Don't mix multiple chemicals

"With any products that you're going to be using, I'd make sure you're looking at the warning labels. I would definitely not mix chemicals," Heinz says. "If you are going to use one chemical and then use another, I'd make sure that you're rinsing thoroughly, making sure it dries, and then you can use the next product."

If you're diluting a chemical-based product, the CDC says to only use water at room temperature. Adding that an extra safety precaution is to wear eye and skin protection (like gloves) and store chemicals out of children's reach.

Don't forget your toothbrush!

Does your toothbrush hang out on the bathroom

counter? You might want to rethink that.

"If you keep your toothbrush on the counter, it likely has fecal matter on it. So, put your toothbrush away or switch it often and clean it," Heinz says.

Stop the spread —Toilet style

Here's a habit change you can consider. Instead of flushing the toilet and just walking away, close the lid before you flush and keep the germs inside.

"Make sure when you're flushing the toilet, go ahead and close the lid. That's going to minimize the number of germs that are spraying all over your bathroom and aerosolizing," Heinz says.

Heinz adds another fun fact about the dirtiness of toilets – the minerals in the water. She says the minerals in toilet water can get stuck to the toilet bowl, which can also be a breeding ground for germs.



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

Organized retail crime tops over \$121 billion

Organized retail crime has contributed to financial losses totaling over \$121 billion in the U.S. Additionally, 76% of retail asset protection managers report their employees have experienced violence at the hands of an organized retail criminal.

Cargo theft remains a primary component of organized retail crime nationwide – disrupting supply chains and acting as an inflationary pressure on the price of everything from baby formula to clothing.

Attorney Generals from 38 states, including Illinois, are urging the 119th Congress to reintroduce a bill that would increase federal penalties for supply chain thefts as a strong deterrent against the organized theft of goods in transit.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and several other attorneys general have formed task forces and created prosecution units to combat this growing problem. Raoul and the bipartisan coalition note that legislation proposed in the 118th Congress would expand upon and synchronize state and federal efforts through the creation of an Organized Retail Crime Coordination Center at the Department of Homeland Security.

The center would facilitate the information sharing necessary to address the complex cross-border nature of organized retail crime.



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At Grundy Bank, we take pride in supporting the neighborhoods we serve. With over 160 years of experience, we have been dedicated to meeting the financial needs of our community members. We strive to build strong relationships with our customers and provide personalized service that caters to their unique needs.

In 1864, a group of community minded people saw the need for a bank that was focused on their community. From this vision the Grundy Bank was formed.

Today, 160 years later, we believe in those same hometown values that led to our beginning. It has been a privilege, and we cherish the opportunity to continue serving you for years to come. Grundy Bank is the only locally owned and managed bank remaining here in Grundy County and the surrounding area.

Our team is passionate about helping our customers succeed financially and is always ready to provide the guidance and assistance needed to navigate the ever-changing financial landscape. Thank you for entrusting us with your banking needs - we look forward to being your community bank of choice for many more years.



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444 Bedford Rd. Morris
120 S. Main St. Wilmington
815-942-0130
www.grundy.bank



Left to right: Samantha Olson, Kelly Olson, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Grace Smith, Sherry Yakima, Dayna Vargocko. Not pictured: Alea Vargocko and Sara Daniels

DR. GARRETT B. SMITH D.D.S.

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\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
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The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate

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re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Free roof inspection. Low prices. Lic #104.007296 Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck47-20

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Village Clerk/Water Billing Clerk

The Village of Diamond has an opening for the Village Clerk/Water Billing Clerk position. This position is expected to exercise a considerable amount of independent judgement and initiative. The position serves as the official record keeper of the Village and does related work as required.

Typical work activity

This position is responsible for the efficient day-to-day operation of the Village Office as it relates to:

- High quality customer service with ability to multi-task
- Effective communication with the public, employees, Village Board members and other public officials
- Maintains files and records
- Prepares agenda for Village Board meeting and keeps detailed meeting notes and complete meeting minutes
- Attend bi-weekly evening board meetings
- Responsible for all water billing processing and payments
- Conduct the Village election in accordance with standard election procedures

Duties and Responsibilities

Following is a list of the primary duties and responsibilities for this position. It is not intended to encompass all duties and responsibilities but merely highlights the major responsibilities of the position. Additional duties may be assigned or develop over time.

- Records management officer
- Serves as Water Billing Clerk
- Generate and print all bi-monthly water bills, processes payments, collection calls for non-payments, creating new customer accounts and closing old ones
- Receiving customer payments through various channels (mail, online, in person).
- Reconciling payments with billing data
- Managing overdue accounts and collections procedures
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, analytical and organizational skills
- Strong attention to detail

Additional Duties include but not limited to:

- Maintains Website postings and Electronic Marquee

Qualifications

High School Diploma/or equivalent however, prefers an individual who shall have a minimum of a 2-year college degree in business, government or related field and 3 years+ experience in an office environment. Strong computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook. Work Hours: 7:30am-4:00pm. Salary based on experience. Applications are available at: www.villageofdiamond.org or at Village of Diamond 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL. Completed application along with resume can be emailed to: clerk@villageofdiamond.org or in person or by mail to: Village of Diamond 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL 60416

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HELP WANTED

Come work with an industry leader. Several positions available. Seeking easy going people who love to multi-task. Bilinguals and Veterans are welcome to apply. Full or Part time with flexible hours. Will train in all job aspects. Morris Trailer Sales Inc. 815-941-2800 to set up an appointment for an interview. cc8-11

Looking for part time help for local cleaning service, must be able to work early mornings, no weekends, all holidays off, background check, call or text 815-458-0883. cc10-11

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.

Home for sale in Coal City



3 Bdr., 1 Bath, full basement, attached 2 car garage. As is. For more info call 815-342-6394.

NOW HIRING

Looking for a driver to start right away.

We are a small family owned flatbed company where every driver we treat as part of our family looking for FLATBED OVER THE ROAD CDLA OLD SCHOOL company driver.

Driver will maintain a Peterbilt 379 or KW W900 (ELD EXEMPT TRUCKS).

We pay 27% from the cost of the load. We pay bi-weekly (direct deposit), Average \$3500-\$4000 per paycheck. Pays 1099.



Requirements:

- Must have at least 1-2 years verifiable over the road CDL tractor trailer experience and at least 6 months flatbed experience.
- Must be able to tarp, strap and chain down.
- Must be comfortable with driving at least 3500 miles per week and be able to stay 2-3 weeks over the road then 2-3 days home.
- We are using paper log (loose leaf), OLD SCHOOL. If interested please call or text me a picture of your CDL to 331-703-5259_/lgor Or you can apply in person at: 435 Enterprise Drive, Braidwood, IL 60408

Maintenance Worker

The Village of Diamond is seeking a Maintenance Worker 1. This position performs semi-skilled manual labor to assist with water/sewer, road repairs, snow removal and other department assignments to assist with overall department operations.

Essential Functions. The following duties are normal for this position. These are not to be construed as exclusive or all-inclusive. Other duties may be required and/or assigned.

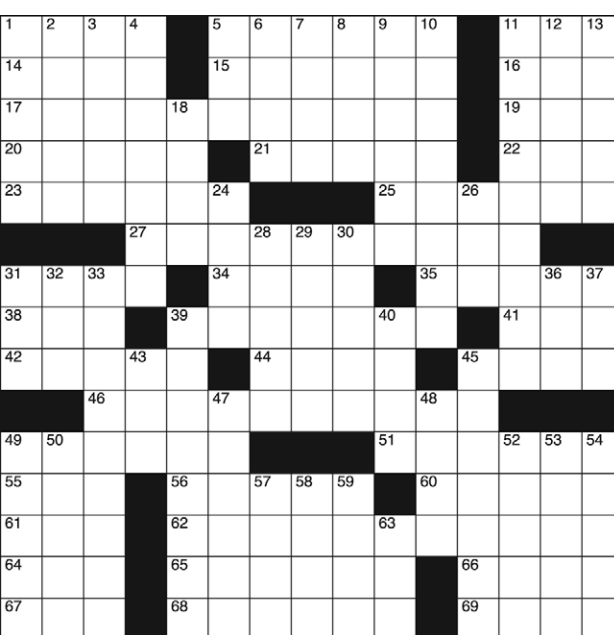
- Primary laborer on projects
- Safely operates heavy and light construction equipment, machinery, and tools for maintenance/construction related operations
- Performs general road maintenance related activities, i.e. mowing, asphalt repairs/patching, vegetation control, sweeping/removing dead animals and trash
- Operates equipment during water/sewer repairs/projects, installation of water meters, storm sewer maintenance i.e. ditching/culvert repair, catch basins, etc.
- Repairs/Replaces: Fire Hydrants, manholes, sewer/water lines
- Reports to work for on-call after hour needs, as assigned
- Strenuous manual labor includes but not limited to: digging, shoveling, sweeping, raking, crawling, bending, lifting, pushing, pulling, twisting and climbing

Duties are performed under all weather conditions and include exposure to inclement weather, noise, etc. Ability to work at heights and in confined spaces. Operations are on call 24/7 therefore personnel shall be available/open to be scheduled to work all shifts, including weekends/holidays as needed and some hours outside regularly scheduled hours. Regular work hours are 7:00am-3:30pm. Education: High School Diploma/Equivalent. Applications are available at: www.villageofdiamond.org or at Village of Diamond 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL. Email completed application to: maintenance@villageofdiamond.org or in person at: Village of Diamond 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL 60416



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut a little bit off
5. State with confidence
11. River in NE Scotland
14. Not narrow
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Challenged
25. One-sided
27. Showing extreme greed
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Lake in Botswana
38. E.T. rode in one
39. Juniors' parents
41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental box
45. Gov't investigators
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. The vast grassy plains in S. America
55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Noted consumer advocate
60. Spanish sports club
61. Body part
62. Tractability
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed aside
2. Water sprite

3. Ones to look up to

4. Monetary units
5. A number everyone has
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who takes you to court
8. Indicates outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Strains
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Some pages are dog-__
18. Ukraine city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Summer month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Jewelry brand
30. Fictional rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Furious
37. Drivers' licenses
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. They __
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The leading performer
53. Type of protein
54. Pennsylvania town
57. Art __: around 1920
58. __ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to sleep
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Depressed
68. Gradually gave way
69. Clear-thinking

Gas prices lower, but for how long?

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 4.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.18/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices are 3.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and 52.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 1.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.6 per gallon.

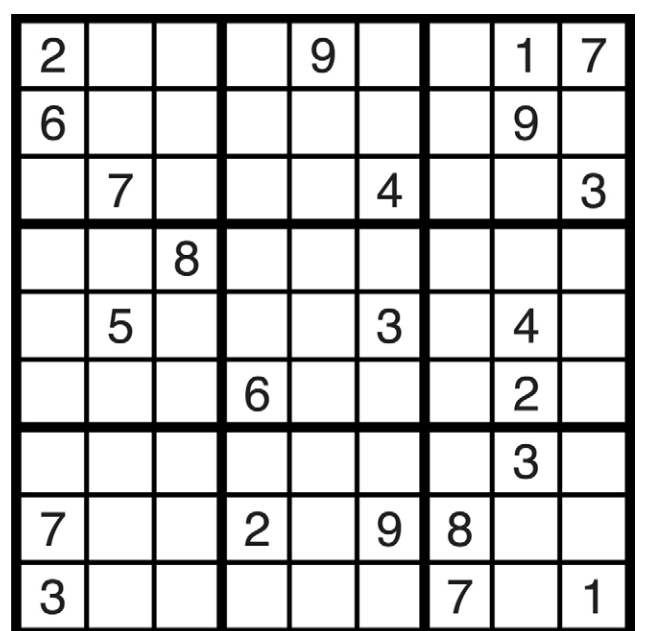
"Gasoline prices in the U.S. have edged slightly lower over the past week, even as geopolitical tensions intensify, with the Trump administration promising tariffs that could not only create economic uncertainty but also impact what some motorists pay at the pump in the weeks ahead," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Given the volatility surrounding the tariff situ-

ation, forecasting fuel prices remains challenging, as uncertainty lingers over the timing and scope of these tariffs, which the Trump administration has suggested will soon take effect.

"This comes on top of ongoing concerns about the Russian invasion of Ukraine and discussions of a potential deal to end the war. While OPEC has signaled its intent to stabilize the market, policy decisions from the White House could introduce further uncertainty, making it difficult to predict where prices will head next. However, nearly every year sees a seasonal spring increase, which could eventually push prices higher ahead of summer."

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.57/g while the highest was \$4.49/g.



Turn clocks forward, test alarms Sunday

Daylight saving time begins this Sunday, March 9 and the American Red Cross asks everyone to turn their clocks forward one hour and test their smoke alarms.

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half. That's why it's critical to "Turn and Test" and take these lifesaving steps to stay safe from home fires — the nation's most frequent disaster:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas. Test alarms monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year if your model requires it.

- Replace smoke alarms that are 10 years or older. That's because the sensor becomes less sensitive over time. Check the date of your smoke alarms and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

er's instructions.

- Practice your two-minute escape plan. Make sure everyone in your household can get out in less than two minutes — the amount of time you may have to get out of a burning home before it's too late.

Include at least two ways to get out from every room and select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as your neighbor's home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard where everyone knows where to meet.

- Teach children what a smoke alarm sounds like. Talk about fire safety and what to do in an emergency.

Visit redcross.org/fire for more information.

Women in the woods hike March 15

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is hosting Women in the Woods Hike on Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Join fellow women of the woods on this hike to celebrate women's role in nature.

Along the trail, learn about the historical women who have quite literally paved the way. Discover the women blazing their own trails today and explore the paths chosen by women of the future. Free; women and girls ages 12 or older. Register by March 14.

Attorney Vazquez files DeLapp estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
NO. 2025 PR 24
Estate of Lee Steven DeLapp, Deceased.

DEATH AND PROBATE NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Lee Steven DeLapp. Letters of Office were issued on February 3, 2025, to Nichole DeGroot, 663 Madere Street, Rio Vista, CA 94571, as representative.

The estate will be administered without Court Supervision, unless under section 28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the court clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of Andrea Lynn Chasteen, Circuit Court Clerk, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative or both on or before the 19th day of August, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of this notice form the personal representative is required under by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date state in that notice.

Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and the attorney for the Estate within 10 days after it has been filed with the court clerk.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Nichole DeGroot, Representative
Attorney Staci L. Vazquez (6339790)
Geiger Vazquez LLC
415 Liberty St.
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-5072
staci@gdv-law.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, February 19, 26 and March 5, 2025..

Attorney Vazquez files Harrison estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DAVID L. HARRISON Deceased; No. 2025PR42

DEATH AND PROBATE NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of David L. Harrison. Letters of Office were issued on February 25, 2025, to Angelina Diaferia-Meditz, 2006 Okinawa Court, Tampa, FL 33621, as representative.

The estate will be administered without Court Supervision, unless under section 28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the court clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of Andrea Lynn Chasteen, Circuit Court Clerk, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative or both on or before the 5th day of September, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of this notice form the personal representative is required under by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date state in that notice.

Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and the attorney for the Estate within 10 days after it has been filed with the court clerk.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Angelina Diaferia-Meditz, Representative
Attorney Staci L. Vazquez (6339790)
Geiger Vazquez LLC
415 Liberty St.
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-5072
staci@gdv-law.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, March 5, 12, and 19, 2025.

City of Wilmington seeking proposals for new playground on South Island Park

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Wilmington is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced playground equipment providers to design, build, and install an ADA compliant playground in the South Island Park. The property is located at 201 Bridge Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. A map of the site along with pictures are included in Exhibit B. The proposer is to provide a completed plan with the City of Wilmington reserving the right to work with the successful proposer to make modifications to the plan.

The City of Wilmington is committed to construct this park in Summer 2025 and a deed is secured by the City for the property. Costs for the playground have already been budgeted. The selected contractor will be invited to enter into an agreement with the City, in a form to be provided by the City ("Agreement"), to provide the equipment and services in accordance with the Project Scope section of this Request For Proposal ("RFP"). The City Council has the ultimate authority to approve any proposal and to authorize execution of the negotiated Agreement.

The overall work is to include the removal and haul off of the existing equipment, and the design and installation of a new ADA compliant playground along with surfacing installation of site furnishings, grading, drainage, and miscellaneous site work.

All questions related to this proposal must be submitted in writing, no later than 4:00pm local time on March 17, 2025 to: Jeannine Smith City Administrator 1165 S. Water Street Wilmington, IL 60481 Email: jsmith@wilmington-il.gov

Prior to the submission deadline, the City will make available to the public answers to questions or any modifications or additions to this RFP in the form of a written Addendum which will be posted on the City website by **March 26, 2025**. No verbal/oral comments will be made to any Proposer as to the meaning of the RFP. Specifications or other contract documents. Answers will be provided in writing to all potential Proposers. **Proposers are required to acknowledge receipt of any formal Addendum by signing the Addendum and including it with the submission.**

Proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, on **April 4, 2025**. Proposals received after this date and time will not be accepted; all proposals received after the submittal deadline will be rejected and returned unopened. Proposals must include all information and documents as requested in this Request for Proposal, failure to follow these instructions may result in rejection of the proposal.

RFP – Seeking Services for the South Island Park Playground Design & Installation
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Sheriff's sale of 916 Laurel Dr., Unit B

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

Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff, vs. Toni M. Henderson; et. al. Defendant.
No. 23 FC 0304

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 **September, 2023**, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 13th day of **March, 2025**, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:
THE SOUTHERN 42.50 FEET OF LOT 23 IN MEADOWBROOK, 2ND ADDITION, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 10 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 23, 1997 AS DOCUMENT NO. R97-43158, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 916 Laurel Dr Unit B, Elwood, IL 60421
Description of Improvements: Single Family Home
P.I.N.: 10-11-20-202-014-0000

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
Plaintiffs Attorney
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 26 and Mar. 5, 2025.

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County

Attorney Meents files Vercelli estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHARON LOUISE VERCELLI, Deceased; No. 2025 PR 45

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Sharon Louise Vercelli. Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on February 6, 2025, to Emil Paul Vercelli, Jr., whose address is 940 East John Street, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 27, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Emil Paul Vercelli, Jr.
Independent Executor of the Estate of Sharon Louise Vercelli, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: Frank@MeentsLaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 26 and March 5, 2025.

Attorney Meents files Goad estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LARRY RAY GOAD, Deceased; No. 2025 PR 46

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of LARRY RAY GOAD. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on February 6, 2025, to Stacey Legg, whose address is 640 Berta Road, Diamond, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Frank J. Meents, 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 27, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Stacey Legg
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Larry Ray Goad, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: Frank@MeentsLaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 26 and March 5, 2025.

QUEEN of HEARTS

Every TUESDAY at 553 W. Kennedy Rd. Braidwood
You must play BINGO to participate.
Doors open at 4pm. Drawing is held at intermission. Pot is \$25,685.00.

For BINGO players only on Tuesday nites and see the QUEEN rules at the BINGO hall for rules and regulations.

Braidwood Post 039 BINGO

Tuesday Night Flash Max Bingo

Pull Tabs 6:30pm Hot Food, Snacks & Beverages
Bingo 6:30pm 553 Kennedy Road
Doors Open 4:00pm Braidwood, IL 60408

Home of the "Big Guy"
Commander Bill Kiley
815-216-2570

Wilmington Moose Lodge #241

Scholarship Fundraiser

- Open to the Public -
Saturday, March 8
Doors open at 3pm • Food 5-7:30pm
32050 W. River Rd., Wilmington

Steak & Pork Chop Dinners

Includes salad bar, baked potato or fries, vegetable, mushrooms, bread and butter.
Chicken strips or nuggets available also.
Donations • Raffles • Baskets • etc.

Music by
Silverstrings
7:30 - 10:30pm

All proceeds go to the Wilmington Moose Scholarship Fund benefiting both Wilmington and Reed Custer schools.

COMET SPORTS

Reed-Custer athletes who excelled in the classroom



RCHS STUDENTS who received All Academic Awards for the Winter Season are (sitting, from left) Mady Meyer, Skylar Wilkins, Anastasia Smith, Gwen Stewart, Aubrey Harding, Olivia Esparza, Kamryn Marschner, Leah Grace, Cameron Wallace, Harlie Liebermann and Atiana Hood. Back row: Brock Billingsley, Aiden Shultz, Christian Mounts, Zach Markle, Matthew Chavez, Collin Monroe, Alex Bielfeldt, Alex Fierro, Jeremy Eggleston, Tyson Whittum and Collin Jankus. To achieve All Academic recognition athletes must earn a GPA of 3.5 or better while participating in the sport.

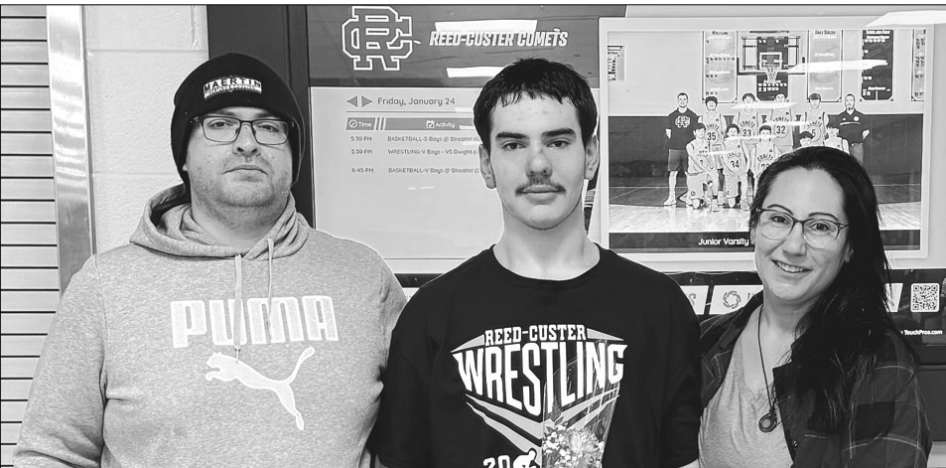
R-C senior cheerleaders, wrestlers, girl's basketball, and parents honored



RCHS SENIOR CHEERLEADER Olivia Esparza, escorted by parents, Steven and Devin Esparza. After graduation, Olivia plans on attending a 4-year University to work towards a nursing career.



RCHS SENIOR CHEERLEADER Madelyn Brown, escorted by parents Holly Brown and Mike Esposito. In the fall, Maddie plans on attending esthetician school.



RCHS SENIOR wrestler William Garcia is being escorted by his parents Justine Tucci and William Garcia. After graduation, William plans on entering the workforce and joining the Trades as a Carpenter.



RCHS SENIOR wrestler Jeremy Eggleston is being escorted by his parents, Todd and Jessica Eggleston. In the fall, Jeremy plans on working towards a career as a welder and continuing his education at Manhattan Mechanical.



RCHS BASKETBALL SENIOR Cameron Wallace is escorted by her parents Jeff and Krystal Wallace on senior night. In the fall, Cameron plans on attending a two-year college to work towards an associate's degree in business and eventually start her career in real estate.



RCHS BASKETBALL SENIOR Leah Grace is escorted by her parents Jason and Rachel Grace. After graduation, Leah plans on attending ISU and majoring in family and consumer sciences.

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COMET SPORTS

Reed-Custer athletes named all conference



JACOB REARDON



COLLIN MONROE



ALYSSA WOLLENZIEN



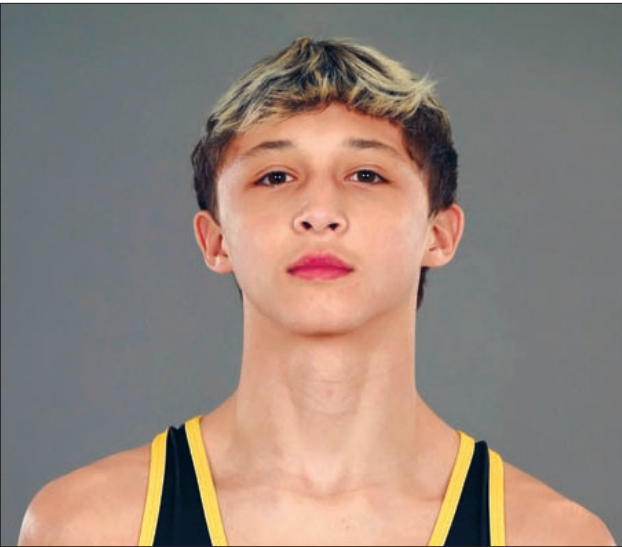
GWEN STEWART



CAYSIE ESPARZA



OLIVIA ESPARZA



COLTON DRINKWINE



AIDEN SHULTZ



NATHAN VOGLER



JAYDEN SANCHEZ



KAADEN WOOD



DOMINIC ALAIMO



JEREMY EGGLESTON



COLE HARRIS



Fish Fry

**Fridays,
March 7 - April 4**
4:00 - 7:00 pm
while supplies last

Godley Park District

500 S. Kankakee St, Godley
Carry-outs available

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www.godleypark.com