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Resident questions feasibility of data center

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Resident Marylu Jensen expressed concerns about a data center proposed for Braidwood.

The \$40 million data center would be located near I-55 and Kennedy Road, consisting of eight buildings and two substations. The data center was proposed by Western Hospitality Partners, and will require three to five years to complete.

"My main concerns, which I need facts about, are the EMF, electromagnetic field... because it would broadcast out to further than what our city limits are," Jensen said. "The amount of water needed for the said facility—the amount of water needed and the method used to bring it to and take it from the said facility."

Jensen also had concerns about discharge of used water and whether it will be recirculated into the city's water supply, and possible problems related, as well as whether taxpayers will be responsible for installing new water lines.

"From where will electricity be generated?" she asked.

She questions light and



PROPOSED DATA CENTER—A conception plan details a data center proposed on farmland near Kennedy (Reed) Road and Interstate 55 in Braidwood. The site would include up to eight buildings and a ComEd electrical substation.

nose exposure.

"I suggest the council would look at other data centers and the effects they're having on communities," she said.

Commissioner Dale Walsh later responded that representatives from the

data center will attend a future meeting.

"We had a town hall scheduled with those folks to ask them all the questions she brought forth here," Walsh said. "She can attend the town hall and ask these people face to

face."

Mayor Todd Lyons reiterated stating that the questions broached by Jensen were the same questions the council would like to ask the data center representatives.

"We are going to visit

other data centers," Lyons said. "We are going to do our research, we are going to go to other communities and see with the effects are."

The mayor said while he has seen negative press on the internet, he has

heard positive things from mayors in cities with data centers.

A data center is a physical source that stores computing machines and related hardware. Such centers contain computing infrastructure that IT systems require, including servers, data storage drives, and network equipment.

There are currently 10 data centers in the greater Chicagoland region, and each demands hundreds of megawatts, in some cases enough to power the entire city of Chicago.

According to Data Center Knowledge, among the most significant issues relating to data centers are power infrastructure bottlenecks, resource use and the environmental impact. Data centers use high energy and water consumption, put out electronic waste, noise pollution, and a strain on local resources.

In addition data centers also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and can disrupt local ecosystems.

The project slated for Braidwood is said to create hundreds of construction jobs, and 200 technical jobs once the facility has been completed.



TWO BIG BASS helped Alex Bielfeldt of the Reed-Custer Casting Comets qualify for the 2025 Bassmaster High School National Championship in Evans, Georgia next month. For details turn to sports.

City advises patience with brush cleanup

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

At the May 27 Braidwood City Council meeting, Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvement Dale Walsh, reported on brush collection by the city following the May 15 storm.

According to Walsh, with the exception of three days, the city has been out collecting tree branches and limbs.

"We've had a total of close to 160 loads of branches that were set out by the road," Walsh said. "If big piles are placed parallel to the road they're easier to pick up. We're asking people to cut them up into 10-foot sections."

Residents should utilize yard waste containers for smaller brush, which will be collected on their designated trash pickup day. The city will not pick up brush that will fit into the yard waste container.

"I'm asking the public to be patient," Walsh said. "Our guys were working all last week. It put us a little behind with mowing, so if you see some areas in town where the grass is a little high, we're getting to it."

Walsh reminded residents that backyard puddling due to the storm is usually not the responsibility of the city. Flooding in the front yard and ditch can

be remedied by the city. The homeowner is responsible for cost of supplies. The city will install the pipes free of charge.

City officially contracts consultant

The council officially approved a contract with Gulden and Associates Consulting to advise in the capacity of city administrator.

Steve Gulden, Founder and CEO of the firm, retired after serving as manager of the village of Romeoville. In that capacity, he managed a \$164 million budget and increased the city's fund balance from \$9 to \$36 million. Gulden also led the city's efforts to redevelop the downtown area.

The firm will provide interim assistance in the role of city administrator as well as assistance in the hiring of a permanent city administrator.

Gulden holds a master's degree in organizational leadership from Lewis University and hosts leadership and economic development seminars across the country.

Consultation fees are \$90 per hour with a monthly travel stipend of \$100.

"He gets no other benefits, no insurance, and we're not contributing to his pension," Mayor Todd Lyons said. "He comes highly recommended."

According to Lyons,

the firm will cost the city approximately \$124,000 per year. To make a cost comparison, Lyons requested information on salaries of city administrators in nearby towns.

"Coal City's city administrator's base pay is \$145,000, and he gets a \$6,000 per year stipend for his vehicle. We figured his total compensation package is \$180,000," Lyons said.

Lyons also noted that the city administrator of Wilmington receives a base pay of \$145,000, with a total compensation package estimated at \$165,000.

"We felt this was the best solution for Braidwood," Lyons said. "It was difficult to find somebody and bring them to Braidwood for a two-year term for that amount of money. The ones I had spoken to wanted anywhere from \$150,000 to \$170,000."

According to city attorney Bryan Wellner, the city of Braidwood may terminate the contract with Gulden and Associates with a 30-day notice.

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Sweet Corn

Looking south, Gardner was here first

Although we think of Braidwood as the city that started the “Coal Rush” in this area, the truth is that Braidwood and Coal City are the late comers to the area. The first of the coal towns was Gardner.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

would seem unethical to us today, but it was common practice then. The railroad was completed in 1854, the same year that the above three men platted out the town which they named after Gardner, the chief engineer on the C & A.

When Illinois became a state most of the population was in the southern part. Our area did not see the first white settler until 20 years later. The towns on the I & M Canal were the first to prosper, then other towns that had some connection with the Canal started to grow. One of these towns was Wilmington.

In 1852 the business men of Wilmington got together to petition the state to grant a permit for the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad (later to become the Chicago & Alton) to run a line from St. Louis on to Springfield, Bloomington, Wilmington and finally ending in Joliet. The petition was granted and the Chicago & Alton Railroad was the result.

The first thing the railroad did was survey the proposed route. Henry A. Gardner, J. C. Spencer and C. H. Gould were engineers on the railroad assigned to the task. They not only surveyed the proposed route, but also bought up land along the route for future investment. This practice

not prospered as a location to ship grain and other agricultural products, and as a jumping on and off point to the Grand Prairie surrounding it as well as connections to other lines in Joliet, Bloomington and Dwight.

It was long known that coal was abundant in the area, and in 1864 the first shaft was sunk. The editor of the Wilmington Independent visited there in December of 1864, here is his description, “On Thursday last we made a visit to Gardner, and were surprised at the improvements which are constantly



AN EARLY PHOTO of Gardner shows the storefronts that lined Depot Street. Note the many hitching posts in front of every store.

being made. A few enterprising men, who have recently located there, together with the older residents, are pushing matters with creditable zeal, and the little village bids fair soon to become a thriving town.

“Gardner now contains three stores, owned respectively by J. B. Benson, Mr. Hart, and Robert Atkinson, all of whom are doing a good business. Messrs. Morgan & Hart, who now have a store at Braceville, have just completed a new building, the best in the place, and are about to put in a heavy stock of mer-

chandise.

“In the afternoon we visited the new coal mine, owned and operated by W. H. Odell, Esq. Enveloping our self in a huge oil cloth cloak, we stepped upon the “dummy” with our friend Odell, and were soon lowered 166 feet “into the bowels of the earth.” The shaft is the largest in the State. It was made 8 by 16 feet, and filled in with timber, making it 7 by 15 feet in the clear.

“The distance from the surface to the bottom of the shaft is 200 feet - 18 or 20 of which is below the coal vein, and is intended as

reservoir for the water constantly dripping from the sides of the shaft, and escaping from those portions of the mine which are being worked. To look up from the bottom of this gloomy access, one would suppose it half a mile to the surface, the aperture appearing scarcely larger than a man's hand.”

This huge shaft was the state of the art, the coal was inexhaustible, the railroad was already in place to haul the black gold away, in short; Gardner had a great future. It was though that it would be as large as Alton, Joliet, or perhaps even

Chicago.

And while Braidwood has a reputation for being wild. By 1872 Gardner was a close second as a report of a wedding reveal, “A late charivari party in Gardner fired a cannon immediately in front of a business row of buildings, in one of which the bridal party were, and broke nearly 100 panes of valuable glass in adjacent buildings. We understand that legal steps have been taken, and that no “panes” will be spared to collect damages of the rioters.”

My question is, “Who brings a cannon to a wedding?” Now that's wild!

Reed-Custer High School students win in poster contest



From Left to Right: Manhattan Mechanical TREP Representative Nate Hassett, Grace Berry, Payton Pivonka, Lily Anderson, Taylor Bova, Paisley Wilson, Katie Kersmarki, Yvani Berrios Not pictured: Margaret Dockery

The annual TREP (Three Rivers Education Partnership) Safety Poster Contest recently wrapped up, showcasing the artistic talents and safety awareness of local students.

TREP, a non-profit dedicated to connecting businesses with today's students and tomorrow's workforce, provided this valuable opportunity to Reed-Custer middle and high school art teachers, who then encouraged their students to participate.

Students were tasked with designing posters that highlighted safety in various aspects of life – at work, school, or within the community. The diverse range of topics chosen by the students showed their personal connection to safety. Some students focused on critical themes like safe driving, while others explored safety in sports,

during time spent in nature, or through the lens of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The contest saw impressive participation, with several students from Reed-Custer Middle School and Reed-Custer High School reaching the finalist stage. From Reed-Custer Middle School, the five finalists were Lily Anderson, Yvani Berrios, Katie Kersmarki, Payton Pivonka, and Paisley Wilson.

Reed-Custer High School was proudly represented by three finalists: Grace Barry, Taylor Bova, and Margaret Dockery. TREP representative, Nate Hassett, commended the students on their exceptional designs as he presented their awards at the Reed-Custer School Board Meeting on May 21st, 2025.

Man charged with stealing from church

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Mindaugas Stanevicius, 49, has been making the news throughout southern Will County, and most recently here in Wilmington.

One of the more recent run ins with the law was Sunday, May 25, when he allegedly stole from St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

On May 27, Stanevicius was charged with felony theft for allegedly stealing a crucifix, candles, and a towel from St. Rose Church.

According to the Joliet Herald-News, Rev. Sebastian Gargol told Wilmington police officers that sur-

veillance videos in the church captured the incident.

Stanevicius was located later inside a Wilmington business with a crucifix belonging to the church affixed to his back pack, and the other missing items inside the backpack.

On May 17, the Will County Sheriff's Office charged Stanevicius with battery, after he struck his former Wilmington landlord in the face.

The 68-year-old landlord had filed an eviction complaint after he allegedly violated the terms of his lease.

Additionally, the landlord had filed an order of protection, alleging that Stanevicius fed her diabetic dog,

almost set her house on fire, and threatened to put her body on Peotone Road.

On May 20, Stanevicius was placed into custody of the Joliet police conducting foot patrol at the Pace Bus terminal in Joliet.

He refused to leave when asked, and allegedly shouted racial slurs at a nearby security guard. When processed and released, police responded to Harrah's Casino in Joliet where Stanevicius was previously banned. Officers issued a trespassing violation and released Stanevicius.

On March 14 Stanevicius was charged with misdemeanor criminal damage to property in Wilmington.



MINDAUGAS STANEVICIUS

Mobile food pantry coming to Braidwood

The Village is a church that works with the community to help where it is needed the most.

Many families are struggling to bring food to the table. That is why The Village is partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank to host a mobile food pantry at the Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Drive, Braidwood, on Monday, June 30, at 5 p.m.

Fossil Ridge Library adds a week full of activities

Fossil Ridge Public Library is located at 386 W. Kennedy Rd., Braidwood

Children Programs

Monday, June 9 and 23- Join us for Makerspace Mondays: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. The makerspace environment helps children foster creativity and innovation and allows them to engage with complex ideas. Designing and completing a project in the Makerspace is an exercise in problem-solving and adaptability, encouraging critical thinking skills in an unconventional learning space.

Tuesday, June 17- 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.

Wednesday, June 11,

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

An afternoon of fun and family-friendly entertainment with a movie screening! If you plan on attending, register as soon as possible to ensure your seat is waiting for you. Feel free to pack your refreshments or enjoy some light snacks here for your convenience.

A Minecraft Movie - Four misfits are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into a bizarre cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To return home, they'll have to master this world while embarking on a quest with an unexpected expert crafter.

Rated: PG Running Time: 1 hour, 41 minutes

Wednesday, June 11, 18 and 25- Little Learners, 10-10:45 a.m. Join us each week to listen to stories, dance to music, and conclude with a snack and a craft corresponding to the week's color. The activities focus on emergent literacy skills. While the activities are geared towards preschool-aged children, older and younger siblings are welcome to join Colors of the week: June 4-red, June 11-yellow, June 18-orange, June 25-green.

Thursdays, June 5, 12, 19, 26- 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.

Listen and Create Storytime, 5:30-6:30 p.m. This program is specially designed for children aged 3-5. Every week, children can explore new books 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.

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

Tween Programs:

Saturday June 7- Tween CPR/Babysitting Safety course (Registration required) 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Location: Braidwood Fire Protection District, 275 West Main Street, Braidwood, IL 60408. We are excited to announce our partnership with The Braidwood Fire Protection District for a Tween Safety and CPR/First Aid Class. In this class, your tween will learn essential skills such as first aid, child, and infant CPR, and earn their American Heart Association CPR certification. Along with that, the Braidwood Police Department will also provide safety tips for tweens. The class will be held at the Braidwood Fire Protection District, and a cash registration fee of \$20.00 is required. Payment will be made on the day of class. Lunch will be provided, so please let us know of any dietary restrictions by emailing us at shopf@fossil-ridge.org.

Adult Programs:

Saturday June 7- Curative Properties of Tea 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration required. Much has been

touted recently about the benefits of a good herbal or green tea cup. This lecture discusses the difference between black tea and herb tea, what herbs make good tea, how to formulate your own teas, and the various medicinal properties discovered throughout time of various native plants, with pictures to help with identification. It also includes information on the benefits of green tea. As a collective, Patrons will choose herbs to create their unique blend of tea to sample at the end of the program.

Every Monday starting June 9th-

Bingocize (Registration Required) 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Looking for a fun way to be more active? Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize® is a health promotion program that combines bingo with fall prevention exercise. Play bingo with us and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls.

Tuesday June 10- 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. - June's Title: The #1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith. Copies are available at the front desk or online in our digital consortium.

Wednesday June 11- Beekeeping 101: An Intro to Backyard Beekeeping (Registration Required) 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Curious about beekeeping? This introduction will cover the different types of bees, their roles within the hive, and the basics of hive management. Whether you're considering starting your colony or want to learn more about these fascinating pollinators, this session will give you a solid foundation in beekeeping essentials. No experience required-bring your curiosity.

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Stop texting

BRAIDWOOD—Pull up to the stop-light by the train crossing and the young lady driver next to me is on her phone clicking away on her keyboard texting someone. While I wanted to roll down my window and yell to her, I didn't while we both waited for the red light to turn green. After a couple of other cars pulled up we all sat wait for the light to change while the young lady driver continued to click away. Finally the green arrow came and she just sat there still on her phone. Someone else behind her honked and she panicked by stepping on the gas, nearly hitting two kids on a bike who were cutting through traffic. Luckily they avoided her and no one was hurt. It could have been tragic. The answer to everyone is even though you're at a stoplight, stay off your phone.

We will remember

WILMINGTON—In two years we will be voting again for aldermen. When you go to cast your vote be sure to share your feelings about the aldermen who voted yes on the grocery tax. And vote no.

No sound-off

BRAIDWOOD—After reading last week's paper without a Sound-off page I want to say it was kinda nice it was missing. I'll take a page of more local newspaper stories over a page of Sound-off any time. It's just a repeat of anti-Trump garbage by the same person week-after-week.

A giant suggestion

WILMINGTON—I think that having the Gemini Giant standing where it is right now was one of the best decisions ever made. I see people every single day stopping to see him and get their picture taken with our most famous resident. My suggestion is that the city incorporate some food trucks or maybe a hot dog vendor stationed by the Giant.

No courage

WILMINGTON—To the four aldermen and the mayor who voted for a city grocery tax. All I can say is you lack courage. You could have stepped up and did your job by finding a way for the city to live without the \$278,000 tax. You could have helped put a little money back into the pockets of the senior citizens who live in this community. You could have had the courage to say the city is already getting \$288,000 in gaming taxes. You could have had the courage to say the July 1 gas tax increase and the Love's truck stop will mean more money for the city. You could have had the courage to stand up and say let's give one percent of the budget back to the people who are being over taxed. You had a chance to help your neighbor, but you didn't. Shameful.

Community band to host first concert of the season Sunday

The Wilmington Area Community Band will perform the first concert of the 18th season on Sunday, June 8, at 6 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park. Arrive early and order dinner from "Comfort Cookin'" food truck!

Please bring a lawn chair, mosquito spray, snacks, and water and relax in the shade as the band performs the following music in a beautiful outdoor setting. This concert's theme is "A Mixed Bag of Music".

Star Spangled Banner - Sarah LeNoue, soloist
Around the World in 80 Measures
Unchained Melody
Tribute to Louis Armstrong
African Marching Song

No grocery tax

WILMINGTON—Just to give out information, Kankakee County does not have a grocery tax. I have friends who live in Bourbonnais, Bradley and Kankakee and they do not pay any type of grocery tax when they shop at Krogers, Jewel and Aldi's. They pay only a regular sales tax, the same thing they pay if they go to a book store, shoe store, Walmart and Target.

Tax, tax, tax

SHADOW LAKES—If you are wondering about the gas prices that are not dropping in Illinois, go to your computer and look up gas tax in all the states. You will be surprised to see what we pay tax on per gallon. See what our ranking is with all the other states. Here are a few worlds from out beloved governor. He goes on saying that with the tariffs from President Trump, how things in Illinois are going to cost more. You are not hearing him and the Left in Springfield would like to do. The Left are eyeing over \$6 billion in potential tax increases, from digital ads to death taxes, to plug a budget hole ballooned by years of big spending. The left sure does know how to spend your money. Obediently yours, Margot Lane.

National disgrace

WILMINGTON—Why does Trump get away with cheating the American people? Because those who voted for Trump know he is a crook and has been one his entire life. But some say corruption is always a part of politics. Wrong. President Obama never violated the emoluments clause and he was not considered guilty of any scandal. Unless, of course, you blame him for wearing a beige suit on a hot summer day for which FOX News said was "shocking." What's shocking is that Trump allows children here and abroad to die so that Trump can make another dollar. And that is something the American people should really and truly hang their heads in shame. And it's no excuse that Trump was born with a silver spoon in his mouth as he watched his mother drive around in a Rolls Royce. Trump is a big boy now in big boy pants but he still behaves like a spoiled brat who has no business being President. Because Trump is so busy grifting and conning, he can't keep tariffs straight or anything else for that matter. Trump plays the fool and disgraces our nation every single day without serving one efficient day, without serving one honest day. Irene

Decide for yourself

SHADOW LAKES—The caravans of people from the south making their way to our southern border have stopped. There is a lot being reported on the news and social media about the undocumented immigrants being deported. How

Wade in the Water
INTERMISSION
Friend Like Me - Island City Brass Quintet

March of the Belgium Paratroopers
Summertime
Uptown Funk
Manhattan Beach March
Veteran's Memorial Park is located at the intersection of Williams and Vine Streets - across from Oakwood Cemetery and Island City Baptist Church.

The Wilmington Area Community Band is a volunteer group of local musicians from ages 13 up. In the event of rain or excess heat, our alternative concert location is Wilmington High School and signs will be posted at the park.



much has all this impacted your personal life, because in my case I can say not one bit. I still get up early in the morning to go to work that takes most of my day just like it always has, pay check same, standard federal, state taxes, social security no change. I go to the grocery store and things actually seem to be going up on price. Except for eggs prices have come down some but \$4 for a slice of cake is crazy, it wasn't that long ago I could buy a whole cake for \$4. Today, gas prices are a little bit lower but not by much, a few pennies. Stock Market is a roller coaster up and down like crazy, the inexperienced investors that panic and pull their funds out of the stock market most likely lost money. The tariffs are creating panic and uncertainty many businesses don't know what to do and many are worried about how much longer they can stay in business. Big stores like Walmart and others are predicting prices will rise. Countries like China, Russia, and Brazil are working on breaking the grip on the U.S. dollar on the global economy. Because of President Trump's disrespectful way to negotiate with other countries almost every country in the world has lost trust in the United States. The future at the very least looks uncertain, the present looks scary to say the least. This is just a personal opinion you make your own conclusions.

Musk is out

BRAIDWOOD—The nation rejoices as the cold fish of a man whose blood runs like ice is gone and it seems that everyone is happy on all sides of the political spectrum. The list of damages done by Musk is endless. But standing out in Musk's heinous legacy is how he deprives people of vital services especially veterans. And Musk destroyed USAID which has resulted in the richest man in the world killing the poorest children of the world. How can he sleep at night? Trump is guilty of further cuts to civil service in an effort to reduce the number of eyes watching him. It's been reported that Trump's first impeachment was due to a staff member whose job it was to listen in on phone conversations between heads of state. The

staff member reported Trump's phone call to President Zelensky of Ukraine during which Trump threatened to withhold assistance to Ukraine. The question therefore becomes, was DOGE meant to save federal dollars? No, it was meant to allow Trump to break the law.

My conclusion

BRAIDWOOD—After having a recent conversation with someone involved with the healthy community coalition here in Braidwood, I've come to the conclusion that this organization seems to just be spinning its wheels without making a significant impact. I asked my daughter who is a sophomore in high school if she knew about this organization. She said she is aware of them and that they are a bunch of old people just telling kids what they should and shouldn't be doing. I guess the reputation for this organization needs a bit of a change.

Taco Trump

WILMINGTON—Recently a Wall Street journalist tacked an acronym onto Trump calling him a "Taco." The abbreviation is "Trump always chickens out" to describe Trump's pattern with tariffs. And although Trump was annoyed at being mocked, it fits perfectly. Considering Trump's history, he is a terrible businessman and wins only when he cheats, cons or grifts. Back in the day, he frightened everyday people with his motto "see you in court." But now as the Taco President we see Trump as not only a chicken but a weasel, a cockroach, a mosquito with no offense intended to these creatures God created. It's Trump that's been given free will by God to do the right thing and instead shuts down USAID causing excruciating suffering and death. Does Karoline Leavitt, Trump's press secretary, think of what Jesus would do differently as she daily wears a crucifix around her neck? The hypocrisy of Trump and his Christian supporters is so offensive that Christianity itself is under attack. Fortunately Pope Leo will slap Trump down as did Pope Francis.

BY BRYCE HILL

Illinois lawmakers approve record spending

BY BRYCE HILL

Illinois state lawmakers' spending plan surpasses last year's budget by \$2 billion, requiring taxpayers to pay over \$800 million in additional costs for yet another year of record spending.

With just over 24 hours to conduct a full review, the Illinois General Assembly approved a record-setting \$55.2 billion budget for 2026, after a 75-41 House vote sent the 3,000-plus page plan to Gov. J.B. Pritzker. It follows a familiar fiscal playbook: spend more, fix nothing, hand taxpayers the bill – and toss in a raise for those casting the votes.

To cover the rising costs of education, state pensions and health benefits for government workers, the budget uses short-sighted fixes and ignores structural problems. Once again, it's taxpayers who will pay the price.

Just before its deadline, Illinois lawmakers passed a record \$55.2 billion budget, featuring over \$394 million in tax increases, \$237 million in fund sweeps and \$216 million in delaying funds.

Despite lawmaker claims of budget cuts, the 2026 budget increased by \$2 billion compared to 2025. Gov. J.B. Pritzker has grown Illinois' budget by \$16 billion and enacted

over 50 tax hikes since taking office in 2019.

Notably, the budget cuts the state's Property Tax Relief Grant, resulting in an effective \$43 million property tax hike. Lawmakers will also receive more than \$6,000 in pay raises for the coming year, while public pensioners will receive a benefit spike valued at more than \$13 billion. Meanwhile, the budget contributes \$5 billion less in pension funding than is necessary to keep the system solvent for future retirees, according to the pension system's actuaries.

On the revenue side the budget features more than \$800 million in revenue gimmicks featuring tax hikes, fund sweeps and temporary measures that fail to truly balance the state's budget. The process was so rushed that even bill sponsors seem unclear on the exact amount taxpayers will be asked to pay. Among the revenue adjustments are:

- \$195 million – \$228 million from a new tax amnesty program.
- \$171 million from delaying motor fuels tax revenue transfers to the Road Fund.
- \$237 million in fund sweeps.
- \$72 million in corporate tax hikes.
- \$45 million from shorting the state's Budget Stabilization Fund.

- \$36 million from a new sports wagering tax.
- \$15 million from removing hotel tax exemptions from short term rental platforms.
- An additional tax on nicotine analogs.

The 2026 budget continues Illinois' practice of irresponsible and speculative budgeting. Rather than focusing on policy solutions such as a spending cap, right-sizing employee health care costs and constitutional pension reform, lawmakers have opted for a status quo budget.

Constantly relying on taxes and fund sweeps encourages irresponsible budgeting, which erodes voters' trust in Springfield. These tactics reduce the state's competitiveness, risk potential credit downgrades and can worsen Illinois' challenges with high unemployment and sluggish growth.

Illinois' 2026 budget continues the state's habit of patching budget problems using short-sighted fixes with long-term consequences. Without structural solutions, such as adopting a spending cap and constitutional pension reform, Illinois has continued its cycle of reactive budgeting at taxpayers' expense.

Bryce Hill is director of Fiscal and Economic Research for the Illinois Policy Institute.

Longest Day Bags Tourney

Presented by: **OAK KNOLL**
—Financial—
STRATEGIES

Shuttle Available to & from the Park
Pick up at:
City Parking Lot
220 N. Water St

BYOC
Bring your own lawn chair

\$25
DONATION TO AFA
GETS YOU INTO
THE TOURNEY
AND 1 FREE DRINK
AGES 13 & UP

JUNE 21, 2025
1-6 PM
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Hot Rod Power Tour coming through



Photo submitted

THE HOT ROD Power Tour 2025, driven by Hagerty, will roll through Braidwood and Wilmington on Monday, June 9 during a five-day trip from Indianapolis Raceway Park, through Illinois and Michigan, ending in Ohio. The map of the Hot Rod tour, featuring muscle cars and one-of-a-kind roadsters, showing the group driving Illinois 113 through Custer Park to Braidwood, then turning north onto Illinois 53 through Wilmington to the Route 66 Raceway in Joliet where vehicles and vendors will be on display until Tuesday when they'll move on down the road to Fort Wayne, IN.

A living way to fix pollution

Dear EarthTalk: Are there ways living organisms can be used to fix pollution?
-- M.L., via email



Pollution remains one of the most significant environmental challenges, contaminating air, water and soil and posing risks to human health. Traditional cleanup methods, like chemical treatments and mechanical removal, often come at a high cost and sometimes harm the environment further. So scientists have turned to bioremediation, a process of using living organisms to break down and remove pollutants. This is proving to be a cost-effective and sustainable solution for fighting contamination across our ecosystems. One of the most promising applications of biore-

mediation involves microorganisms like bacteria and fungi, which are capable of breaking down harmful substances into less toxic forms. Some bacteria, like *Alcanivorax borkumensis*, thrive on oil spills, consuming hydrocarbons and helping to restore marine environments. Other species, like *Pseudomonas* bacteria, can absorb heavy metals from contaminated soil and water, reducing the toxicity of industrial waste sites. Fungi, like *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, can degrade complex pollutants such as dioxins and pesticides. Scientists are also developing genetically modified microbes to enhance bioremediation efforts. Scientists design these engineered organisms to target specific pollutants, breaking them down more efficiently than their natural counterparts. "We could start trying to predict what compounds a particular bacterium/enzyme [combination] can use from the genome sequence," says David Leys, a scientist who has worked on detoxification for many years.

In addition to microorganisms, certain animals also play a vital role in cleaning up pollution. Oysters and mussels act as natural water filters, absorbing heavy metals and microplastics from aquatic ecosystems, improving water quality while also serving as indicators of environmental health. Pollinators like bees and butterflies can accumulate pollutants in their bodies, which help provide insight into contamination levels. Studying these animals helps researchers track the spread of pollutants and develop strategies for mitigating their challenges. The effectiveness of these organisms depends on environmental conditions like temperature, pH, and nutrient availability. People can advance bioremediation techniques by supporting sustainable cleanup efforts and scientific research. By spreading awareness about these methods and advocating for funding in environmental science, people can help accelerate the adoption of natural pollution cleanup solutions. "The knowledge gained from the research will allow scientists to engineer the organisms and their chemical processes to target specific man-made toxins," Leys says. Advancements in genetic modification and synthetic biology will likely make bioremediation a widely used method in the coming years.

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



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Providence Ridge Cemetery meeting

North Providence Ridge Cemetery in Elwood will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at Manhattan Township Hall, 230 Wabash St., Manhattan.

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Park District to host summer kickoff run

The Wilmington Park District is hosting a "giant" summer kickoff run and fun walk on Sunday, June 8, at 10 a.m.

Participants are to meet at the Gemini Giant, 147 S. Park St., Wilmington, where the race/walk will start.

The Giant Summer Kickoff Run is not just a race, it's a celebration of

sunshine, good vibes and the start of an unforgettable season. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just in it for the fun, this event has something for everyone.

To register visit runsignup.com/agiantsummerkickoff or contact the park district 815-476-2729 for details.

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IL may have a fascinating campaign season

As I write this column, the spring legislative session is a day away from adjournment. Nothing of great importance has cleared both chambers.

So, there's no point in writing about any of that. I'll let you know my thoughts next week.

Let's discuss a different topic instead.

For quite a while now, most folks in politics have assumed that Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and Comptroller Susana Mendoza will probably run for mayor of Chicago in 2027. The incumbent Brandon Johnson is spectacularly unpopular, and a real hunger is developing in the city (again) for new leadership.

Anyway, some wags have also speculated that one or even both of the statewide officials will not run for reelection in order to gear up for a mayoral bid.

With Cook County Democratic Party candidate slating coming up in July, the rumors have intensified.

I bumped into Secretary Giannoulias last week at the Statehouse and we talked about the rumors and then I asked him if he was running again.

"I'm running for reelection," Giannoulias bluntly replied. He did not rule out or rule in a run for mayor.

Mendoza's response was different.

Back in 2018, Mendoza easily won reelection, besting her Republican opponent by 23 percentage points.

But in September of that year, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel surprised the city's political world when he announced that he wouldn't seek a third term. People who hadn't considered running suddenly changed their plans.



CAPITOL FACTS
 Rich Miller

Mendoza, in the midst of her first reelection bid, was suddenly on a growing list of possible candidates.

Then, a few days before election day, NBC Chicago's Mary Ann Ahern disclosed a draft TV ad by Mendoza announcing her mayoral candidacy.

Mendoza said it was just a contingency in case she decided to run, but she caught a lot of heat. And while it obviously didn't hurt Mendoza in her statewide bid, it may have damaged her somewhat when she eventually jumped into the mayor's race. Mendoza didn't make it past the first round.

So, I asked Mendoza's people if she planned to stand for reelection as comptroller and/or run for mayor.

"Comptroller Mendoza is weighing her options, including re-election," a spokesperson said. "She loves her job and is committed to public service. She will make her decision based on what is best for Illinois, Chicago and her family."

Now comes the important part: "She will not run for two offices at

the same time. Whatever she decides to run for, she'll be all in."

Asked to clarify that statement (after all, she could run for reelection and then spend a few weeks after the election gathering petition signatures for mayor), I was told it'll be one race or the other. If she announces for reelection, she won't run for mayor.

There are those who believe Mendoza may be over-thinking the impact of her 2018 back-to-back election experience.

And, on the other hand, there are those who believe that Giannoulias may not fully appreciate the pressure he'll be under and the criticism he will face if he runs for reelection and then runs for mayor.

The secretary of state is one of the best jobs in state government. If Giannoulias had hedged about running again, a long line of potential hopefuls would've quickly started forming.

Not as many people are interested in being state comptroller, but if Mendoza decides to skip reelection, the opening will add to the growing turnover in Illinois politics.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's retirement announcement has already attracted three incumbents who want to

replace him.

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly announced her intention to run, as has U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi.

Those attempts to move up have already attracted several candidates and potential candidates. And many of those folks are elected officials who will either have to give up their current offices to run - creating more down-ballot turbulence - or be replaced by an appointee, who might then have to be replaced, etc., etc., etc.

Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton has also announced for U.S. Senate. That means Gov. JB Pritzker will have to choose a new running mate. And if chooses someone who is an elected official, then that'll create more openings down the food chain.

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky has announced her retirement, and people are lining up to replace her, including Democratic Sen. Laura Fine, who will have to give up her seat to run.

And there are plenty of rumors that U.S. Rep. Danny Davis won't stand for reelection.

Next year promises to be a fascinating campaign season.

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

Baptist church to host Alzheimer's caregiver support group

If you or someone you know is caring for a loved one with memory problems, you are invited to attend a caregivers support group that meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Route 113 in Coal City.

This meeting is for caregivers only. For additional information, please contact Becky Halderson at 815-791-2658.

Alzheimer's caregiver support groups have many benefits for both caregivers and patients. Caregiving takes a heavy toll on the caregivers' mental and physical health and the health of the patient with dementia is directly related to the health of

his or her caregiver: the healthier the caregiver, the healthier the patient, and vice versa.

Support group participants, value support groups as a place to learn more factual information about dementia. Increased education about dementia makes caregivers more effective: they are better able to respond to patients' needs when they understand and can anticipate them.

Furthermore caregiver depression decreases as caregiver education about dementia increases, and when caregiver depression decreases, patient outcomes improve.

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Gas prices continue ‘gentle descent’

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 5.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.34/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 2.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 54.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.465 per gallon.

In Wilmington, the lowest price you'll find for gas is at Mohsen, \$3.17/g, with Circle K at \$3.29/g.

In Braidwood, gas ranges from \$3.29/g at Casey's and \$3.39/g at Marathon. In Coal City, expect to pay \$3.37/g across the board.

Morris Casey's is \$3.14/g while BP is \$3.19/g. The cheapest gas in these parts can be found in Bourbonnais, with the Gulf station charging \$3.09/g and Road Ranger's price per gallon at \$3.15.

"The national average price of gasoline has continued its gentle descent over the last week, with the most notable declines seen in the Great Lakes region,

where a minor refinery issue was resolved, sending wholesale gas prices lower," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"While gasoline inventories remain somewhat tight heading into the summer, I'm optimistic that increased refinery output could pave the way for further price declines. That said, any unexpected outages could still cause short-term price bumps."

The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.81/g while the highest was \$4.49/g.

Sign-up now for Longest Day Bags Tournament

Oak Knoll Financial Strategies is hosting its 5th annual fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

As financial advisors for Raymond James, we know at least 10 of our clients have family members with Alzheimer's. Sadly, we've lost a few in the past two years to this disease.

In previous years, the longest day fundraising event included watching movies, biking, and bowling.

This year, Oak Knoll Financial Strategies is excited to sponsor a bags (or corn hole) tournament to raise awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Foundation.

The event will be on Saturday, June 21, from 1-6 p.m. at Children's Memorial Park in Wilmington. The Wilmington Rotary Club has refurbished the park with accessible play equipment and a story walk.

Books for children, available through the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, will be featured in the story walk during the 2025 event.

There will be food trucks, DJ music, gift baskets, drawings and kids games offered. A \$25 donation to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America gets each person into the tourney and one free drink. It is open to competitors age 16 and older with prizes awarded to the top three winners.

Over the past four years, Oak Knoll Financial Strategies raised \$30,000 for the Foundation to help find a cure for this terrible disease.

The link for people to donate is <https://givebutter.com/LongestDay>. Or call Ashley or Shanna at 815-476-2105 to confirm your spot. Sign-ups will be taken at noon the day of the event.

Scrap metal can be recycled during electronics drop-offs

Don't throw that old frying pan in the trash bin. 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, June 12, 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 cable, 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 vacuums (stick, robot, canister) and tollway responders.

Morris Hospital announces special Rhythm of Our Youth summer screening

For the first time ever, Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers will be conducting its popular Rhythm of Our Youth cardiac screening outside of the school setting. The special screening date is set for Saturday, July 12, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Morris Hospital YMCA, 2200 W. Dupont Ave., Morris.

Students entering high school during the 2025/26 school year are eligible for the free screening, as well as 2025 high school graduates. The purpose of the screening is to identify students who have an undiagnosed cardiac abnormality that could result in sudden cardiac death.

The screening involves an electrocardiogram, a non-invasive, painless test that measures the electrical activity of the heart and detects certain heart

abnormalities that can lead to sudden cardiac death. The test takes about three minutes to complete.

Based on results of the screenings, about 3 percent of students are referred to their physician for additional follow-up. Typically, less than 1 percent are found to have a medical problem that requires cardiac intervention. Results are sent home to the student's parents and are not shared with the school.

Parents must complete an electronic consent form prior to the screening day in order for their student to participate.

Morris Hospital launched Rhythm of Our Youth in 2016 as a result of funding provided by generous donors to the Morris Hospital Foundation. Since then, over 14,000 area high school students have been

screened through the program.

Sudden cardiac death claims more than 2,000 lives of children and adolescents in the United States each year. Most victims of sudden cardiac death have had underlying heart conditions that could have been detected through a simple ECG.

Parents can register their teen for the July 12 Rhythm of Our Youth screening by going to morrishospital.org/events and then choose Rhythm of Our Youth at the YMCA. Appointments are being scheduled in 15-minute increments. Parents must also complete a consent form, which is also available on the hospital website.

For more information, call Morris Hospital at 815-705-7355.

Wilmington Garden Club plans June 21 guest speaker

The Wilmington Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St.

Special guest will be Sandra Rust, a professional

photographer from Chicago whose outdoor photography has been featured throughout the U.S. and Europe through exhibits and online.

The meeting is open to the public and bring a friend.

Like to garden? Then come sit in a Garden Club meeting and bring a friend.

Save the date for WHS 50th reunion

The WHS Class of '75 will hold their 50-year class reunion at the Wilmington VFW on July 19, at 6:30 pm.

All classmates, spouse/guest are invited to attend. There will be a program and a dinner with cash bar.

Ongoing updates are available on the Wilmington High School Class of '75 Facebook page.

The evening before, July 18, there will be an informal get-together at Haydens Crossing at 7 p.m.

Other events are being planned including a tour of the current WHS building. Other WHS classes are invited to stop in.

Dulcimer Festival returning June 14-15

The annual Gebhard Woods Dulcimer and Traditional Music Festival will take place at Gool Park in Morris on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15.

Family-friendly opportunity to enjoy live music in a beautiful park setting. Main stage and workshop events every hour. There will be a children's tent.

Raffle for prizes. For details visit www.GebhardDulcimer.org

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Class on reading nutrition labels

On Thursday, June 19, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., a registered dietitian from Morris Hospital will explain "How to Read Nutrition Labels."

Learning how to properly read nutrition labels can help you determine your nutrient intake, including carbohydrates, calories, vitamins and minerals, and sugar.

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

All programs will be held at the Morris Hospital YMCA, 2200 W. Dupont Ave., Morris.

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OBITUARIES

Phil Anderson

WILMINGTON—Phil Anderson, 73 of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at Silver Cross Medical Center in New Lenox, IL.

Born Jan. 25, 1952 in Cicero, IL, Philip Wilson was a son of Lawrence and Doris (Wilson) Anderson. He was raised and educated in Cicero and graduated from Morton East High School with the class of 1970.

Phil devoted over four decades of his life to the craft of carpet installation, a career he took great pride in. Most recently, he worked for Apostrophe Design, and also served as a village trustee for the Village of Symerton.

A man of many passions, Phil enjoyed bowling, woodworking, and was especially known for his deep love of music. With an encyclopedic knowledge of songs and artists, he could spark a lively conversation or settle any musical debate with ease. Though soft-spoken by nature, Phil's quick wit and love for a good laugh endeared him to all who knew him. He had a special fondness for limericks, always ready with a clever rhyme.

Phil's greatest joy in life came from his family. He was a devoted husband, a loyal friend, and above all, a loving grandfather who cherished every moment with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife Jill, whom he married Nov. 15, 1990; four children:



Philip Justin "PJ" (Kat) Anderson of Woodstock, IL; Marty (Gina) Enz and Patrick (Amanda) Cowie, both of Las Vegas, NV; and Amy (Tracy) Kinkin of Braidwood; grandchildren: Mikayla, Landyn, Jurzey, Coltyn, Anzley, Miles, Zoey, Jaxen, Nolan, Bennett, Marcus and Kaitlyn; a brother Larry (Leslie) Anderson of Black Forrest, CO; three sisters-in-law: Shelly (Mark) Molle, Wendy (Mark) Kahler and Pam (David) Pitts; two nieces: Karin (John) Kirkys and Kristin (Tim) Ruth, and two nephews: Larry (Patty) Anderson and Matthew (Olivia) Rebel, as well as several great nieces and great nephews.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents; one sister Linnea (Rick) Rebel; his mother and father-in-law Mert and Wally Proffitt, and one sister-in-law: Peggy Decker.

The family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Sunday, June 1, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. until time of service at 3:00 p.m. Green flameless cremation rites will be accorded at the conclusion of the services.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials may be made as gifts to the family for their distribution.

Funeral services and green flameless cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves, Fruland & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

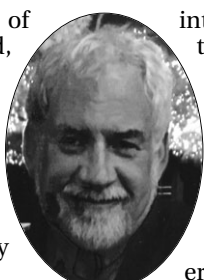
Glen J. Beverly

MORRIS—Glen J. Beverly, 68, of Morris, formerly of Plainfield, passed away on May 29, 2025 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Joliet.

Born on July 23, 1956 in Joliet, Glen was a son of Charles and Dorothy (Saxon) Beverly. Glen graduated in 1974 from Plainfield High School, where he was a record-holding cross country runner.

He then pursued his career, completing an apprenticeship with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 176. Glen dedicated more than three decades of his life, proudly working as a journeyman electrician on many area construction projects. He retired at the age of 55, leaving a legacy of professionalism and dedication.

Glen had a strong appreciation for hands-on work and spent much of his time restoring his historic home, always finding something to build, repair or improve. He was a true craftsman and liked things done correctly. His adventurous spirit led him to become a certified scuba diver, licensed small aircraft pilot and a licensed hot air balloon pilot. He loved sharing his passion for ballooning by providing many rides to family and friends in his two balloons. He was fascinated by weather and followed it with genuine



interest. Glen was an environmentalist and enjoyed the outdoors, whether working, flying, camping, hiking or relaxing with nature. Glen found real joy in the company of his dogs: Coco Bob, Butterfield and Tanner. They were his constant companions and a big part of his daily life.

He is survived by two brothers, Thomas (Rande) Beverly and Mark Beverly; three sisters: Janet Lane, Cheryl Beverly and Jane May; also nieces and nephews: Nolan Broxton, Brent Beverly, Dana Beverly, Steven Beverly, Brock Beverly, Caleigh Ranstead and Makenzie Aziz.

Glen was preceded in death by his parents and niece, Brittany Lattina.

A private Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made in Glen's memory to any animal shelter of your choice.

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

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

Stanley Zeb

BRAIDWOOD—Just four days after his 85th birthday, Stanley "Stan" Robert Zeb of Braidwood, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Prime Healthcare Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, IL.

Born to the late Stanley W. Zeb and Lucille Chenski on May 11, 1940, in Chicago, he eventually met his late ex-wife, Rita Ann Zeb, in high school. They married and lived in Chicago into his mid-30s. Eventually, they moved to Naperville, IL, with their two sons, where they lived for another 25 years before he moved to Braidwood in the early 2000s.

Stan lived a life of long workdays as a skilled union carpet layer, working on his hands and knees for over 40 years. For most of the last 20 working years, he commuted by bus, train, and foot to Chicago with his heavy work bag of tools, where he laid carpet floor by floor in many of the high-rises, including the Sears Tower.

He had a lifelong fondness for the great outdoors and was an active hunter into his 50s and an avid fisherman well into his 70s. He loved camping at Wilmington Recreation Club (WRC), where he could hunt, fish, and enjoy a campfire with his friends and family nearly every weekend. He even served as the WRC Camp Director of Area 2 for many years, where he built relationships with



those who shared his love of the outdoors. His dry sense of humor earned him many cherished and lifelong friends.

Stanley is survived by his sons, Lance Aaron Zeb (Cindy Ann Zeb) and Scott Adam Zeb; his cherished granddaughters: Hope Annabella Zeb and Lauren Ashley-Grace Zeb; his sister, Debbie; and his sister-in-law, LeeAnn (Dennis) Zeb.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Dennis Zeb, and his nephew, Gary Zeb.

Memorial Visitation will be held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home in Braidwood, IL, on June 6, 2025, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service beginning at 3:00 p.m., with a Celebration of Life to follow at 5:00 p.m. at the VFW in Wilmington, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to a charity of the donor's choice. For those who wish to send flowers, the family kindly requests potted plants only.

To share memories or offer condolences, please visit Stanley's online guestbook at www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Shirley A. Marsaglia

COAL CITY—Shirley A. Marsaglia (Nee, Styber), 98, of Coal City, passed away May 28, 2025.

Born in Coal City, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Antoinette (Cerny) Styber. She was a lifelong resident of Coal City, graduating from Coal City High School with the class of 1944.

Her years of employment included Field Director of Ammunition Plants/Ordinance Ammunition Center, Northern Petro-Chemical Company, where she organized the company's Retiree's Club, and ENT Surgical Consultants. Volunteer years included transporting cancer patients to Provena Saint Joseph's Medical Center (PSJMC) and to Hines Veteran Hospital for treatment, PSJMC Women's Auxiliary, Cub Scout Leader, and the many fundraisers for her children's schools. A lifetime member of Assumption Catholic Church, she was an active choir member for many years, a member of the Martha's, and a Minister of Care to the home bound.

She enjoyed her family through the many years of extensive travel and adventure, playing cards and board games with family and friends. Bus trips to the many theaters, also, added many happy times.

Surviving are her daughter, Lisa (Joe) Klepk; sons, Mark (Christie) Marsaglia and Michael (Mary) Marsaglia; grandchildren: Kathryn (Coy) Shaw, Kathleen (Matthew) Otzel, Matthew (Kristen) Marsaglia, Emily Marsaglia, Nicholas Marsaglia, Jacob (Emily) Klepk, and great-grandchildren: Joshua Bradford, Brady Shaw, Bella Shaw, Haley Klepk, Matilda Otzel, Max Otzel,



Morganne Otzel, Eliana Marsaglia, and Zoe Marsaglia. Also surviving are niece, Karen Campbell; great-nephews, Jeff and Greg Campbell; numerous cousins and the many friends resulting from her journey through life.

She was preceded in death by an infant son, her parents, brother, Charles Styber Jr., sister, Helen McDermott and brother-in-law, Alex McDermott.

A memorial visitation will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Coal City on Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, from 10 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Father Jos Miller presiding and Deacon William Dunn assisting. Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial luncheon in the Berst Center immediately after the Mass.

Inurnment will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials to St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, or Assumption Church Building Fund would be appreciated.

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

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

Gladys Meyer

MANTENO—Gladys M. Meyer, 82 of Rockville Township, Manteno, passed away Sunday, May 25, 2025 at Citadel Care Center in Kankakee.

Born June 21, 1942 in Joliet, Gladys Margaret was a daughter of Laverne and Alice (Green) Lovell. She was raised in Rockville Township and graduated from Saint Patrick's Catholic High School in Kankakee. Gladys furthered her education and graduated from St. Francis College in Joliet. On June 16, 1963, Gladys married the love of her life, John Meyer, Jr., at Saint Patrick Catholic Church in Wilton Center. Together they made their home in Wilton Township where they raised their family before later moving to Rockville Township.

Gladys worked for the Manteno School District as a primary school teacher until she decided to remain at home and raise both her sons. She worked for a time in the office at FS Grain in Symerton, and was an active member of Saint Patrick Church where she belonged to the Council of Catholic Women, was previously Director of Religious Education, Directed the choir, and served on Parish Council.

Gladys was a true matriarch, dedicated to being a supportive wife and mother to her family. She kept the house in order and helped out on the farm however she could. Gladys was an avid gardener, enjoying flower gardening and especially vegetable gardening. She was often canning much of what her garden produced to save for whenever she would need it. Gladys took great pleasure reading and enjoyed watching old Westerns. She would also crochet often and use her creations to decorate her home or share with others as gifts.

Above all else, Gladys was happiest



when she was with the people she loved. She spent her entire adult life with her loving husband, John, with whom she was inseparable. Gladys' devotion to her family, strong work ethic, and deep faith will be her legacy, cherished forever by those she loved and who loved her.

Survivors include her husband of over 62 years, John Meyer, Jr.; two sons: Donald (Mary) Meyer of Urbana, IL and David (Donnette) Meyer of Kankakee; one granddaughter, Allyson Meyer of Kankakee, and several cousins, as well as their families.

Gladys was preceded in death by her parents and her aunt, Loretta (Francis "Jiggs") Long.

The family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Monday, June 2, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will follow at Saint Patrick Catholic Church, 14936 West Wilmington/Peotone Road, in Wilton Center on Tuesday morning, June 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding, and Gladys will be laid to rest in Mount Saint Patrick Cemetery in Wilton Center.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Gladys' memory to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

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

Energy saving tips to offset rate increase

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is alerting Illinoisans on ways to keep cool and offset coming energy price spikes. Summer costs are expected to rise June 1 for ComEd and Ameren customers alike following a regional increase in energy supply prices.

"Energy affordability is always top of mind at the ICC, and we want ratepayers to be aware of higher summertime rates so they can safely plan to reduce energy usage and improve energy efficiency around their homes," said Jonathan Feipel, Executive Director for the Illinois Commerce Commission. "Higher energy supply rates are not unique to Illinois. Unfortunately, electric consumers from Louisiana to Minnesota will be paying more for electricity—not due to state policy decisions, but regional supply and demand."

PJM Interconnection, the power grid operator for northern Illinois, and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the operator for central and southern Illinois, experienced drastically higher than normal energy supply pricing at their annual capacity auctions. Both grid operators have issued summer preparedness warnings for possible grid supply shortages and elevated risk in their respective regions.

The average residential ComEd customer can expect a monthly increase

of about \$11 per month, and the average residential Ameren customer will see summer bill increases closer to \$45 per month. Come fall, Ameren's bill increase will drop to around \$4 a month.

Hot summer days cause consumers to crank the AC and raise their energy bills. The ICC's energy efficiency tips can help consumers keep cool, reduce energy usage, and spend less on utility bills.

ICC SMART TIPS TO BEAT THE HEAT AND SAVE:

1. Contact your utility about programs they offer to reduce energy usage during peak hours or alternative rate options that might work for you.
2. Install a programmable thermostat to control the temperature overnight and when you're away from home.
3. Schedule regular AC

maintenance visits and replace filters regularly.

4. Close curtains and other window treatments to block heat from the sun during the day.

5. Use ceiling or box fans to keep cool. Remember to turn fans off when leaving the room.

6. Invest in LED lighting which emits very little heat and uses 75+% less energy.

7. Use small appliances to prepare meals or cook outdoors, rather than heating up a large oven.

8. Wash clothes with cold water early in the day and line dry. Hanging clothes on a clothesline once a week can save around \$79 a year.

9. Set your water heater to no more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

10. Caulk or weather-strip around doors and windows to seal any leaks. Stay cool and save money.

Canadian wildfires bring first air quality alert of the season

Smoke from Canadian wildfires triggered air quality warnings by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency over the weekend.

Canadian wildfire smoke reached Illinois late Friday, causing an increase in fine particulates overnight while lingering Saturday morning with a gradually decreasing throughout the day.

While the first air smog warning of the summer has subsided, residents are encouraged to monitor local air quality and air quality forecasts using the latest information on AirNow.gov.

Particulate matter, also known as particle pollution, can cause serious

health problems, including asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and early death. Those most at risk are people with respiratory or pulmonary disorders, as well as children and adults who are active outdoors.

Symptoms to look out for include wheezing, coughing, a fast heartbeat, tiredness, chest pain and shortness of breath.

Illinois Department of Public Health encourages residents to take the following actions to protect themselves when air quality is Red or "Unhealthy" AQI category:

- Stay indoors and monitor your breathing, especially if you have heart

or lung disease, and keep windows and doors closed.

- If your air conditioner has a fresh air intake, set your system to recirculate or close the intake.

- Use high efficiency filters in air conditioning systems and portable air cleaners.

- Avoid activities that create more particulate matter indoors, like smoking or burning candles.

- If you cannot avoid working or other outdoors activities, choose shorter or less intense activities, considering rescheduling, and take more frequent breaks.

- Consider wearing a high-quality N-95 or N-100 mask while outdoors.

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilm.

Catholic Charities' mobile food pantry will be distributing food Monday, June 16, at 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver meat, produce and

nonperishable items to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars as a "drive thru" method will be used.

Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Put your junk in the trunk

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is rolling out a lighthearted but important campaign that reminds visitors to "Put Your Junk in the Trunk" to help stop vehicle break-ins at preserves.

The campaign is designed to raise awareness about thefts from unattended vehicles and remind people to stash their valuables before heading out on the trails. "We want people to be more aware of their surroundings and to be safe," said Forest Preserve Deputy Police Chief David Barrios Jr. "This goes for anywhere, not just in the forest preserves. Our officers do check on vehicles and educate people when they see valuables left in plain view, but we can't be everywhere."

The Junk in Your Trunk campaign includes educational signs in the preserves and a summer social media push featuring a humorous country music video that drives home the message about protecting valuables while enjoying nature.

In the video, a couple arrives at a preserve in a 1949 Chevy and wisely stashes all their treasures - including cash, gold bars and even the Mona Lisa - before heading out for a hike. A would-be 'carburglar,' armed with a hammer, sneaks over to the car, but he finds nothing to steal. Later, the same criminal eyes another vehicle where a purse, wallet and smartphone are clearly visible through the window. Before he can act, he's apprehended by Forest Preserve police.

The video is a humor-

ous way to deliver a serious message, Barrios added. "People are more likely to remember the video and its purpose because it uses exaggerated props, a sneaky criminal and has a funny catchphrase," he said.

Crime of opportunity Unfortunately, thefts do happen. Windows are smashed and purses, wallets and electronics are taken from vehicles at preserves.

"It is an issue that we in the police department deal with a good amount, but this type of crime is a crime of opportunity," Barrios said. "A criminal looks for an easy find, and if they see an opportunity to quickly take valuables in plain sight from an unoccupied vehicle, they will take advantage of the situation. The ones we have seen have been mostly purses left on the front seat that were easily taken after a driver or passenger-side window was broken."

That's why Forest Preserve police are reminding visitors to stash their stuff out of sight before entering the preserve - or better yet, leave it at home.

"We are doing this to bring awareness about leaving valuables in plain sight in your vehicles while out in our preserves," Barrios said. "Especially with the nice weather, more people will be out enjoying the preserves. We want to remind preserve users and educate them with tips to keep themselves and their property safe."

The goal is to get people thinking ahead so they can protect their belongings and enjoy the pre-

serves worry-free.

"Remember, someone might be watching you as you get out to enjoy the preserves," Barrios said. "They might see your valuables, like purses, wallets and backpacks - left in your car, and as soon as you leave, that's when they'll strike."

In addition to putting your junk in the trunk, Barrios recommends pre-serve visitors:

Report suspicious activity as soon as you see it.

Be a good witness: Get a description, location, direction of travel and license plate number if possible.

Always carry your cell phone and add the Forest Preserve's non-emergency dispatch number to your contacts: 815-727-6191, option 9. In an emergency, call 911.



THE FOREST PRESERVE District of Will County is launching a 'Put Your Junk in the Trunk' campaign to remind people not to leave valuables out in the open in their vehicles.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Marsh plant
- Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
- Fogginess
- Home to Fools' Day
- Absence of the sense of pain
- Popular November holiday
- Consume food
- Buddy
- Long-haired goat-antelope
- Japanese honorific
- Actor Malek
- One point south of southeast
- Illegal acts
- As fast as can be done
- Prevents harm to young
- Exclamation of satisfaction
- African nation
- Slow-moving animal
- Oh, goodness!
- A team's best pitcher
- Cleanser
- Radioactivity units
- Expectorated matter
- Cover a wide range
- The central area of a church
- California capital (abbr.)
- Dutch painter Klaver
- 007's creator
- Impression of dishonesty
- Northeastern sports rivalry
- Cloths
- Stalin's police chief
- Hostelries
- Bitterly regret
- Anwar __, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

- Satisfy
- European health advocate
- Expression of annoyance

CLUES ACROSS

- Strong liquor
- Large red deer
- Holder of less common religious beliefs
- West Indian shrub
- Family of proteins
- Wealthy, influential business leader
- Low spirits
- Approves food
- Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
- Mary __, cosmetics
- Expressed in pithy maxims
- Relaxing spaces
- The NFL's big game
- Proof of payment (abbr.)
- Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
- Indicates near
- Minneapolis suburb
- Herring-like fish
- Doctors' group
- Pouches
- Bread dipping in sauce
- Commercials
- A reminder of past events
- Affected by injury
- Geological time
- Stationary part of a motor
- Brings together
- Of sound mind
- Personal computer
- Without (French)
- A bank might give you one
- Agricultural testing organization
- A small island
- Type of gene
- Murres
- Card game
- A measure of human health
- Australian airline (abbr.)
- One point south of due west
- Affirmative

WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT

2025

SUMMER SERIES

Events You Don't Want to Miss

06

June

Movie in the Park

The LEGO Movie!

Veterans Park @ Dusk (Approx 7:30pm)

Sponsored by: Island City Baptist Church

08

June

Giant Summer Kickoff 5k & Walk!

10:00 AM South Island Park

Extra Mile After Party @ Old School Brewery

13

June

Summer Concert Series

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM North Island Park

Ryan Craig Band 7pm 🎵 Country Night!



Fast Eddies

19

June

Farmers Market

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Downtown Wilmington

Christine Ronna 🎵



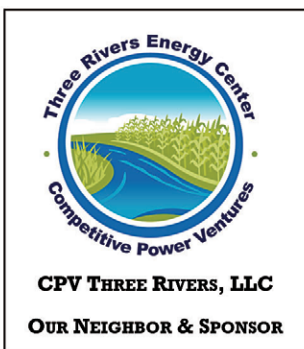
Route 66 Diner, Fast Eddies



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Visit with Goose Lake Prairie Partners and Friends as they
CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL CABIN FESTIVAL
at the Grundy County Historical Society Museum in Morris, IL. on June 7, 2025 from 10 AM to 3 pm.



- Parking by the Museum.
- Restaurants are nearby.
- No entrance fees.

NOTE: Gift Shop in the Museum carries Prairie Partner Rag Rugs.

While our hearts are on the Prairie where the new Cragg Cabin stands, The Department of Natural Resources and IDOT will be working on rehabbing the Roads and Parking lot in preparation for the building of a new Visitor Center at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.

Visit with us at the Museum where you will hear the history of the Family who moved to this area and built their home of logs, dirt and chinking. They farmed the land and joined the others who had moved west to find a better life. There are many exhibits that support the story and lifestyle of the 1830s.

Location of the Grundy County Historical Society Museum is 510 W. Illinois Avenue, Morris, IL 60450

Questions: Park Visitor Center: 815-942-2899, or Museum: 815-942-4880, or speak to a Prairie Partner: 815-953-4567.

*Attorney Meents files
Alberico 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 FELICIA LANE ALBERICO,
Deceased
No. 2025 PR 56

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Felicia Lane Alberico, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on May 6, 2025, to Kenneth Jackson Wise, whose address is 810 Kristin Lane, 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 November 24, 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.illinoislegalaid.org. Kenneth Jackson Wise Independent Executor of the Estate of Felicia Lane Alberico, 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, May 21, 28 and June 4, 2025.

*Attorney Meents files
Wise 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 PATRICIA ANN WISE, Deceased
No. 2025 PR 165

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of PATRICIA ANN WISE, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on May 6, 2025 to Kenneth Jackson Wise, whose address is 810 Kristin Lane, 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 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 24, 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.illinoislegalaid.org. Kenneth Jackson Wise Independent Executor of the Estate of PATRICIA ANN WISE, 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, May 21, 28 and June 4, 2025.

*Attorney McGrath files
Defacci estate notice*

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
In the Matter of the Estate of
PATRICIA DEFACCI, Deceased
Case No.: 25 PR 273

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of PATRICIA DEFACCI, of New Lenox, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued May 6, 2025, to MARY ANNE MULDER, whose address is 603 Lambeth Ln., New Lenox, IL 60451 and MARSHA PAULA DEFACCI, whose address is 1910 Gerda Terrace, Orlando, FL, 32804 as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney of record is TIMOTHY J. MCGRATH, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 21, 2025, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that 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://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.illinoislegalaid.org. Mary Anne Mulder and Marsha Paula DeFacci, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Patricia DeFacci, Deceased Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170 McGrath Law, P.C. 440 S. State Street Manhattan, IL 60442 (815) 478-4020 mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com Published in the Free Press Advocate on May 21, 28 and June 4, 2025.

*Attorney McGrath files
Lehnert estate notice*

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
In the Matter of the Estate of
KAREN LEHNERT, Deceased.
Case No.: 25 PR 209

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of KAREN LEHNERT, of Manhattan, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued April 9, 2025, to JENNIFER CLAYTON, whose address is 14463 Audubon, Manhattan, IL 60442 and JONATHAN LEHNERT, whose address is 23162 S. Malibu Dr., Manhattan, IL 60442, as Independent Co-Administrators, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the day of November 21, 2025, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that 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://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.illinoislegalaid.org. Jennifer Clayton and Jonathan Lehnert, Independent Co-Administrators of the Estate of Karen Lehnert, Deceased. Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170 McGrath Law, P.C. 440 S. State Street Manhattan, IL 60442 (815) 478-4020 mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com Published in the Free Press Advocate on May 21, 28, and June 4, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICES
Because it's your right to know

THANK*YOU!

The Wilmington Garden Club would like to thank everyone for their support and donations during our 2025 Perennial Plant Exchange and Bake Sale.

Thanks to our donors: BTI Tire and Alignment, JTL Nails, El Patron Mexican Kitchen II, Wee Sip Liquors, Tuffy's Lounge, Spins & Needles, Davy Industrial Park Rentals, Whitmore Ace Hardware, CVS Pharmacy, Pizza 4 U, Berkot's Super Foods, Our Caring Closet, The Flower Loft, Tire Tracks Auto Repair & Maintenance, The Free Press Newspapers, Begler's Auto Repair, Nelly's Restaurant, Rich's Lock & Key, Rich's Quality Cutlery, Mimi's Cafe, and Wilmington Collision Center.

Thanks to all our supporters. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Wilmington Garden Club

Local churches offering meals or pickup free food at pantries

CLA Food Pantry. Christian Life Assembly, 2960 E Division St Diamond IL. 815-518-5441. Available Tuesday 9:00-2:30 am and Friday 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Braidwood Food Pantry at Community Care Center. Open Tuesdays 8 to 11:45 a.m. 112 S. Center Street, Braidwood. Information: 815-325-0779

Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W 1st St. Braidwood. Micro-pantry open 24 hours front of church Info: (815)-390-5040

Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry. Open Fridays from 1-2 p.m. 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood.

Coal City Food Pantry

at Coal City United Methodist Church. (Use south entrance)Closed all federal holidays. Open Mondays 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m. 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City. Information: 815-216-3288.

We Care of Grundy County Food Pantry. Office Hours: Mon.-Wed. and Fri.: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Pantry Hours: Monday-Friday 1:00-3:00 by appointment. Please call to schedule your time to come 815-942-6389. 530 Bedford Rd., Morris. Information: 815-942-6389

Kuzma Care Cottage, food pantry. 635 S. Main Street, Wilmington. Hours: M-F 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of

each month, 8-11 a.m. 815-476-2030

Local Meals:

St. Vincent Table hot meals are offered at various locations throughout the year. Here are the months and locations for 2025. Hours for pick-up for shut ins 4-4:30 p.m. Eat in start 4:30 until 5:30 p.m.

May-July 2025: New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St Coal City. Aug.-Oct. 2025: Immaculate Conception Church, 110 S School St Braidwood.

Nov. 2025: Assumption of the BVM, 180 S Kankakee St Coal City.

December 2025: CC First Baptist Church, 4470 E Rt 113 Mazon.

Dial 9-8-8 for mental health help

988 is a confidential lifeline and available 24/7. If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide or facing a mental health or substance use crisis, help is just a call or text away.

Life can throw us unexpected challenges, and sometimes it can make you feel overwhelmed. You are not alone, help is here. Call or text 988 to be connected with a trained, compassionate crisis counselor who can help you navigate difficult times.

This message is brought to you by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Free Press Newspapers.

Public can comment on \$308 million rate increase for Nicor Gas

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is offering Northern Illinois Gas Company (Nicor) customers an additional opportunity to comment on the utility's proposed rate increase in Joliet on June 9 at the Bicentennial Park Theatre.

Customers unable to attend the hearing may submit comments via the ICC website or call our Consumer Services Division at 1-800-524-0795 during regular business hours.

Nicor filed its petition for a \$308.6 million general rate increase with the ICC in January 2025 to update its natural gas rates. Rate cases are formal proceedings used to ensure utilities receive the necessary funds to provide safe and reliable service at a reasonable cost to ratepayers.

Under the Public Utilities Act, the ICC is responsible for scrutinizing rate case filings along with any additional materials from the utility or various interveners over the course of an 11-month legal proceeding.

The public meeting will be held June 9 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at theBillie Limacher Bicentennial Park Indoor Theatre, 201 W. Jefferson St, Joliet.

The Administrative Law Judge presiding over the case will open the hearing, followed by a brief presentation from Nicor. Verbal and written comments from consumers will be accepted at the hearing and ICC staff will be available for a Q&A session.

Commissioners will review the entire case at the close of evidence.

Clean-up help needed at Forked Creek Preserve

There will be a National Trails Day Cleanup scheduled 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 7, at the Forked Creek Preserve - Ballou Road Access in Wesley Township.

Join the nationwide cleanup movement and help remove litter from the trails.

Supplies provided. Free. All ages. Registration and a signed waiver are required.

CONGRATULATIONS
Xander Jude Little
on graduating 8th Grade at SMA with high honors. Your hard work and dedication paid off. We are beyond proud of you and your accomplishments. Can't wait to see what the future holds for you.



Best of luck in your high school years!



Love,
Mom, Dad, Sunny, Andrew, Atlas, Grandpa & Great Grandma Konc, and the rest of your family.

CONGRATULATIONS
Aiden Matthew Florey
on all of your accomplishments and on your Promotion from Wilmington Middle School to WHS Class of 2029



May 29, 2025

We are so very proud of you! Good luck and have fun in High School!



All our love,
Dad, Mom, Grandma Wendy, Great Grandpa & Great Grandma Konc, Lyla, Leon, Axel, Neveah, Hailie and the rest of your family.

Thank you Free Press Advocate

The story Staff Writer Rose Panieri published about WWII hero Bill Calhoon was amazing - thank you Rose. We are truly blessed to have such a dynamic local newspaper and staff.

Thanks also to Dave Rampa, Jeff Treadman, and Sue Esposito for helping to get the Memorial Plaque back to me. Dave Melhorn for the name plate, hanging the plaque, his mission to see that it was once again on display at VFW Post 5422 and contacting the newspaper. JR Miller for its new place on the wall, and Dean Dennis for the beautiful frame. Also special thanks to Eric Fisher who was involved from the very beginning with the plaque and its dedication ceremony in 1997 and for all his Patriotic journalistic work through the years.

Marie Calhoon and Family

THANK YOU

On behalf of the WMS track and field program we would like to thank Chris Talley and his family for their extremely generous donation of a new Wildcat canopy tent for our program. This new beautiful tent with our Wildcat logo and Wildcat purple top will help protect our athletes from the elements as they wait for their events.

Chris Talley is not only a parent of a track athlete but also a local business owner. You will know that CNJ CONTRACTING INC. does great work and supports the local schools and community!

Thank you Chris Talley and the Talley family for your generous gift. Feel free to support this local business that supports your Wilmington Wildcats! Call them at (630) 962-1174

Nate Strong
Head WMS Track and Field Coach

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines
Classified Display
Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
Mondays - noon



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



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

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

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Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk.- \$17; 2 wks.- \$21;
3 wks.- \$25; 4 wks.- \$29*
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
*plus .0399% with credit card

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Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including dry-wall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136.

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Mandy Eaton
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• Anything Metal
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ESTATE AUCTION

FOR LOUIS "BUD" & PHYLLIS BRUNO
SATURDAY JUNE 7 AT 10:00 A.M.
(RAIN DATE SUNDAY, JUNE 8)

230 WEST 2nd STREET, COAL CITY IL 60416
CHECK AUCTIONZIP.COM I.D. 9525 FOR LISTING AND PHOTOS

JOHN DEERE S240 RIDING TRACTOR 24 HP, 48" CUT, W/127HRS LIKE NEW-CRAFTSMAN 7 HP SELF PROPELLED LAWNMOWER-46" LAWN SWEEPER-LAWN ROLLER-YARDWORK PULL TYPE FERTILIZER-TORO ROTOTILLER-TWO WHEEL DUMP LAWN CART-LAWN AND GARDEN TOOLS-
CIRCULAR SAWS, BRADLEY CHAIN SAW, DELTA 6" BENCH GRINDER, DUNLAP TAP DIE SET, KELLER 6' LADDER, CRAFTSMAN (7 1/2" TABLE SAW, CORDLESS DRILL, BELT SANDER, SHOP VAC)-DIETZGEN DRAWING INSTRUMENT, HAND TOOLS-
1951 PACEMAKER II WHIZZER-
12' SEA NYMPH ALUMINUM BOAT W/ 5 1/2 HP EVINRUDE MOTOR W/TWO GAS CANS & OARS-
ANTIQUE FISHING REELS (GARCIA 4600 CB, MITCHELL 301, SHAKESPEARE 1964 MARHOFF, SHAKESPEARE 1905 DEUCE, SHAKESPEARE 040 SUPER SIGNA NO. 450 SOUTH BEND)-VTG. CLEARLAKE 3 PC. BAMBOO FLY ROD- VTG. ST CROIX 2 PC. FLY ROD-NUMEROUS LURES SUCH AS JITTERBUGS BY FRED ARBOGAST, HEDDON BASSER, HULA POPPER, CREEK CHUBS, MANY MORE.
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TWO WHIRL POOL REFRIGERATORS-CROSLEY CHEST TYPE FREEZER-KENMORE WASHER AND DRYER-TWO SAMSUNG FLAT SCREEN TV'S-SHARK ROTATOR PROFESSIONAL VAC-
SOFA AND LOVESEAT-RECLINER LIFT CHAIR-QUEEN SIZE MATTRESS & BOX SPRING, LIKE NEW-GLIDER ROCKER-KITCHEN TABLE & CHAIRS-CARD TABLE & FOUR CHAIRS-FOUR BAR STOOLS-PATIO FURNITURE-LAMPS-BEDDING-NUMEROUS SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES AND HOUSEWARES-

HINTZE AUCTION SERVICE, INC.

AUCTIONEER: BOB HINTZE LIC. #440000682
PHONE: (815) 228 7634

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood Garage Sale Days. Fri. and Sat., June 13 & 14. 8am to 3pm. Get maps at First Presbyterian Church, Main & Lincoln St. Look for the green pennants. No rain date. cc22-24

Gardner - 8090 S. Lincoln Rd., Fri. and Sat., June 6 & 7. 8am-noon. Barn Sale - Furniture, antiques, tools, holiday decor, Longaberger, household, baby items and so much more. cc23

Wilmington - 1003 N. Joliet St., Wed., June 4, 5pm-8pm. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun., June 5, 6, 7, 8, 9am-???. Lots of clothes, all sizes, shoes, toys, camping stuff, too much to list. Cheap prices. ca23

Wilmington - Pole Barn Sale. 210 Stewart St., Thurs., Fri., Sat., June 5, 6, 7 from 8:30am to 5pm. Tools, crafts, kitchenware, Noritake china, Pyrex, Corelle, Corning Ware, cut crystal. Refrigerators, washer, dryer, barnwood, sweatshirts, T-shirts, women's clothes, vintage toys and games, 1960 Singer. All seasons decor, Wildcat decor, much more. Cash only! ca23

HELP WANTED

Offering CNA classes, days, evenings and weekends. Home health nurses needed. CNA instructor needed. Call for class dates, 630-771-1162 or 630-771-9069, www.spectrumnursesna.com cc20-39

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.

PETS

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

ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE SALE HERE

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 390 E. Janet Dr., Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family). On the 26th day of June, 2025 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust Plaintiff V. Thomas M. Brown Defendant.** Case No. 22 FC 1019 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application

REAL ESTATE

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: **Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC PO Box 740 Decatur, IL 62525 P: 1-217-422-1719 F: 1-217-422-1754** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., June 4, 11 and 18, 2025.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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Lawn Care
Jim Baudino
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cc11-26

Mike Collins Roofing, 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. ch21-46



6	4	7	3	9	5	2	1	8
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1	3	9	2	8	7	6	4	5
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4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3

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Memorial Day May 20, 2025
Remember and Honor those who served.

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Memorial Day May 20, 2025
Remember and Honor those who served.

COAL CITY COURANT
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

Trustees approve new police chief
The Board of Trustees of the City of Coal City, Illinois, met in a regular session on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the City of Coal City, Illinois, to discuss and approve the appointment of a new police chief. The Board of Trustees, by a vote of 6-0, approved the appointment of [Name] as the new police chief. [Name] was recommended by the Police Board and the City Manager. [Name] has been a police officer for [Number] years and has held various positions of responsibility. The Board of Trustees expressed its confidence in [Name] and its belief that [Name] will lead the Coal City Police Department to new heights of success. The Board of Trustees also approved the appointment of [Name] as the new police chief. [Name] will begin his duties on [Date].

Memorial Day May 20, 2025
Remember and Honor those who served.

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Memorial Day May 20, 2025
Remember and Honor those who served.

GRADUATING WITH US - The Coal City Courant was a first in its history as it was the first newspaper in the Coal City area to publish a graduation issue. The issue was published on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, and featured a special section on the graduation of the Coal City High School class of 2025. The issue was a great success and was well received by the community. The Coal City Courant is proud to be a part of the Coal City community and to provide the community with the latest news and information. The Coal City Courant is committed to providing the community with the highest quality news and information and to being a part of the Coal City community.

All local faces in local places

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COMET SPORTS



FIVE FISH LIMIT for Alex Bielfeldt (from left), coach Pete Banach and Mady Meyer helped them to finish 5th out of 56 boats during the IBN State High School Championship held at Clinton Lake in Cliton, IL on Sunday.



FIRST PLACE! RCMS graduate Nathan Banach (second from left) holds the championship trophy from the 2025 IBN State Junior Championship with his partner Joey Eskew after winning at Clinton Lake on Sunday. With them are Casting Comets captain Pete Banach (left) and coach Jay Eskew.

Casting Comets qualify for national bass tournaments

The Reed-Custer Casting Comets have secured a spot to The 2025 Bassmaster High School National Championship at Clarks Hill Lake in Evans, Georgia on July 31-August 2.

Team Alex Bielfeldt, Mady Meyer and Coach Pete Banach made it happen on Sunday during the IBN State High School Championship on Clinton Lake at Clinton, IL.

The team turned in a Day #1 weight of 11.07 and then added 14.66 pounds on Day #2 for a total weight of 25.73

pounds putting them 5th out of 56 boats and securing their spot to Nationals.

In addition, Nathan Banach, who just graduated from RCMS and will be a Comet freshman, won the 1st place championship in the IBN State Junior Championship with his partner Joey Eskew and Coach Jay Eskew.

They will be attending the 2025 Bassmaster Junior National Championship on July 25-26 on Clarks Hill Lake.

Up next is IHSA Bass Fishing State tournament at Shelbyville Lake this week June 5-7th. Competing will be Team Bielfeldt-Meyer-Banach who won the sectional a week ago and Team Margaret Dockery and Brock Billingsley with coach/boat captain Mark Stewart who qualified with 7th place at sectionals.

The Casting Comets expressed a big thank you to their tackle supplier <https://tournamenttackle.com> for their support.



CONGRATS TO THE RCMS Student of the Month winners for the month of May. The characteristic trait that was focused on was citizenship, (front, from left) Emma Hopf (eighth grade), Mason Bishop (6th), Taylor Kroehler (7th) and Aryana Ortiz (7th). Back row left to right: Halas Janousek (7th), Liam O'Gorman (7th), Eddie Davies (6th), Jakub Lichaj (8th), Doug Savarino (8th), Jordan Howell (8th), Elle Bohac (6th), Willa Meyer (6th).



RCMS ACE winners for the month of May and (from left) Ella Biesterfeld (sixth grade), Harper Roberts (8th), Marlene Ontiveros (7th), Nolan Freitas (7th) and Collin Storm (6th).



CHOSEN BY RCHS teachers are the students of the month for May (from left) Madelynn Marschner (Fr), Piper Kuchar (Fr), Nathan Hughes (Fr), Emberly Schumacher (Fr), Austin London (Fr), Charli Mason (Fr), Gwen Stewart (Jr), Brianna Sosa (Jr), and Alyssa Wollenzien (So).

Dog alerts sleeping couple of house fire

A Wilmington couple sleeping in their home are thankful for their dog who alerted them of a fire which they were able to escape without injury early Thursday morning.

The Wilmington Fire Protection District was called at 4:06 this morning for a structure fire at the Lakepoint Resort, 24801 Lake Point Rd located on the far west side of its district.

Firefighters found a park model home with an attached screen room heavily involved with fire, extending to the exposed side of an adjacent mobile home.

Wilmington, Braidwood and Coal City firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze, preventing it from traveling into the adjacent structure.

Tenders were used to transport in water due to the area of the Fire District being without hydrants.

The home was occupied at the time of the fire with an adult male and female occupant who were awakened by their dog. There were no smoke detectors present however all of the occupants escaped the home and were uninjured.

The fire appears to have started in the front screened in porch area however a cause is unknown at this time.

Wilmington Fire

District was assisted at the scene by Wilmington Police while the Channahon and Bourbonnais Fire Districts provided change of quarters coverage.

Busy Memorial Day
The Wilmington Fire District was busy with a smoke investigation on Memorial Day morning when they got a second call for a vehicle that overturned into the Kankakee River.

A business in the area called 911 reporting their security cameras were showing smoke and sparks however an exact location or cause could not be determined.

Wilmington Police, assisting the Fire District, received additional information and were able to determine the source as a small vacant building heavily involved by fire on city property located at the West end of Stewart St. West of Kankakee St.

Firefighters extinguished most of the fire in about 30 minutes, but worked another hour, assisted by Braidwood Fire personnel, pulling apart the building and extinguishing small spot fires.

While still on scene of the fire, Wilmington Fire District was called for a vehicle rollover into the Kankakee River near the Water Treatment Plant on Widows Rd.

Channahon and Elwood Fire Districts who were covering calls during the fire responded to the scene as well as Wilmington Fire units once they became available. The MABAS Division 15 Water Rescue Team was also requested to the scene.

Fire District personnel discovered a vehicle with heavy damage down the embankment in the river on its roof. Rescuers descended down the embankment and made contact with the single occupant still inside the vehicle.

Additional personnel with extrication equipment were sent down the embankment and the door to the vehicle was forced open to assist with removing the patient. The patient was removed and assisted up the embankment to an awaiting ambulance where continued EMS care was provided.

The patient was transported to Riverside Hospital in Kankakee. Wilmington Fire District and Wilmington ESDA personnel remained on scene to assist with the recovery of the vehicle from the river.

Deputy Chief Todd Friddle commended the versatility of local responders to go from fighting a fire to descending at steep slope to extricate a patient trapped in the river.

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 40 years!"

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