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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

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Mayor, administrator focus on roads, future of Braidwood

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The dust has settled after the shake-up at City Hall, following the resignation of Mayor Chris Earley and the appointment of Karen Hart to fill the seat for the next two years. With Hart and Mayor, Doug Money as Finance Commissioner, and Tony Altiery back as City Administrator, city leaders said their next goal is to move Braidwood forward as promised during campaign season.

To that end, Altiery said at the top of the priority list is to address the roads, starting with a road survey to rate which roads need the most atten-

tion.

"We're talking to the engineer to have a company come in to scan all of our roads," Altiery said. "They'll actually go through town and scan all of the roads and tell us which ones need repairs the most and are in the worst shape, and then help us set up a yearly plan... They'll put them in the priority level of which ones are worst. So, we're hoping to have that [for discussion] at the next council meeting."

The project will be similar to one that was completed in Wilmington in 2022, where a road condition map was created for every city-owned street, rating roads by needs and giving the city a starting point to create a

multi-year plan.

"They'll tell us which roads are the worst, which ones are taking a beating," Altiery said. "We'll know which ones to start with and where to go from there. But, it's taken us four years to catch up and get MFT budgets closed from the prior four years, so we know how much money we actually have to work with. That's been the biggest struggle with being able to do anything, we don't know how much money we have in MFT because prior to 2019, there were five years that were not closed on and audited, so we're struggling."

MFT stands for Motor Fuel Tax. MFT funds come from the state and

are taxes on what the state calls "the privilege" of operating motor vehicles upon public highways, as well as the operation of recreational watercraft on waterways within the state, based on the consumption of motor fuel.

The taxes are charged at the pump and held by the state, then later delivered to the governing bodies for use on roadway projects. Those projects are subject to approval by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

In 2022, city engineer Dave Weber told members of the City Council that IDOT had informed him that multiple expenditures from 2018-2021 that had been approved as

MFT projects by the city were not properly authorized through the state, meaning the city had to spend the last year reconciling those accounts, which included roughly \$400,000 in ineligible expenses.

According to IDOT, the city's current unobligated balance of MFT as of April is \$1.3 million, however, that does not account for the reconciliation process.

Altiery said the roads might be the city's top priority, but business and residential development continues to be a goal of the new council, as

SEE FUTURE, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

WHAT THE BRAIDWOOD PARK District lacks in for programming, they make up for in availability of park lands. While Goodrich Park on Maple Street has a jungle gym, a grill, a pavilion, and a half basketball court, the city's other parks offer playground equipment, walking paths, baseball fields, picnic space, benches, basketball courts, a skate park, and disc golf.

Park districts step up to defeat summer blues

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

School is out for summer! But, combating the cries of "there's nothing to do," local park districts have more than enough activities and amenities for residents to enjoy.

For those seeking just to get out and enjoy the parks, the Braidwood Park District also has well kept grounds and pavilions available, which are also welcome for residents from outside the city to use. The Braidwood Park District operates Old Smokey City Park, which includes baseball

fields, playground equipment, pavilions, a basketball court, grill stands, disc golf, a skate park, and a walking path.

The Lions Kiddie Park hosts playground equipment for toddlers and small children, as well as a pavilion.

Goodrich Park on Maple Street includes playground equipment, a pavilion, a grill, and a half basketball court.

"Being a very small district with only three part-time maintenance employees and a very small operating budget, we obviously don't have any programs that we offer," Braidwood Park District

Commissioner Josh Bolatto said. "But, as far as the outdoors goes, that's pretty much what we have with the three parks. Being able to provide an avenue to get outside, have the kids play on the playgrounds or do some skateboarding, take a walk or bike on the paved paths, play a game of basketball, baseball or round of disc golf, or enjoy a family picnic under the shade trees. That's pretty much what we're about, being outdoors."

The district's iron pedestal grills are available to the public as well. Bolatto said

that while no permission is needed to use them, the district asks that if someone does, they clean up after themselves.

In Wilmington, the park district is larger than Braidwood, with the ability to offer programming on top of outdoor grounds.

Wilmington Park District Executive Director Kirsten Van Duyn said the district isn't looking just at the needs of Wilmington. Plans for the next few months are designed to attract folks from neighboring

SEE PARKS, PAGE 2

SMART Recovery offers help, hope to those in need

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC) has helped bring another program to the area, providing recovery assistance for those who battle with substance use disorder.

Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART) Recovery is a new program being offered by the BAHCC, providing both in-person and online recovery meetings for individuals, as well as their families and friends.

SMART Recovery addresses harmful habits and behaviors including alcohol and drug addiction, as well as negative behaviors related to relationships, sex, spending, gambling, eating and exercise disorders, and self-injury.

Danita Morgan is a recovery coach and facilitator with SMART Recovery. Morgan works closely with the BAHCC on recovery efforts, as a way to pay it back from her own experiences.

After years of struggling with bipolar disorder, heroin addiction, and dealing with the loss of her son, Morgan went into recovery in 2019.

In the fall of that year, she turned herself in to the Braidwood Police Department for a non-violent offense she had committed, and was helped by the department. She later participated in and graduated from the Will County Mental Health Court program, and promptly began giving back to others.

The SMART Recovery program is the latest community program that Morgan and the

SEE SMART, PAGE 2

As summer hits, cooling centers available locally

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The first heat wave has already moved through the area, with several days over the past week seeing temperatures in the upper 80s and 90s.

While that first push has passed—and cooler tempera-

tures are expected to settle in alongside some rainfall over this coming weekend—the

SEE COOL, PAGE 2



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Parks

communities to the city to soak in what's going on.

"I love the idea of other communities coming in to Wilmington," Van Duyne said. "The natural resource that we are gifted to have at our disposal, it is a beautiful place to be. The Park District is here tying to bring the community out. There are so many things that you can do."

Activities for the summer include the following:

- Movies in the Park
- "Even as a small community, we have it available," Van Duyne said. "Bring your chairs, we have snacks, bring your own snacks, kids get to run around and play and the movie is playing," Van Duyne said. "More residents of other towns should come to utilize these kinds of things."
- Sand Volleyball

A new net is set to be installed at Children's Memorial Park, with the district looking to organize leagues by July.

"We're focusing on teens," Van Duyne said. "We have a teen night so it will be 14-17 year old teen league, and then we'll have an adult league night. We're trying to hit that demographic of teens, they are the hardest ones to please and I think sand volleyball is a fantastic place to start."

• Seniors
The district hosts Senior Luncheons once every quarter, with the summer kickoff hotdog lunch taking place this Friday.

Seniors can also participate in seated exercise chair classes.

"It's become a huge class, it started small and it has grown into a larger group, but we can still support more people coming to those classes," Van Duyne said.

• Workout classes
"It's a sense of community, coming in and keeping yourself accountable," she added. "That's open to everyone, you do not have to be a gym member. You can register for classes, for a whole session or you can do drop-ins."

Van Duyne noted that there is only one cost for the



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT WAITS for kids at Old Smokey City Park. In addition to park grounds in Braidwood, local residents are also welcome to enjoy programming at the Wilmington Park District, which says its looking forward to bringing communities together this summer with each of the district's combined resources.

classes, which means there is not a separate out of district fee. Anyone can sign up either online or in-person.

"We'd rather see the numbers maximized than charging an out of district fee at this time," she added.

The district is also hosting line dancing, a kickball tournament, dance camps for younger children, and bus trips this year, including a family night at the Slammers game in Joliet in August.

The district is also focusing a lot of efforts at addressing needs of families with young children.

"One thing I think community wise that might be missing, I know a lot of people say there's a lack of things to do, but the library does toddler time and we do toddler time on Fridays from 9 to 10:30," she said, adding that parents can purchase a punch card for 25 dollars good for 20 visits. "You come in and we have a bounce house, we do different activities, and you can meet with other parents who have kids of similar ages. Kids can interact and play together, and it's air conditioned to get a little break from the heat of summer."

Kids Camps/Summer Camps are also open to everyone, not only Wilmington residents.

"If you don't need care every day, you can sign up for some of the fun excursions. We go to the zoo, we go bowling, we go to movies at the Mar, we do a lot of activities," Van Duyne said. "So, if your kid just needs to get out and play, there is a daily rate option available to sign up. It's summer camp and we're planning on a lot of fun."

The district has also grown the monthly Farmers Market this year.

"I think that is something that can bring communities together, farmers markets," Van Duyne said, noting that then first market is set to take place next Thursday, June 15.

The market will move from the Water Street Fitness parking lot to the new parking lot in downtown Wilmington.

"There will be more vendors, more diversity of products, a different food truck each market and different live music," Van Duyne said. "This year we're focusing also on kids' activities, face painting, planting aloe and plants in pots for kids to take home at the kids station. Very family oriented, there's something for everyone to do, come and have dinner and hang out with your neighbors."

The Downtown Merchants Association will also host activities during the

farmers markets.

While the Wilmington Park District operates the Water Street Fitness Center as well as Children's Memorial Park in Northcrest, the district regularly participates in activities on the city owned North and South Island parks. Folks can even check out supplies from the park district for activities on the islands.

"For the bags boards on the island, you can actually come here and get the bean bags to go down there to play. You don't even have to have your own set of bean bags," Van Duyne said.

Information on the Wilmington Park District and registration information can be found online at www.islandparkdistrict.com.

In addition to park grounds, the Braidwood Park District also teams up with the Lions Club for several events each year, including The Braidwood Lions Summerfest, which takes place July 13-16 at Old Smokey City Park. The district is also home to the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the annual Halloween Hotdog Giveaway, as well as a visit with Santa each December.

Information on Braidwood Park District activities and amenities can be found online at www.braidwoodparkdistrict.com.

SMART

BAHCC have been able to bring specifically to the city of Braidwood for those who need help with addiction and other behavioral issues, as well as their families.

The program provides practical tools to deal with addiction or harmful habits based on cognitive and motivational psychology and addiction research. SMART Recovery is designed to help individuals make and sustain positive changes that can lead to a balanced life.

SMART Recovery is a non-profit organization that operates under specific principles:

- Help individuals gain independence from addictive behavior.
- Teach how to enhance and maintain motivation; cope with urges; manage thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; and live a balanced life.
- Base efforts on scientific knowledge and evolve as scientific knowledge evolves.
- Provide opportunities for Individuals who have gained independence from addictive behavior to stay involved to enhance their gains and help others.

Support meetings reach participants learn how to develop and implement their own recovery plan to create a more balanced, purposeful, fulfilling, and meaningful life through use of a four point program: 1. Build and maintain motivation; 2. Cope with urges; 3. Manage thoughts, feelings, and behaviors; and 4, Live a balanced life.

Developed in 1994, the science-based program emphasizes self-reliance, self-resilience, and self-empowerment, allowing participants to take an active role in their recovery with no requirement for commitment to any specific program.

SMART Recovery programs are designed for individuals and family and friends, as well as treatment professionals, courts, corrections officers, young adults, veterans, first responders, and volunteers.

SMART Recovery serves 1 million people per year in more than 20 countries.

SMART Recovery meetings for individuals take place on Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Braidwood Park District Old Smokey Community Building, 245 W. First St. in Braidwood.

Meetings for Family and Friends take place on Wednesdays also from 7-8:30 p.m.

For more information contact Morgan at 815-483-4001 or danitamorgan.recovery@gmail.com

Additional meetings and schedules can be found online at www.smartrecovery.org.

The service is sponsored by the BAHCC, which operates on grant funding, donations and volunteer work, and is in the last of its five year federal Drug Free Communities grant to achieve the coalition's objectives of recruitment, retention, increasing youth involvement, sustainability plans, and increasing local resources for substance abuse prevention.

In addition to providing community resources, the BAHCC also hosts a community garden outside its center on Reed Street, sponsors students who attend the Cebrian Goodman Teen Institute, and holds workshops on mental health with community partners including 515 Fitness from Coal City.

The coalition also works with the Will County Rapid Response Team to distribute Narcan to local community, supports the Text-A-Tip line in partnership with the Wilmington Coalition, and hosts the bi-annual drug takeback event, among other community activities.

Future

well as rounding out the staff at City Hall.

"We have put out applications for City Clerk, we're going to start interviews this Thursday... and hopefully by Monday have the last of the interviews," he said. "So maybe by the next council meeting we will have a clerk in mind. Business wise, we're still working with the [D'Orazio and Bauer] development, there are going to be eight additional lots [along EZ Street] open, so we're reaching out to businesses. A little bit of everything. Restaurants, grocery stores, anything. More amenities for the city."

When it comes to critics, Altiery said he and elected officials have received more support than complaints, despite objections given at the last City Council meeting or posted to social media.

"We have a big following backing us

up on what we're doing, saying we're doing a good job," Altiery said. "There are just a few people who have a bigger voice, but I'm not sure why. Nobody is able to give us a reason why they're not happy with stuff, they're just not happy... After that last meeting I had well over 50 people texting me, calling me, sending e-mails saying that this council is doing great, keep moving forward."

Mayor Karen Hart added that while the city is excited to see engagement from the public, they'd also like to see more than just complaints.

"I also think that when the complaints come in, I would like to see them also come in with some solution," Hart said. "A lot of times, complaints that come, the city can do something about them like tall grass growing or something like that. But, a lot of times it's just a complaint about basically personalities on the board. I think on those, I'd like to see them come up with a solution on their own. What would you like to see? What

would you like to see done? I don't know if that's going to happen, but that would be nice to see."

City leaders have also expressed interest in hosting a town meeting to address comments, concerns and complaints, but so far a date has not been determined to host such a meeting. Altiery also encouraged the public to come to City Hall or e-mail questions or concerns directly to him.

"Please, e-mail us a question," he said. "Here's a question that was asked and here's an answer so it's in writing, we're held accountable. Once I put it in writing, everybody can see it and say, he said this and he didn't do it, the we ca be held accountable. But if we put it in writing, give them an answer and it's legitimate and we're doing it, I think that's pretty transparent."

The next meeting of the mayor and commissioners takes place on Tuesday, June 13 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Braidwood Lions to host broom sale fundraiser

The Braidwood Lions Club will be holding a broom sale fundraiser on Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., during the Annual Braidwood All Town Garage Sale Days.

Brooms can be purchased just inside the front entrance of the First Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Main St. & Lincoln St. in Braidwood. House, Heavy Duty and Whisk Brooms will be for sale.

Proceeds from the broom sales will benefit the club's sight and sound humanitarian services for the visually and hearing impaired. For more details, please visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

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WITH YOUR STORY IDEAS

Cool

heat will be back soon enough.

The Will County EMA has a list of local cooling centers for those who may need to get out of the heat.

Included on that list is Braidwood City Hall, which is open during operating hours, but can be utilized after hours upon request.

"The city is very much into whatever it can do to help people, at anytime at all" Braidwood City Administrator Tony Altiery said. "They can come to City Hall, or they can call us and see if there is any other way we can help. Some

people, we've said hey, we have an extra room that we can put somebody up in for a night or two."

Altiery said the council chambers have been utilized for extreme weather issues in both the heat and the cold.

"In winter last year, we actually had someone stay [at City Hall] for two night," he said. "We can lock [the office] and have the council room open, and since the police are around 24/7 they'll stop in and check on them a few times a night and make sure everything is there. Everything is locked and alarmed, so we can give someone a place [in an emergency], they set up a cot and slept in the council room."

"I think people should consider City Hall a hub for those questions, if you just call City Hall and make us aware of it, we'd be more than happy to get somebody out," added Mayor Karen Hart. "Tony has gone out at all kinds of odd hours, [Police Chief] Todd [Lyons] has, and I'm sure the rest of the board would also do it."

Wilmington City Hall is listed through the Will County EMA as a cooling center by request only.

Residents can also seek refuge from the heat at local libraries during regular business hours, including Fossil Ridge and Wilmington. Both libraries have areas where residents can sit to relax, not to mention plenty of reading material on hand to pass the time.

"We are happy to be a cooling center during business hours," said Maria Meachum, the Executive Director of the Wilmington Public Library District. "We always promote that as a place to come hang out during heat waves but we cannot be one after hours. [We] do not have the manpower or the space to be one overnight."

Residents should check with municipal buildings and libraries for availability as a cooling center by calling first.

The risks of extreme heat can include discomfort and fatigue, along with more serious illnesses such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Extreme heat can be particularly hazardous for

children, seniors, those with special needs, and pets.

Simple steps can be taken to prevent these health risks, including limiting direct sunlight, avoiding overexertion, wearing lightweight clothing, and consuming plenty of fluids.

According to the National Weather Service, temperatures are expected to return the upper-80s to mid-90s by midweek next week.

For a full list of cooling centers, visit www.willcountyema.org/warmingcooling.

PERSONAL INJURY

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

Attorneys at Law

Michael D. Block • Elizabeth A. Klukas • Thomas J. Manzella
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Main Baptist Church to host vacation bible school

Main Street Baptist Church in Braidwood will be hosting vacation bible school, “Keepers of the Kingdom” on Saturday, June 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ages Pre-K thru 6th grade are welcome. Crafts, games, bouncy house and lunch will be included. For questions call 815-458-6211.

First Presbyterian Church still looking for vendors

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood still has vendor spots available for June 9 and 10. It is the annual all town garage sale days and the Church lawn is the perfect location to sell your items.

The cost is \$10 a day. Please call Lori at 815-458-2495 If you have any questions or are interested in signing up.

Reed-Custer H.S. to destroy class of 2018 temporary records

PUBLIC NOTICE

Temporary school records for the Reed-Custer High School class of 2018 will be destroyed on Friday, June 16. If you would like to review or take your temporary school records, please contact Assistant Principal Michael Smith at the RCHS main office at (815) 458-2166 prior to June 16.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Kathy C. Davis petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name of KATHY C. DAVIS to the new name of KING INFINITY DAVIS, Case No. 23MR6

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Kathy C. Davis adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 705 at 9:00 a.m. on the 17th day of July, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of KATHY C. DAVIS be changed to KING INFINITY DAVIS.

/s/ Kathy C. Davis
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, May 31, June 7 and 14, 2023.

Tax Deed filed for 585 West Main St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX000108
FILED: 04-06-2023
TAKE NOTICE

TO: DAVID CLELLAND, SUSAN CLELLAND, MICHAEL REGAN, IRENE KYLES, BMO HARRIS BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, WILL COUNTY CLERK; OCCUPANTS, PARTIES IN OCCUPANCY OR ACTUAL POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; AND UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID LAND OR LOTS AND UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the petition for Tax Deed on the following described property: Property located at: 585 WEST MAIN STREET, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS
Property Index Number: 02-24-07-407-033-0000

On October 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM, in the Circuit Court of Will County, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Courtroom 905, Joliet, Illinois, the Petitioner intends to make an application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on December 9, 2020, for delinquent real estate taxes and/or special assessments for the year 2019. Certificate No. 19-03803. The period of redemption will expire on October 4, 2023.

VOYAGEUR HOLDINGS LLC PETITIONER
10546-932806

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, May 24, 31 and June 7, 2023.

Reed Township taking bids for West Bergera Road property

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REED TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF SALE OF TOWNSHIP REAL PROPERTY**

In accordance with 60 ILCS 1/30-50(d) of the Illinois Township Code, notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern:

On August 16, 2022, the electors of Reed Township, at a special town meeting, adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of Township-owned real property commonly known as Vacant Lot 14 on W Bergera Road, Braidwood Illinois 60408 (PIN 02-24-07-200-029-0000).

The property is currently zoned for Residential use and is vacant. The approximate size of the property is 132 X 297.33 or approximately 39,394 Sq Ft. Interested parties must submit sealed bids in the office of the Township Clerk, 440 North Division Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408 on or before 5:00 p.m. Monday June 26, 2023. Bids will be read at the June 28, 2023 meeting of the Township Board. The Township Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The sale shall be a cash sale. The property is being sold as is. Closing costs, Title Insurance and Survey to be paid by the buyer.

The following is the resolution adopted by the electors on August 16, 2022:

Legal Description of the Property
LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL COS SUB, IN THE EI/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08162022
A RESOLUTION OF THE REED TOWNSHIP ELECTORS AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN TOWNSHIP REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL CO'S SUB, IN THE EI/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E**

WHEREAS, Reed Township is a unit of local government operating under the laws of the State of Illinois ("Township"); and

WHEREAS, Section 30-50(a) of the Illinois Township code, 60 LCS 1/30-50(a), authorizes the electors of the Township to make all orders of the sale of the Township's corporate property, including real property, that may be deemed conducive to the interests of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Section 30-20 of the Illinois Township code, 60 ILCS 1/30-20, delineates that such power of the electors so designated in Article 30 of the Illinois Township Code is applicable at Special Township Meetings of Electors and

WHEREAS, Section 1/30-50(d) of the Illinois Township code, 60 LCS 1/30-50(d), requires the electors of the Township to adopt a resolution stating the intent to sell real property; and

WHEREAS, the Township is interested in selling a portion of the Township property known as Vacant Lot 14 on W Bergera Road, Braidwood Illinois 60408 (PIN 0224-07-200-029-0000), as more fully legally described in the Exhibit A ("Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Township, by its electors, finds that it is in the best interests of Reed Township to sell and convey the Property to and interested party for the property's appraised value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the electors of Reed Township, Will County, Illinois, at the Special Township Meeting held on August 16, 2022, as follows:

Section 1. The Reed Township Property legally described on Exhibit A is hereby authorized to be sold and conveyed by the Township Board to any for the sum determined to be appropriate by the Township Board in accordance with law consistent with the fair market value of the Property and authorize the sale of the Property by the Township Board for such amount.

Section 2. Upon formal adoption and execution of this Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Township Real Property, the Electors of the Township hereby authorize and direct the sale of said real property by the Township Board pursuant to any and all requirements set forth in the Illinois Township Code.

Section 3. The Reed Township Supervisor, Clerk, Board and Attorney are hereby directed and empowered to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the sales of the Property pursuant to the terms described above.

Section 4. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid, the validity thereof shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Resolution.

Section 5. All resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from after its passage and approval as provided by law.

ADOPTED by a vote of 7 to % by the electors of Reed Township on August 16, 2022.

APPROVED this 16th day of August, 2022.

REED TOWNSHIP
Sherrill Knor
Township Supervisor

ATTEST: Angela Hutton
Township Clerk

Exhibit A
Legal Description of the Property
LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL CO'S SUB, IN THE EI/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E.
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, May 31, June 7, 14 and 21, 2023.

Consumer Confidence Report

BRAIDWOOD
IL1970150
Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022
This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.
The source of drinking water used by BRAIDWOOD is Ground Water
For more information regarding this report contact:
Name Gary Phebus
Phone 815-458-2333
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Source Water Information			
Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
WELL 1 (20359)	GW	Active	REAR OF VILLAGE HALL
WELL 2 (20360)	GW	Active	NORTH OF MAIN BTWN CENTER A LON
WELL 3 (20361)	GW	Active	703 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
WELL 4 (00766)	GW	Active	APPROX. 1000 FT NORTH OF WELL 3
WELL 5 (00767)	GW	Active	SE CORNER OF SCHOOL A 3RD STRT.

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at **815-458-2333**. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Source of Water: BRAIDWOOD Based on information obtained in a Well Site Survey published in 1987 by the Illinois EPA, three potential sources or possible problem sites were identified within the survey area of Braidwood's wells. Furthermore, information provided by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank and Remedial Project Management Sections of the Illinois EPA indicated several additional sites with ongoing recommendations which may be of concern. Based on information received by the water operator, the following site status had changed, the City of Braidwood, below ground fuel storage has been removed. The Illinois EPA has determined that the Braidwood wells source water is not susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including; monitoring conducted at the wells; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and the available hydrogeological data on the well.

2022 Regulated Contaminants Detected								
Lead and Copper								
Definitions: Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety. Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08/10/2020	1.3	1.3	0.11	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	08/10/2020	0	15	2.1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results	
Definitions:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
Avq:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Level 1 Assessment:	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment:	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Water Quality Test Results	
na:	not applicable.
mrem:	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
Treatment Technique or TT:	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	12/31/2022	0.8	0.6 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	2022	1	0.886 - 0.886	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2022	5	5.33 - 5.33	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	03/16/2021	2.45	2.45 - 2.45	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Chromium	03/16/2021	5.37	5.37 - 5.37	100	100	ppb	N	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	03/16/2021	0.98	0.98 - 0.98	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2022	1	0.64 - 0.64	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	03/16/2021	9.15	9.15 - 9.15	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Sodium	03/16/2021	364	364 - 364			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	2022	2	2.4 - 2.4	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2022	6	6.4 - 6.4	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Violations Table								
Consumer Confidence Rule								
The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of water delivered by the systems.								
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation					
CCR ADEQUACY/AVAILABILITY/CONTENT	07/01/2022	2022	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of our drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water. Corrective Action: The Radium results were cut off in the newspaper last year. Sizing of content was missed by editor and Operator.					
Diquat								
Some people who drink water containing diquat in excess of the MCL over many years could get cataracts.								
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation					
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2020	12/31/2022	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. Corrective Action: This sample of SOC analytic was missed by the lab. Resulting in a violation. The					
Endothall								
Some people who drink water containing endothall in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their stomach or intestines.								
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation					
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2020	12/31/2022	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. Corrective Action: This sample of SOC analytic was missed by the lab. Resulting in a violation. The corrected action we had to do, was too take double samples this year.					

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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Better route needed

BRAIDWOOD—Why do we need to be having a 5K through town closing down some streets making it an inconvenience to the residents. I am not against having the Memorial Day 5K, I am against the location it's being held at and the affects it has on residents. Why not have it at the city park, around the cooling lake, or see if the rec club would allow it.

Such Giant hate

WILMINGTON—I have been following along on social media about the Gemini Giant, and while I too wish that there was no drama and that the Giant was not blocked, I am utterly appalled by the comments of the people online. Mocking and attacking the property owner, laughing at her, calling her names, suggesting she be committed, suggesting the city seize her property? Who are these people? I am so ashamed to share a community with so many people who seem absolutely gleeful when it comes to saying hurtful things about a member of the community. If I owned the Giant, I might block it too if the alternative is to share it with such a hateful lot.

Violent bullies

WILMINGTON—It used to be that if you didn't agree with a company's policies you would boycott them. Now the neo-fascist have escalated to bomb threats and threats of violence against employees. This is a classic case of tyranny of the minority. These same people know they can't win an election based on their positions on issues so again they resort to armed tantrums to intimidate the majority. I find it repulsive that they use words like freedom and democracy when they don't care about either except their freedom to be violent bullies. Enjoy your freedom to go to Disney World, shop at Target and buy some Bud Light.

Credit is due?

COAL CITY—Not much credit is due when gasoline is still over \$4 a gallon in many places. It was \$2 a gallon not long ago. There is not enough electric power available for everyone to have an electric car, each with a thousand pounds of battery to lug around and that will only go a few hundred miles. A tank of gasoline takes a couple of minutes while a full charge will take a lot longer. Electric for everyone is impossible now and probably will not ever be possible. I will soon be gone but I think that we will still be pumping gasoline long after the electric car idea fails. I think that the hydrogen fuel cell idea or a nuke car making steam will be the final answer. The Stanley Steamer went over 100 mph a long time ago. We have always

Cross safely...

How one man made sure his retirement years were spent helping kids move through life

BY THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE

Ron had a good life as a sales rep and as a father. When retirement came around and the kids were grown, Ron looked around his community and saw a lot of aimless young boys just wandering the streets after school. So he checked in at the local community center and volunteered to coach a youth team. And another, and another.

As the sports changed with the seasons, Ron picked up new crops of boys, added a few of their parents to help out and taught the same principles: hard work, fair play, discipline and accountability. In his mid-70s, Ron strode up and down the sidelines, the hardwood, the dugout, shouting instructions to his boys and moving them into the best position to be successful.

Mistakes were shrugged off with lighthearted comments: "I think your batting

helmet was on backwards for that swing." And the classic: "Did I tell you to drop the ball?" There would be a bit of laughter, and Ron would always retort with a half-smile: "Don't drop the ball unless I tell you to."

The boys learned not to take mistakes too seriously, but to recognize them and work on changing habits. They learned that everybody gets a turn and deserves to be supported. When one quiet boy recovered a fumble for the first time, he was so overcome by his teammates lifting him onto their shoulders that he burst into tears.

Another boy, whose parents had just split up, decided he'd sit on the bench for the game. Every time a player was subbed out, the player sat next to the boy and put an arm around him. It was the kind of family he needed at the moment.

Every new season began the same way, with Ron giving each boy a nickname:

Thunder, Superman, Rocket. It was a way of joining the family, of starting fresh, of being part of a group that would stand beside you. For 10 years Ron raised hundreds of boys on the philosophy that they will do great things if you just give them a little encouragement and a lot of practice time.

Ron retired when he had a mini-stroke. He didn't tell anybody; he just lay low for a year. Then one of his former players spotted him working as a crossing guard. It was something that got him out of bed in the morning, still wanting to keep kids safe. Word spread, and most mornings, former players drove by and honked their horns or bent their jogging routes to go past him and say hello. It wasn't orchestrated — just one of those things that happens when bonds are strong and memories swell up gratitude in your chest.

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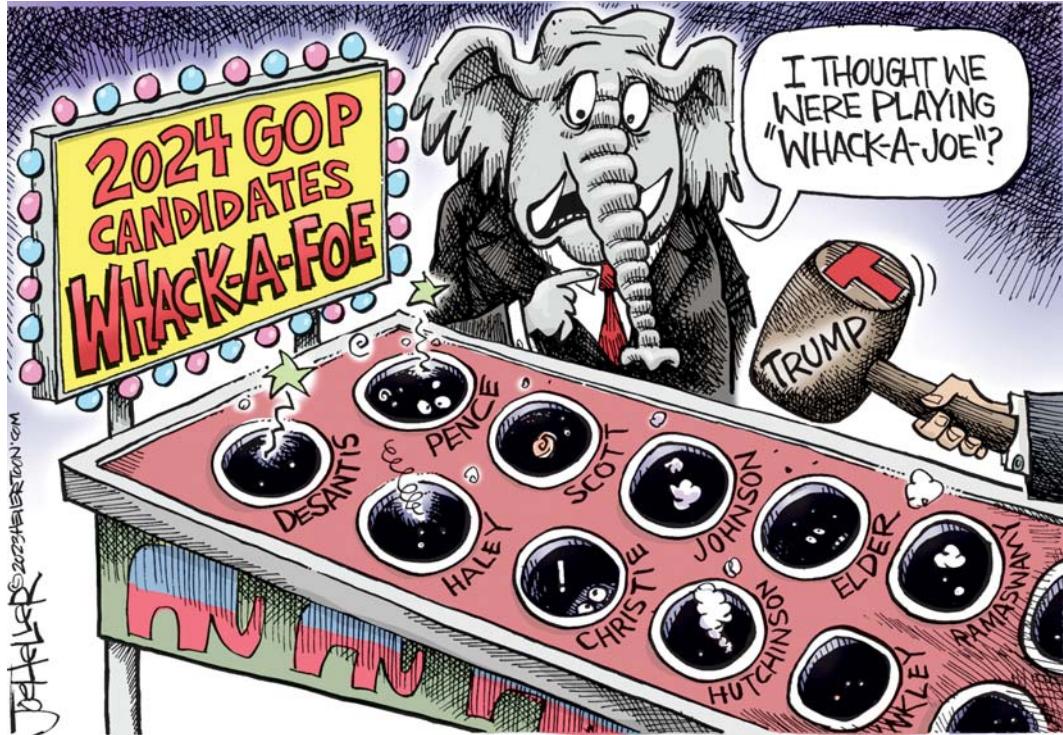
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these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.



they have these rules posted that you can't do this, you can't do that etc. People come to the grave where my loved ones are at and they try to be nice and put down a flag or a little pin wheel and that is removed immediately. Yet there are some graves that they have flowers planted in the ground or they even have trees and bushes. That is clearly stated on the grounds of the cemetery and also in the church bulletin at St. Rose that you cannot plant things in the ground. They have to be in containers but yet when I called to complain they say, "well we don't have enough help to inspect the entire cemetery." Once again it's certain names of people in town that this is allowed to happen to. So certain people can break the rules then those signs saying there are rules should be removed. Before the school closed when there was five Sundays in the month the parishioners at St. Rose were given an envelope to contribute to the cost of upkeeping Kuzma now that the school is closed they receive a envelope every month, so I wonder where that money is going. Is it going to upgrade and maintain the cemetery or being used for other reasons.

Blackouts coming

COAL CITY—Our president has ordered that any electric plant that produces electric energy from fossil fuels must cut back on their operations which will not produce enough electrical energy for two thirds of the country. Instead they want more green energy. This will cause blackouts everywhere but it will not have an affect on Washington, D.C. or other government buildings because those buildings have back-up generators that operate on fossil fuels just like the communication industry buildings. We have people in Washington, D.C. that only care about their comfort and their wallets and they are all Democrats. They even lie on the news to Americans. They are not just liars they violate their oath to protect American citizens and are willing to destroy our country for money and that is treason.

Do something

BRAIDWOOD—Remember the greatest generation? They fought major wars around the world and forged democracies making our nation an international leader. But their children, which includes my parents, have fallen short. How so? By abusing God's bounty on earth and doing almost nothing to replenish and restore it, that's how. Scientists have warned us for decades about the perils of climate change only to fall on the deaf ears of my parents' generation. Due to their apathy, neglect, greed and downright arrogance, we merely await for the oceans to cook us in the soup like frogs. Do something now. Choose political leaders who not only talk the talk but walk the walk by not favoring the wealthy and not favoring corporate interests. We know who they are. Brittany S.

Lies and fears

GARDNER—To the ever fearful reader all bent out of shape, ranting and raving about the so-called homeless vet/immigrant/hotel story, sorry buddy, but it was all a lie as usual. It was a

hoax, lie, made up, or "fake news" as you people like to call things. That's what happens when you only watch Fox lies. After going crazy with the story they finally said "whoops, sorry, we think it was a made up story, but we'll get back to you on that." Doubt if they ever did. The station and Republican party of lies, fear, grievance, and projection use it to make you even more scared of your own shadow. Please watch some real news once in a while or a newspaper. Also remember that the only true Americans are the Native Americans and look what we did and are still doing to them. Christian values?

More volunteers

WILMINGTON—Shadow Lakes is a great place to live. There is a pool and beach as well as plenty of activities. We need more younger volunteers since the same seniors always volunteer even though they may have health issues. There are many new young people here and they never volunteer. They may work all week but surely they can spare one or two hours on the weekend. Think about it; don't be lazy.

The trouble with free will

WILMINGTON—When I hear the birds chirping, I envy their carefree beauty. Humans, on the other hand, have been given free will by God to do as they please and what a mess they've made. Bloodthirsty Putin, the darling of the Republican Party, has chopped up Ukraine, the breadbasket of the world, preventing food from going to the tables of people throughout the globe, thus raising prices, magnifying hunger and causing starvation. What are the policies that have put us in this position? Putin's pal, Trump, of course, who has encouraged Putin at every turn and who cut 100 environmental regulations while president thus pushing us ever closer to climate catastrophe. Irene

Rate of pay

BRAIDWOOD—The citizens should vote what the pay amount for the mayor and commissioners should be for this small town. This is a bedroom community. It could not support the restaurant downtown. A bedroom community means sleep, drive through to go to work and return from work. These type might be so concerned with wealth that they would not realize that elected officials' pay should be less, not more, \$50,000, not the \$75,000 someone wrote in his/her sound-off. This is not Morris, so the city administrator does not or should not need \$115,000. Also, those city council people have businesses that are their mainstay. This is why they are public servants.

FYI

DIAMOND—Walmart to offer Pride merchandise despite controversies.

By choice

WILMINGTON—Teachers, librarians, retail employees...don't have time to indoctrinate children. If anyone truly believes that nonsense I will pray for your recovery. Being gay is natural, hate is a choice.

Illinois residents will soon pay more for gas and groceries

BY ANDREW HENSEL
THE CENTER SQUARE

After an election cycle freeze on the state's taxes for groceries and gasoline, the two taxes, among others, are set to increase beginning July 1.

Next month, the state's gas tax will increase by 6.2 cents to a total tax of 45.4 cents, the second increase since Jan. 1. The state's tax on groceries will also go back into effect after Gov. J.B. Pritzker put a hold on the tax during last year's election cycle.

Bryce Hill of the Illinois Policy Institute said the gas tax has continued to increase since Pritzker has been in office.

"Previously, it used to be 19 cents in 2018," Hill told The Center Square. "Beginning in July of 2019, he doubled that to 38 cents, and then he also indexed the gas tax to inflation, meaning that it automatically increases every year."

Certain local municipalities can also set their tax on gas, which means some areas of the state will be paying even more on top of the already increased state tax.

"At the local level, on top of the gas tax, you have the ability for localities to tax gasoline, which many do," Hill said.

According to AAA, Illinoisans pay an average of \$3.90 for a gallon of gasoline. In Cook County, it's \$4.27. The average price of a gallon of gasoline is much cheaper in all of Illinois' neighboring states. In Missouri, it's \$3.20. In Kentucky, it's \$3.34. In Iowa, it's \$3.38. In Wisconsin, it's \$3.48. In Ohio, it's \$3.42.

The state's recently approved fiscal year 2024 budget includes other fee increases. Certificate of title, except for an all-terrain vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, or motor home, mini motor home or van camper will be

\$165, up from \$155. The price of getting driving records will increase to \$20 from \$12.

Another increase in the budget includes the fee the Secretary of State can charge "local governments, elected state officials, state education institutions, and all other governmental units of the State and Federal Government" for access to driving statistics. That fee is doubled from \$250 to \$500.

Higher fees hurt Illinois residents who are already facing some of the highest property taxes in the nation, according to Hill.

"Now what's going to happen is you are going to feel the full effect of property taxes without any sort of offset with your income taxes, and nothing has been done at the state level to address the cost drivers of property taxes," Hill said.

Illinois' FY2024 budget cycle begins on July 1.

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There will be a car show registration fee of \$10. There will also be 10 awards, awards start at 3 p.m.

Food, raffles and 50/50 will take place and all proceeds donated to Kuzma Care Cottage.

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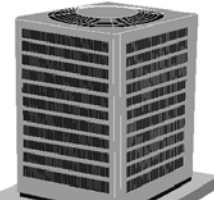

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News worth squealing about...

Bacon Day will be celebrated every May

BY ZETA CROSS
THE CENTER SQUARE

Every May 3 in Illinois from now on will be officially deemed "Illinois Bacon Day" in recognition of Illinois pork producers.

The idea came from state Sen. Tom Bennett, R-Gibson City, who wants to highlight the contribution that Illinois pork producers make to the state's economy. Illinois pork farmers provide over 6 billion slices of Illinois-raised bacon every year, Bennett said in a statement.

"The pork industry is committed to providing consumers with the highest quality protein available," Bennett said at the Illinois Bacon Day announcement. "The pork industry supports over 57,000 jobs."

Bennett hosted a BLT party at the capitol to celebrate the passage of Senate

Joint Resolution 22, which made Illinois Bacon Day official. Illinois legislators were treated to bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches.

Joe Stafa, manager of Sebastian's Ale and Whiskey in Brookfield, which is famous for its bacon-themed menu, said he's glad that Illinois has made Bacon Day official.

"There's something about bacon that people can't get enough of," Stafa told The Center Square.

Sebastian's is known for its menu full of creative bacon-inspired dishes, everything from appetizers to desserts. The bar menu offers a selection of bacon-flavored cocktails.

"Especially on the weekends, we sell a lot of them," he said.

The more popular cocktails include a chocolate/bacon martini with a slice of bacon, a Piggy Margarita with pineapple and jalapeño and a Smoked Piggy Old

Fashioned.

"We actually smoke the old fashioned in the smoker. We have a cocktail smoker and we put it in there for 45 seconds to a minute," Stafa said.

One killer dessert is Sebastian's chocolate Twinkie.

"There's bacon stuffed inside a Twinkie, and then it's battered and deep-fried. We serve it with a pecan whiskey sauce and more bacon," he said.

The average American eats 18 pounds of bacon a year, according to Pork Business.

Pork producers contribute an estimated \$13.8 billion to the state's economy. The past year has been challenging for Illinois pork producers. Prices have been low.

Creating Illinois Bacon Day shows the Illinois farmers that the state appreciates their contribution to the state economy, Bennett said in his statement.

Grundy Bank spotlights six smart money moves for recent college graduates

More than 70 percent of college graduates began their career owing more than \$37,000 in student loans in 2017. Considering the additional living expenses, they'll soon face, new college graduates would be wise to focus on their financial future now.

Grundy Bank has highlighted six smart financial decisions college graduates should consider to position themselves for financial success as they embark on their next phase of life.

"The habits new graduates develop right now will have a big affect on their financial future," said Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales Director.

"Living expenses add up quickly once you're out on your own, and many young adults who didn't plan ahead are delaying major milestones like getting married or buying a home because of their financial situation. The good news is that you can have a bright financial future if you think

strategically about money right out of the gate."

Grundy Bank recommends the following financial tips for new college graduates:

- Live within your means. Supporting yourself can be expensive, and you can quickly find yourself struggling financially if you don't take time to create a budget. Calculate the amount of money you're taking home after taxes, then figure out how much money you can afford to spend each month while contributing to your savings. Be sure to factor in recurring expenses such as student loans, monthly rent, utilities, groceries, transportation expenses and car loans.
- Pay bills on time. Missed payments can hurt your credit history for up to seven years and can affect your ability to get loans, the interest rates you pay and your ability to get a job or rent an apartment. Consider setting up automatic payments for regular expenses like student loans, car pay-

ments and phone bills. Take advantage of any reminders or notification features. You can also contact creditors and lenders to request a different monthly due date from the one provided by default (e.g., switching from the 1st of the month to the 15th).

- Avoid racking up too much debt. Understand the responsibilities and benefits of credit. Shop around for a card that best suits your needs, and spend only what you can afford to pay back. Credit is a great tool, but only if you use it responsibly.
- Plan for retirement. It may seem odd since you're just beginning your career, but now is the best time to start planning for your retirement. Contribute to retirement accounts like a Roth IRA or your employer's 401(k), especially if there is a company match. Invest enough to qualify for your company's full match - it's free money that adds up to a significant chunk of change over the years.

Automatic retirement contributions quickly become part of your financial lifestyle without having to think about it.

- Prepare for emergencies. Hardships can happen in a split second. Start an emergency fund and do your best to set aside the equivalent of three to six months' worth of living expenses. Start saving immediately, no matter how small the amount. Make saving a part of your lifestyle with automatic payroll deductions or automatic transfers from checking to savings. Put your tax refund toward saving instead of an impulse buy.
- Get free help from your bank. Many banks offer personalized financial checkups to help you identify and meet your financial goals. You can also take advantage of their free digital banking tools that let you check balances, pay bills, deposit checks, monitor transaction history and track your budget.

Electronics recycling dropoff event Thursday in Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, June 8, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

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.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette

recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

Garden Club to learn about vertical gardening

The Wilmington Garden Club will learn from Juleigh Miller, a local gardener, who will be sharing how she grows more in less space utilizing different vertical gardening techniques. The meeting will be Wednesday, June 21 at 1 p.m.

The garden club meets monthly at the Wilmington Park District, 315 N. Water St. Meetings are open to the public so come along and bring a friend.

Concert lineup for Illinois State Fair

Mark your calendars for the 2023 Illinois State Fair, running Aug. 10-20 in Springfield, with tickets on sale now for several different headlines who will be holding concerts.

The concert lineup so far includes:

Friday, Aug. 11: Old Dominion and Special Guest to be Announced. Tier 3 - \$34 / Tier 2 - \$47 / Tier 1 - \$68 / SRO Track - \$68 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$123

Sunday, Aug. 13: Alanis Morissette with TBA. Tier 3 - \$85 / Tier 2 - \$90 / Tier 1 - \$95 / SRO Track - \$95 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$150

Tuesday, Aug. 15: REO Speedwagon with TBA. Tier 3 - \$33 / Tier 2 - \$38 / Tier 1 - \$45 / SRO Track - \$45 / Blue Ribbon zone \$100

Wednesday, Aug. 16: Alter Bridge with Mammoth WVH. Tier 3 - \$25 / Tier 2 - \$30 / Tier 1 - \$35 / SRO Track - \$35 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$90

Thursday, Aug. 17: Tim McGraw with Landon Parker. Tier 3 - \$85 / Tier 2 - \$90 / Tier 1 - \$95 / SRO Track - \$95 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$150

Saturday, Aug. 19: Maren Morris with TBA. Tier 3 - \$50 / Tier 2 - \$58 / Tier 1 - \$68 / SRO Track - \$68 / Blue Ribbon Zone - \$123

Music items needed for Mega Music rummage sale

WCSF-FM 88.7 FM, the radio station of the University of St. Francis (USF) in Joliet, is currently seeking donations of used and collectible music and memorabilia. If you cannot bear to throw out your pre-loved media, donate it to WCSF!

Donations can include, but are not limited to: vinyl 33s, 45s and 78s; 8-tracks, reel-to-reel and cassettes; VHS tapes, and DVDs; sheet music, music books and comic books; professional and home audio equipment, and; instruments.

USF students will

organize and catalog your treasures for WCSF's annual Mega Music Rummage Sale this fall. All donations are tax deductible and all proceeds from the Mega Music rummage sale will be used to support the educational mission of WCSF.

WCSF-FM 88.7 FM broadcasts a variety of formats including pop, jazz, folk, oldies, classical, religious, world, sports, talk and the popular Spirit of Christmas programming.

For more information or to arrange a donation drop-off or pick-up, please contact Cari Potter at 815-740-3697.

Iowa State dean's list

More than 9,800 Iowa State University students have been named to the spring semester dean's list for earning a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale.

Local students named to the list are Samantha Hanley, of Braceville; Ethan Pickard, of Braidwood; Lane Hopper, of Coal City; Emma Hennessy, of Gardner; Ashlee Kelly, of Wilmington and Justin Dabulskis, of Morris.

Paint Bill sent to governor to sign

Senate Bill 683, sponsored by Senator Linda Holmes and Joliet House Rep. Natalie Manley, passed the Senate and House unanimously and is now on its way to the Governor.

When signed, it will set in motion the planning of a retail paint collection program serving all of Illinois. The paint manufacturers fund a non-profit group to find interested retailers willing to accept latex

and oil-based paint from residents and contractors.

The non-profit then bids a contract for the collection service, and the recycling of the paint and containers. Oil-based paint may be used to displace fossil fuel but most latex will be turned into paint again and sold at stores such as the Joliet Restore. Same quality standard but half the price.

Stop feeding the geese

Feeding bread to ducks and geese is a childhood rite of passage, but it's one we should leave to generations past.

What may seem like a fun and harmless pastime is actually bad for waterfowl, because the bread and crackers we love to feed them is essentially junk food — high in carbohydrates, low in protein and lacking the nutrients they would get in their natural diet, according to the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

And just like humans who eat too much junk food, ducks and geese can suffer dire consequences when they eat too much bread and not enough of the natural grains, aquatic plants, insects and other small invertebrates they would feast on if we didn't so love feeding them bread.

A condition among waterfowl called angel wing may be caused by an improper diet. In ducks and geese with angel wing, their wings become deformed because the carpal joint grows incorrectly, leading the wing to stick out from the birds' side rather than lay flush, according to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.

Birds with angel wing can't fly, and their flight feathers also grow improperly.

In adult birds, angel wing is irreversible and can be fatal because the birds can't easily fly to their food sources. They also are often rejected from their flocks, according to the nature museum.

When the condition develops in young birds, it can sometimes be cured with drastic changes in their diets.

In addition to angel wing, birds that don't eat enough calcium — which can happen when they eat too much bread — can develop metabolic bone disease, causing soft bones and joints that can



Courtesy photo

WHILE FEEDING Canada geese in the island parks in Wilmington may feel like you're helping Mother Nature, in reality feeding waterfowl high carb foods like bread and crackers is doing them more harm than good.

break and become deformed, according to the Wildlife Center of Virginia.

Birds with metabolic bone disease often cannot fly, leaving them dependent on bread and food offered by people. And because they are too weak to compete with other birds for food, they often get attacked by other ducks and geese.

Beyond these health conditions, feeding waterfowl bread poses other problems as well. To start, because bread expands when it is wet, it makes the birds feel full, causing them to stop foraging for foods they would normally eat, which provide better nutrition.

When humans regularly supplement the birds' natural food supply, it can also cause the ponds and other habitats where the flocks live to become overcrowded, the Wildlife Center reports.

This overcrowding can cause competition for food sources, leaving weaker birds vulnerable. These high populations can also lead to aggression among males competing for females during breeding season, which in turn can cause abnormal nesting patterns.

Furthermore, overpopulation can increase the likelihood of disease outbreaks, such as botulism, duck plague, and aspergillosis, a fungal infection.

The truth is, ducks and geese don't need our help to eat well. In fact, they'd be eating more nutritiously if we didn't intervene. Allowing them to eat their natural diet is better both for them and the environment, the Wildlife Center advises.

So what should you do if you can't resist the urge to feed the ducks and geese? To start, skip the bread, crackers

and chips. Instead, focus on foods that are close to their regular diet.

Consider chopping up greens such as kale and collards. Even dandelions are a healthy choice, as long as they come from an area not treated with pesticides. Ducks and geese also eat a lot of insects, so feeding them mealworms or freeze-dried crickets mimics their natural food choices.

Other good options include oats, birdseed, cracked corn, peas, lettuce, spinach and kale, according to TreeHugger.

One word of caution for those who would like to feed the ducks and geese even more healthful, appropriate foods: Feeding wildlife is illegal in many areas, including on Forest Preserve District properties. The District's General Use Ordinance prohibits feeding any wildlife in the preserves, and violators can be issued citations and be fined between \$25 and \$100.



Annual Children's Fishing Derby

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

Catch the Biggest Fish or the Most Fish and WIN a Trophy!

- Registration begins at 9:00 am
- Fishing starts at 10:00 am
- Lunch served at 12:00 pm with awards to follow

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For more information visit our website www.godleypark.com



OPEC's plan to cut oil production causes jump in local gas prices

Saudi Arabia announced Sunday that starting in July it will cut production of crude oil by one million barrels/day. On Monday area gas stations were already raising prices after three straight weeks of declines.

Prices at the pump varied as much as 67 cents per gallon locally Monday morning with one Lorenzo Road station charging \$3.48/g while another was at \$4.15/g, a sign that prices are rising. In Braidwood stations were up to \$3.82/g, while in Coal City the price was up to \$3.89/g.

"While the national average drifted lower last week as oil prices cooled off, the drop may be temporary. OPEC+ agreed Sunday to additional production cuts, while Saudi Arabia is going above and beyond and cutting July pro-

duction. As a result, oil prices are likely to see upward pressure as global supplies, which have remained tight, promise to become even tighter as a result," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Average gasoline prices had fallen 6.0 cents per gallon in the last week, before Sunday's announcement.

Come July 1, Illinois drivers will also see a six-cents per gallon automatic tax increase that was passed two years ago by the Democratic-controlled lawmakers.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.14/g while the most expensive was \$8.79/g, a difference of \$5.65/g.

The national average price of gasoline is \$3.51/g.

"Last time OPEC+ agreed to cut production, it led to a temporarily rally in the price of oil, but as global oil demand hasn't been as strong as expected, the cut failed to hold oil prices up. OPEC+ and Saudi Arabia are likely hoping that the rise in oil prices will stick longer this time, as the Saudi economy relies on oil prices north of \$81 per barrel," De Haan said.

"It's likely that as a result of the production cut, oil prices could rally this week, pushing gasoline prices higher. How long any rise in gas prices lasts is up in the air, but I do not yet believe motorists need to be worried. Any rise in average prices should be fairly small, and we're still extremely unlikely to make a run at record prices anytime soon."

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OBITUARIES

Roger E. Flint



COAL CITY—Roger E. Flint, 75, of Coal City, passed away peacefully, Sunday, June 4, 2023 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet. Born March 19, 1948 in Joliet, he was the son of Elden and Laura (nee Williamson) Flint. Roger graduated from Reed-Custer High School with the class of 1966. Soon after graduation he was drafted into the United States Army, proudly serving our country during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the John Martin Steele VFW Post #6049 in Morris. He retired in 2013 from McCluckie Oil in Coal City after over 30 years of employment. He always kept himself busy tinkering around with tools and metal fabricating. After retirement he enjoyed working alongside his son, Roger at United Welding Fabrication in Wilmington. He had a passion for cooking, always trying to create a new dish. Roger was well loved from his family and community and will be greatly missed by all.

Surviving are his wife of 23 years, Anita (nee Vanzaghi) Flint, of Coal City; one son, Roger Flint, of Coal City; two daughters, Shannon (Tom Degnan) Flint, of Hobart, IN and Stephanie (Terry) Gill, of Coal City; four grandchildren: Hannah Flint, Amanda Gill, Miranda Frost and Matthew Ryan (Josie) Gill; two great-grandchildren, Dominic and Payton Gill; two sisters, Ann (the late Charlie) DuBois, of Braidwood and Shirley (Richard) Harris, of



Braidwood; two brothers, Calvin (Chris) Flint, of Braidwood and Marlin (Eloise) Flint, of San Antonio, TX; sister-in-law, Gina (nee Vanzaghi) Hase, of Orange County, FL and numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Elden and Laura and four brothers: Elmer, Paul, Ron and Gordon Flint.

The family would like to thank the VA Hospitals, Riverside Cancer Center in Bourbonnais and Morris Hospital ICU for their exceptional and compassionate care.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial visitation for Roger will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood Chapel, Friday, June 9, 2023 from 9 a.m. until the time of memorial services at 12 p.m.

Family and friends are welcome to gather in the funeral home parking lot, Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. to go in procession to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood for committal services at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Hines VA: 5000 S. Fifth Ave., Hines, IL 60141-3030 would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Dolores L. Kusper

NEWPORT BEACH, CA—Dolores L. Kusper (nee Donna), 102, of Newport Beach, CA, passed away Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 in Newport Beach.

Born March 6, 1920 in Braidwood, she was the daughter of Peter and Effie (nee Viara) Donna. She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood. Dolores was a proud and dedicated homemaker. She enjoyed playing bridge, golfing, bowling and most importantly she loved spending time with her family.

Surviving are her son, Richard (Jeanette) Kusper, of Newport Beach and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Peter and Effie; husband, LeRoy Kusper, who she married Feb. 14, 1943 in Joliet and prede-

ceased Dolores on Feb. 15, 1999; four sisters: Mary (Frank) Huml, Josephine (Jim) Barnett, Connie (Bruno) Muzzarelli and Elaine (Carl) Testa; and one brother, Vince (Margaret) Donna.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Family and friends are welcome to meet at the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood, Saturday, June 10, 2023 for a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Inurnment will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Joseph Reid

HARLINGEN, TX—We are saddened to announce the passing of Joseph Raymond Reid, 84, born in 1938, entered eternal rest Jan. 14, 2023 in Harlingen, TX.

Joseph "Joe" Reid was born to Robert and Mary (Zupancic) Reid in Joliet. He was the oldest of six children. Joe spent many years working as a union ironworker, and later owned a concrete contracting business. After retiring, Joe split his time living in Braceville and Harlingen, TX before making the decision to live full time in Harlingen. Joe's many hobbies included golfing, fishing, playing games of all sorts, wood carving, traveling and spending time with his family.



He is survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, Bernadette (Zygadlo) Reid; six children: Kenneth Reid (Joe Elks), Jennifer Polakovic (Richard), William Reid (Heidi), Colette Scott (Michael), Bernadette Ashley and Merry Wirth; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sister, Delores Falasca (John) and brother, David Reid (Lois).

He is preceded in death by his parents, a brother and two sisters.

A mass will be conducted on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Roman Catholic church in Rockdale with a graveside service immediately following at St. Joseph Cemetery in Joliet.

Cathy Wright

GARDNER—Cathy Diane Wright (nee Merrill), 70, of Gardner, formerly of Braidwood, passed away unexpectedly, Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born March 5, 1953 in Vandalia, IL, she was the daughter of Richard S. Merrill and ImoJean (nee Haslett) Hannah. Cathy was a proud and dedicated homemaker who cherished spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. She was an animal lover and enjoyed listening to all varieties of music.

Surviving are her husband of 34 years, Wayne E. Wright, who she married in 1988; three children: Jonathan M. (Doris Centano) Baker, of Gardner; Matthew L. (Christina Hofsteadter) Duering, of Manteno and Sarah L. (Jacob Burger) Duering, of South Wilmington; 11 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, sis-



ter, Carolyn (the late Richard) Russell, of Braidwood; numerous nieces, nephews, and their families; and many friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Richard and ImoJean and brother, Richard Steven Merrill.

Private services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name may be directed to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Wounded Warrior Foundation, or any local animal shelter of your choice.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Brent D. Rose



DIAMOND—Brent D. Rose walked the plank, peacefully at home, on June 6, 2023 after boldly, courageously, valiantly fighting metastasized esophageal cancer. He will be missed beyond measure by his Princess Rachel and Pumpkin Abi, but they will always keep him in their hearts.

Brent was born at Morris Hospital, grew up in Hennepin, IL and graduated from Putnam County High School. He proudly served in the United States Air Force as an air craft fuel systems mechanic. He bled red, white and blue and loved anything that had a flag on it. He eventually settled in Diamond where he met his lobster, Rachel. They were married at Campbell's Park on Sept. 25, 2009. He worked hard as a chemical operator and made a beautiful life for them and their greatest blessing, Abi. Family meant everything to Brent and he always made sure his two ladies had smiles on their faces and he loved them more than anything.

Brent had the best sense of humor and not even a bad day, week, month, or even year could keep him from cracking jokes. He always had a song lyric, TV/movie quote, or corny joke at the ready. He often joked that he was a jack of all trades, master of none...there wasn't much that he didn't have knowledge on or couldn't fix around the house and it was easy to have a conversation with Brent about anything. The garage was his happy place and he could often be found out there doing some woodworking, fixing something, or just tinkering around. He loved music, movies, especially westerns, history and math, sour candies, pirates, yada yada yada, and donuts. He was the best matey, always willing to jump in and give a hand.

Brent will leave a big hole in our family and will be truly missed by many, including, his mom, Jeni Williams; mother-in-law, Lynda and



brothers and sisters-in-law, who were like true siblings, TJ and Amanda, Joe and Andi and Jered and Val, along with his nephews and nieces: Jack, Molly, Heather, Eleanor, Ben and Robin. Also by extended family and a great group of work friends who kept him smiling many days in these last months. He will never be forgotten and we will carry on his jokes, stories, and sayings.

Letting him go is only made slightly easier by the fact that his best buddy, Gilbert is happily wagging his tail as he's been eagerly waiting for Brent.

Rachel and Abi want to thank everyone including their community for their constant love, support, kindness, help, and beauty that you have shown them in these difficult times. They were blessed with an amazing family and great group of friends and truly thank you all from the bottom of their hearts.

Celebration of Life details are being finalized and everyone will be updated soon. The family would love if you joined them in celebrating their favorite matey, Brent. Let's make it a day of remembering Brent, spreading love, and laughing. Please wear your favorite Band or Movie shirt because he would just love that.

"Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads." —Dr. Emmett Brown (Back to the Future)

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Brent's name may be made to the family for their distribution and to establish an educational fund for his Pumpkin, Abi.

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

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

James Roy

MADISON, WI—James Nicholas Dale Roy, 34 of Madison, WI and formerly of Coal City, passed away on Memorial Day after a long battle with addiction.

James, known to most as Nick, was born and raised in Coal City, and relocated to Madison, in 2015 to live a life of sobriety. He had the ability to learn any trade he tackled. From house siding, to home remodels, to car repair, to tattoo artistry and photography. He excelled at anything he touched.

Nick evolved into a gentle giant with a big heart due to sobriety. He was most at peace walking in nature with his beloved dogs, Reaper and Bella that meant the world to him. Nick was a good man who was always the first to help out and would give his last dollar to whomever needed it. He had a wicked sense of humor, loved heavy metal music, and his friends. Nick will be sadly missed forever in our hearts, and never forgotten.



Survived by his mom, Diane Roy; sissey, Melanie Sanders; an uncle, Kenny (Mary Pat) Mack; four aunts: Sharon (Harry) Miller, Joan (Rick) Wren, Vanessa (Ron) Benson and Jennifer Roy; a grandpa James Roy, and many friends.

Nick was preceded in death by his grandparents, Kenneth and Irene Mack, and Willa Roy.

The family received friends for a time of remembrance Sunday, June 4, 2023. Cremation rites followed.

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

Arrangements and cremation were made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Jim Wilson

BRACEVILLE—Jim Wilson, 68, of Braceville, and formerly Frankfort, IL, passed away at his home on May 29, 2023.

Born Jan. 31, 1955 in Joliet, James Warren was a son of Marlene (Mankowski) Smith, of Frankfort and the late James Warren Wilson Sr. He was raised in the Frankfort area and graduated from Lincolnway High School with the class of 1973.

Jim worked as a carpenter and owned and operated his own construction business for numerous years. He was an excellent mechanic; loved racing and watching NASCAR, and took great pleasure in fishing and bowling.

Survivors include his mother, Marlene; two daughters, Jennifer (David) Greggain, of Coal City and Katherine Winterrowd, of Braceville; five grandchildren: Emma (Collin) Erickson, Evan Greggain, Brantley Smallwood and Cheyenne and Rae Lynn Latham; one great-grandchild expected; two brothers, Richard (Susan) Wilson, of Oak Brook, IL and Thomas Wilson, of Woodridge, IL; aunt, Diana (Frank)



Jenkins, of Morris, and Raymond (Joyce) Mankowski, of Tinley Park, IL; one nephew, Kyle Wilson and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his father, James W. Wilson Sr.; step-father, Dudley Smith and one uncle, Gerald Mankowski.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family welcomes friends for a memorial visitation on Saturday, June 10, 2023 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City.

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

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

Edward L. Sours

BRACEVILLE—Edward L. Sours, 80, of Braceville, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at Loyola University Medical Center in Proviso Township, IL.

Born May 31, 1943 at the family home in Custer Township, Edward Lee was a son of Earl and Marie (Downy) Sours. He was raised in the country in Custer Park, where he worked as a farmer. Edward later gained employment with Teamsters Local 179 of Joliet, with whom he was a member for over 50 years. He was a farmer at heart, finding peace working out in his garden. Edward enjoyed woodworking and loved RV camping.

Survivors include two brothers and three sisters: Lois (the late Kenneth) Richmond, of Wilmington; Jeanette (the late Pastor Ray) Jones, of Braceville; Carol (Nelson) Stephens, of Brunswick, GA; Gerald (Glemma) Sours, of Vandalia, IL; and Vernon (Nancy) Warriner; one brother-in-law, Rev. Bill Stephens, of Ramsey, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents, and his wife, Barb Sours; and seven siblings: Maynard Sours, Lester Sours, Raymond Sours, Eloise Sanor, Gary Sours, Dolores (Robert) Sjostrom, and Wanda Stephens.

Per Edward's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded, and the family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Friday, June 9, 2023 at Christian Faith Center, 1800 S. Water Street, in Wilmington from 12 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 2 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Edward's memory to the charity of the donor's choosing.

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

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

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilmington

Catholic Charities of Joliet will be hosting a mobile food pantry at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Road, South Wilmington on Monday, June 12, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (or until food runs out).

Participants need to line up in the church parking lot. The mobile food pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute food.

Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle.

Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Everyone is welcome. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Braidwood church to host a car show

Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood will host their annual Holy Rollers car show on June 17, at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located on 110 S. School Street.

The first 50 will receive dash plaques. Categories are: Pre 50's, 50's, 60's, 70's to present. Best will be there for fun. For American and Metric bike, additional information call Best of Show and Jeep category. Tami at 815-405-0982.

Illinois aims to reduce the price of insulin

BY ANDREW HENSEL
THE CENTER SQUARE

The price of insulin could soon be set at a reduced rate in Illinois after a House measure passed both chambers unanimously.

House Bill 2189 would create the Access to Affordable Insulin Act, which requires the Illinois Department of Insurance to offer a program that allows participants to purchase insulin at a discounted, post-rebate price.

The measure originally would have capped the price of insulin at \$35 but was amended to the post-rebate price.

State Rep. Jenn Ladisch, D-Elmhurst, explained the measure in

Springfield during House debates.

"This will allow participants to purchase insulin at the state post-rebate price, allowing individuals to pay less for their insulin by utilizing the contract power of the state of Illinois," Ladisch Douglass said.

The measure was met with little debate on the House floor, but there were questions from state Rep. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis, about what this could cost the state's taxpayers.

"With regards to this discount program, will there be any cost associated with that to the state," Windhorst asked.

Ladisch Douglass said there would be no extra costs for the program.

"The discount price charge partici-

pants will allow them to pay only what the state needs to be whole," Ladisch Douglass said. "It costs the state nothing to engage in this program."

State Sen. Laura Murphy, D-Des Plaines, said something needs to be done to address rising costs.

"Insulin prices have continued to increase since the early 2000s, leaving many people to forgo the life-saving medication that they need," Murphy said. "According to the juvenile diabetes research foundation, the cost of insulin has risen 600% over the last 20 years. Americans pay ten times more for their insulin than other countries pay."

The measure currently awaits being sent to the governor for his approval.

Forest Preserve receives federal funding for Route 66 trail project

The Forest Preserve District of Will County received a check for \$1.1 million on Friday that will pave the way for a new trail linking the District's longest path with Route 66 in Joliet Township.

U.S. Rep. Bill Foster presented the check during a ceremony along the proposed trail route in the Preston Heights area, just south of Laraway Elementary School on Rowell Avenue.

The 1.34-mile, multi-use trail will be built on a ComEd utility corridor that links the Forest Preserve's 22.42-mile Wauponsee Glacial Trail with Route 53/Chicago Street, which is also historic Route 66.

Trail funding is coming from an appropriation by Foster and U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin in the 2023 federal budget.

"I was proud to secure \$1.1 million to establish a safe pedestrian and bike path along Route 53," Foster said. "This project will help connect residents to local businesses, schools, and more, all while helping to reduce emissions. I'll continue fighting for the federal resources to bolster our local economy and preserve our outdoor areas for future generations to enjoy."

The Wauponsee Glacial Trail to Route 66 Bikeway also will establish a safe pedestrian connection to health care facilities and other regional trail systems including the Canal Trail as well as the 20,083-acre Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.



Courtesy photo by Glenn P. Knoblock

U.S. REP. BILL Foster presents a \$1.1 million trail project check to the Forest Preserve District of Will County on June 2. Pictured from left to right are Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant; Forest Preserve Board President Meta Mueller; Forest Preserve Executive Director Ralph Schultz; Congressman Foster; former Forest Preserve Commissioner Herbert Brooks Jr.; Forest Preserve commissioners Denise Winfrey, Julie Berkowicz and Janet Diaz; and state Sen. Rachel Ventura.

"Today marks the beginning of our project," said Meta Mueller, the Forest Preserve's Board president. "Unfortunately, it will still be a few years before it becomes a reality. But, as we all know, the longest journey starts with a single step. And thanks to the assistance of Congressman

Foster and Senator Durbin, that first step just became a leap."

The short trail connection is a part of a regional network of trails 30 years in the making, and many of those trails have become possible due to partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, she

added.

"Now there are multiple agencies working to achieve this goal and together we're expanding a fabulous trail network throughout the county," Mueller said.

The trail project is the result of a collaboration between Will County and the

Forest Preserve District.

"This project will create a safe connection for pedestrians and cyclists between the popular Route 53 corridor and Will County's beautiful regional trail system," said Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant. "I'm thankful for both Sen. Durbin and Rep. Foster for seeing the potential of this project to increase access for residents in this community."

Once the funding allocations are received, including an expected \$800,000 Rebuild Illinois grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development, the Forest Preserve District will begin phase one engineering of the project to develop a design and a construction timeline.

Eventually, the new trail

section in Joliet Township will connect to a Route 66 Bikeway that the Illinois Department of Transportation plans to build along Route 53 from Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to just north of Interstate 80 on the south side of Joliet.

The Wauponsee Glacial Trail to Route 66 Bikeway project was first identified as a Will County priority within the Sugar Run Creek Area Neighborhood Plan, which set a vision for community reinvestment in unincorporated areas south of the City of Joliet. The plan supports the inclusion of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Free summer concerts to start this Sunday

The Wilmington Area Community Band will perform the first concert of the 16th season on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 6 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Arrive early and order dinner from "Joey's Red Hots" food truck! 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 Little Bit Of Everything". Star Spangled Banner Washington Post March At the Movies Celtic Air and Dance More Cowbell Amparito Roca INTERMISSION

Soul Bossa Nova Exaltation Crazy Train At the River Tijuana Brass In Concert

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. We welcome musicians looking for a fun summer ensemble. Please contact Wes Smith at 815-476-5517 if you have any

Other concerts dates include June 25, July 9 and 23, and August 6.

General Assembly approves measure lifting ban on new nuclear construction

BY ANDREW ADAMS
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Lawmakers approved a measure, Senate Bill 76, that would allow for the construction of only "advanced" nuclear reactors in the state.

A state law dating back to the 1980s placed a moratorium on building power plants until the federal government designates a repository for nuclear waste, something it has yet to do.

SB 76 was approved with bipartisan support earlier in May, passing on an 84-22 vote in the House and a 36-14 vote in the Senate.

The measure initially lifted the ban on construction for all nuclear plants, although debate on the bill focused primarily on the latest generation of nuclear technology. That includes prefabricated small modular nuclear reactors and

microreactors.

The final bill would only allow the construction of "advanced nuclear reactors" defined in federal law.

The bill's chief Senate sponsor, Senator Sue Rezin, R-Morris, said that those types of reactors are valuable to provide reliability to the grid as the state shifts toward renewables.

"The value of the modular and the small advanced nuclear reactors are that we can drop them on coal plants that are shuttered," Rezin said. "We can drop them right on site and build them out there and tie them right into their transmission line or their grid system which they already have built into the plant."

The proposal drew criticism from both environmental groups like the Sierra Club and anti-nuclear advocates like David Kraft, the head of the Chicago-based Nuclear Energy Information Service.

"The legislature has opened the door for more reactors and more waste," Kraft said in an interview.

Will County Threshermen plan vintage Tractor Drive fundraiser

The Will County Threshermen's Association (WCTA) is pleased to announce its upcoming vintage tractor drive fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, June 10.

Participants will drive their vintage tractors on a 50-mile route through the countryside of Will and Grundy counties, with lunch being served at Andy Rousonelos Farm.

Registration for the Tractor Drive will begin at 6:30 a.m., with a prompt departure at 8 a.m. The registration fee is \$75 per tractor, which includes snacks, lunch and a commemorative item.

Pre-registration is preferred, and interested participants can visit the WCTA website or contact Lane Heatherwick at LLHeatherwick@gmail.com or 708-372-1939 for more

information and registration.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the WCTA, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of agriculture and educating the public on the importance of farming practices.

For more information about the Will County Threshermen's Association and their mission, please visit their website at www.steamshow.org.

Daddy Daughter Dance

Friday, June 16 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

DJ | PHOTOBOOTH | SNACKS | SWEETS

Pre-registrations*: \$25 per Dad, Uncle, Grandfather, Brother, Other (Daughters are FREE)

Day of and at door: \$30 per Dad, Uncle, Grandfather, Brother, Other (Daughters are FREE)

*Pre-Register by: June 16

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Braidwood, 2 BR, stove and refrigerator, w/d hookup, C/A, garbage included, \$1,000 month plus security, no pets, call 815-474-4407. ca20-23

Gardner - 1 bedroom apartment. \$575 per month. One month deposit required. No dogs. On second floor in downtown Gardner. Water, sewer and trash included. Tenant pays electric. Texts preferred at 815-277-6018. One year lease and criminal background check required. cc22-25

Wilmington - 2 bedroom apartment. Nice location. \$650/month. First, last & security. 618-383-6330. cc22-24

GARAGE SALE

Braidwood - 630 W. 1st St., Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat June 7 thru June 10. 8am to 4pm. Boys & girls clothes & shoes, over 50 gymnastic leotards, books, toys, misc household furniture, rugs, dishes, sheets, pillows. cc22-23

Braidwood - Garage & craft sale. 200 S. Division. Thur. & Fri., June 8-9 from 9am to 4pm. Sat., June 10 from 9am to 2pm. Good assortment of household and kitchen items (pots, pans & utensils), new and used watches, hand crafted items. Too much to list. ck23

Wilmington - Estate Sale - 503 Roland St., June 8, 9 & 10, 9am to 3pm; tools, fishing, all furniture, collectibles. Everything must go! cc22-23

GARAGE SALE

Braidwood Garage Sale Days
Friday & Saturday
June 9 & 10
8am to 3pm
Get maps at First Presbyterian Church Main & Lincoln St.
Look for bright blue pennants.
No rain date.

Townwide Sales! - Braidwood, 388 E Main St., Thur. & Fri., June 8-9, 9am-4pm and Sat., June 10, 9am-noon. Local bottles, geodes, antiques, primitives, fishing, furniture, jewelry, Tastefully Simple, toys, canning jars, tons of misc. ca23

HELP WANTED

Abbi's Place is accepting applications for slot attendants. Stop in for an application. 228 S. Front Street, Braidwood. 630-257-2767

Maintenance Technician - Apartment Communities. Coal City & Braidwood. Full-time benefits. Call or text TM Associates at 815-634-8044. cc22-25

Sunday worship pianist. 2-4 Sundays per month. Late intermediate to advanced level ability preferred. Contact Grace Lutheran Church, Wilmington at 815-476-9480. cc23-25

The City of Braidwood is accepting applications for the position of City Clerk. The position is part-time 20/24 hrs a week. Must be familiar with MicroSoft Word and have some knowledge of payroll. For further information contact City Hall at 1-815-458-2333 or email khart@braidwood.us.

HELP WANTED

HIRING BARTENDER to work weekends and fill-ins. BASSET and food-handler certification needed. Apply in person at Tuffy's Lounge, 1099 S. Water St., Wilmington 815-476-2700

Village of Diamond is seeking a full-time water-waste water operator-in-training. Water/wastewater experience is a plus but will train the right individual. Must be detail oriented with an excellent work ethic. Assist with maintaining plant compliance with EPA standards and state water Commission, read meters, charts, gauges and accurately maintain records of plant operations. Physical and technical skills. Background check, pre-employment drug screen and physical required. Wages based on experience. Application can be found at: www.villageofdiamond.org or in person at: 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL Email resume/application to: clerk@villageofdiamond.org ch22-23

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a reliable Maintenance Worker. Must be able to operate the Skidsteer, Backhoe and other equipment. Please call the office at 815-476-6561 or email: wcsc1946@gmail.com.

Property Management company is looking for a Maintenance Technician to work on rental properties and home rehabs. Basic to moderate electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and general maintenance skills. Must be able to work independently. Up to \$25.00. Give us a call at 815-677-5250 to schedule an interview.

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VanDuyne Motel is looking for part-time housekeeper, working 8-15 hrs/week. Starts at \$11/hr. cash. Please call 815-476-2801 or stop by VanDuyne Motel at 107 Bridge St., Wilmington, IL. Come to office and fill out application. cc22b-25b

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270 Jennifer Lane, Wilmington. Upscale 2 BR, 2 BA townhouse, beautiful kitchen with stainless steel appliances, carpeted and in floor ceramic heat, C/A, w/d hook up, attached 2 car garage, \$1,500. mo. plus utilities, 1 mo. security deposit, no smoking, call 815-861-6534 or 815-545-0298. ck23-26

MISCELLANEOUS

12 x 10 aluminum double hard top roof gazebo with netting. Still in box. 2023 cost - \$1,332 + \$95 tax = \$1,427. Your cost \$1,000. No tax. Call 815-584-6503. cc23-25

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Plaintiff,
-v-
REYDYN LEMKE A/K/A RACHEL LEMKE Defendant
2022 FC 33
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 30, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on July 5, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 805 W RATHBURN ST, CARBON HILL, IL 60416
Property Index No. 06-34-301-007
The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$196,859.92. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act,

765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (561) 231-6901. Please refer to file number 22-022876. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CHAD LEWIS ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810 CHICAGO IL, 60601 561-241-6901 E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM Attorney File No. 22-022876 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
Case Number: 2022 FC 33 TJSC#: 43-1431
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2022 FC 33 13221563 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., June 7, 14 & 21, 2023

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Difficult talk often done behind closed doors

An often bitter, loud and racially divisive debate played out before, during and after last week's Chicago city council meeting where members voted to pass a temporary funding package to shelter asylum-seekers.

The debate pitted mostly older Black alderpersons and moderate-to-conservative Whites against Latinos and progressives of all stripes. Much of the division also fell along many of the same council battle lines drawn during the recent campaign between Mayor Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas.

I asked Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch how his own Democratic members avoided being dragged into the same sort of public dispute over how to deal with an even bigger issue: finding cost-saving solutions to the massive \$1.1 billion projected cost growth for undocumented immigrant healthcare services.

Speaker Welch explained that his members were able to work things out behind closed doors during private caucus meetings.

"I think caucuses are very helpful," said Welch, adding, "We caucus a lot."

Welch added that caucus meetings "give people a safe space to have conversations."

And while members probably wished the internal

debate on the healthcare issue had happened sooner, Welch said, "I did think it was important that we had that conversation as a caucus, before you take it to the floor. If you had that conversation on the floor first, it can become kind of chaotic and out of control."

"You have to give people spaces to share their voice. And that's one of the things that I pride myself on, and I think we've had difficult conversations this session. We're going to continue to have difficult conversations."

"When you're dealing with a diverse group of people. You're going to have a diverse group of thought. You've got to do that in a civil and respectful way. Many times I will stand up in caucus and tell them we're gonna have a pretty serious discussion today, and I just ask that we do it in a civil and respectful way, and the caucus abides by that. And that's all I ask."

"And so you can't duck and dodge issues. You have to hit them head on. And I think we did that several times this session."

Members of the legisla-



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

meetings, they can't by law.

State law says that no meeting can be held if it's attended by "a majority of a quorum of the members of a public body."

The Chicago city council's quorum is 26 of its 50 members. Therefore, only groups of 13 or fewer can meet together in private. The Illinois House Democrats have 78 of 118 members, but they're exempt, so they're all allowed to meet. I'll leave the judgement of whether that's good or bad to others, but it was clearly an advantage for Welch's caucus on the healthcare issue.

Also, Mayor Johnson had broad support among Welch's membership during the recent campaign while Vallas' backing was in noticeably short supply. So there wasn't as much of a built-in conflict going into the House debate as there was on the city council.

And, partisanship can often bind legislators together in times of strife (as it clearly did here), which can't happen as easily on the officially non-partisan city council.

Speaking of caucus meetings, I asked Welch if his meetings had improved since Rep. Mary Flowers (D-Chicago) was banned from attending them. Members had complained that she had disrupted debates, spoke at length on topics to the point where the caucus meetings endlessly dragged on and personally insulted members and staff.

"Every, single caucus meeting after I made the decision, and I stand by that decision, I think those caucuses were full of healthy discussion," Welch said. "People were open and honest about their opinions on various topics. And I was proud of our caucus, and how we carried ourselves this session. I thought those caucus meetings became a lot more productive after I made the decision, and I'm looking forward to seeing that continue to get better."

Asked if he'd received much internal blowback for his decision, Welch said, "I haven't seen any blowback." Welch replaced Flowers on his leadership team late last week with Rep. Natalie Manley (D-Joliet).

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

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Free concert in the garden

Bring a lawn chair, blanket and a friend for a free night of music on Tuesday, June 13 in the Elwood Children's Garden.

Bill Robinson & Friends will perform hammered dulcimer music from 7-8 p.m.

In case of inclement weather the show will be moved to Elwood Church at 101 N. Chicago St. The children's garden is located inside Elwood's Lloyd Erickson Park, 801 N. Chicago Ave.

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Braidwood papers vs. the Wilmington Advocate

I am sure that you are aware that a majority of my research is done in local newspapers. I have found that there are times when they are the only source of news about the "common" man.

To my great sorrow there are no 19th century Braidwood newspapers in existence that I am aware of. But we know that there were at least 3 newspapers published in Braidwood in the 19th century, possibly more. Today we look at the history of newspapers as seen from Wilmington and points north.

George Woodruff, in his History of Will County, 1878 gives us a brief history of the early history of newspapers in Braidwood up until that time, "Several attempts were made to establish a paper at this point, but either through lack of fitness on the part of the publishers or of appreciation on the part of the public, each proved a failure."

"J a c o b Warner was the first to embark in the business, and started the News. He was followed by Thomas Simonton with the Journal. Then Fred Dalton, former publisher of the Streator Monitor, began the publication of the Republican. The first number appeared June 17, 1875, and the prospect for a live paper appeared fair. In a short time, however, the concern became so involved that it was impossible to proceed."

"At this point, Henry H. Parkinson, of Bloomington, took hold of the work, and through his untiring efforts, and in spite of discouragement, that would have broken down many men, the paper has not only lived, but has increased in circulation and popularity, and a year ago bloomed into a daily."

There was a lot of competition between local newspapers, especially the Wilmington Advocate and its Editor Ed Conley.

In June of 1873, Mr. Simonton, of the Journal complained that the Wilmington Advocate had a Braidwood correspondent who seemed to come up with more local news than he did.

Conley's response was, "The Braidwood Journal man don't like our poking fun at the burg, occasionally, in our "brevities" Then let him wake up if we publish more Braidwood news than the Journal does, then let him exhibit some spirit of enterprise and put forth more effort. If Dan McLachlan sings "O'er the hills and far away," why Tom! Write it up. If Doc DeNormandie manages a ball and renders the "Star Spangled Banner" - as only he can, at supper time - why Tom! Bless your black heart, do up the item in colors for the local market. If Alex. Crombie drives a nobby, gilt edged rig, and Patterson invests in \$500 carriages - if Antony Costello can put on the gloves and "knock the socks" off any man in Stewart's Grove, and if none but Scotchmen are eligible to membership in your brass band - why, hang it, carry the news. Why, Tom! Brag on these facts and let the world at large know of the existence of such a metropolis as Braidwood. But, if you can't match up with the 19th century, don't envy the Advocate for keeping an eye on Braidwood."

One week later Conley wrote, "The last issue of the Braidwood Journal flings a most contemptible, low-life insult at Alex. Crombie, Esq., (one of the local mines superintendents) and what is more strange, without any apparent cause. Public opinion would justify Mr. Crombie if he should wring Simple Simon's neck until that fourth-class, backwoods editor should grow black in the face."

Conley got into it with Henry Parkinson, the editor of the Braidwood Republican in June of 1878, "Go away from home to get the news. According to the stuttering-bob editor of the Braidwood Republican the citizens of Wilmington are foaming at the mouth with excitement in anticipation of a raid upon their devoted city by the communists of Braidwood."

That there may possibly be some few deluded communists in Braidwood we have little doubt, but it is doubted very much that a greater damphool exists within the limits of four counties than is the ignorant brat who is at the helm of the Republican."

Conley was never one to mince words.

Other comments that Conley made over the years were, "Whom the gods would destroy they first make Braidwood editors."

"R. W. Nelson, of Chicago, is in town today. He was once a Braidwood editor, but is now, we believe, a pretty decent sort of a fellow."

In 1883 there were apparently two Braidwood newspapers as Conley wrote, "Neither of Braidwood's two republican newspapers had a word to say of the most important local event of this week - Memorial Day - as observed in this city. The fact is significant, and indicates their wonderful spirit of enterprise, such pretenders to journalism ought to be all shook up in a bog and drowned like blind kittens."

All of this makes me long to read one of those issues that Conley finds so contemptible, but alas it is not to be.

If by any chance you come across an old Braidwood paper in your attic or closet, please contact the State of Illinois Archives to have it microfilmed (no charge) so those of us doing this kind of research can share in that history.

RCMS students earn honors and accolades as school year ends



REED-CUSTER MIDDLE School named the students of the month for May. The characteristic was Citizenship, (from left): Heidi Budick (6th grade), Ella Manthey (6th), Jayden Cisco (7th), Lucas Walsh (8th), Cole Yeates (7th), Reese Brown (8th), Gillian Byerley (8th), Cade Johnson (8th), Johnathan Buchanan (6th), Owen Bateman (7th), Robbie Krakowski (6th) and Evynn Wilber (7th).



RCMS STUDENTS who earned perfect attendance throughout the 2022-23 school year. Students include (from left): Sophia Dixon (6th grade), Heidi Budick (6th), Anaila Edwards (6th), John Dixon (6th) and Griffin Schmeckpeper (6th).

Scholarship recipients lauded by Braidwood American Legion



THE BRAIDWOOD AMERICAN Legion Koca Post 39 presented two Reed-Custer High School Students with this year's Legion Scholarship Awards. Commander Jim Chappell recognized the recipients, Savana Helton and Jamon Spikings, during this year's Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29.

The Village to hold a Mobile Food Pantry at Middle School

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 and will host a Mobile Food Pantry at the Reed Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Drive in Braidwood on Monday, June 12 at 5 p.m.

Families in the Braidwood and surrounding communities will be able to get enough groceries (bread, dairy, meats, veggies) for a week or two.

Distribution will be first come first served. There is no registration, proof of income or I.D. required.

Learn more about The Village at: thevil-lagechristianchurch.com.

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Reed-Custer Comets to host youth basketball camp

Reed-Custer will host a boys basketball camp for students entering grades 3-8 this summer. Camp will run from July 10 until July 13 at the Reed-Custer Elementary School. Grades 3rd-4th will run from 8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., Grades 5th-6th will run from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and Grades 7th-8th will run from noon until 1:30 p.m.

The goal of the Reed-Custer Basketball Camp is for the players to improve their individual and team skills through summer competition. The fundamentals of basketball will be stressed in a fun atmosphere where the players can develop a love for the game. High School players will also be assisting with camp.

The campers will be grouped by ability and age. The purpose of the camp is to prepare the athletes for basketball competition at their respective grade levels. There will be skill contests for every age group as well as daily games.

All youngsters are encouraged to attend camp regardless of their basketball background. Bring basketball shoes and a water bottle every day.

The cost of the camp is \$40 per child. Cash or check made out to Reed-Custer High School or RCHS. Walk ins are welcome the first day of camp but you may not get a camp Tee shirt. Please return the camp form by June 30 to the Reed-Custer High School or Middle School offices or show up the day of the camp.

2023 Reed-Custer Comets Basketball Camp

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Grade next year: _____

T-shirt size (circle one): Youth - L

Adult - S M L XL

I hereby authorize the directors of the Comets Basketball Camp to administer first aid in case of an emergency. The participating student is physically fit according to our family physician.

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date _____

Lady Comets bid farewell to Class of 2023



Courtesy photo

RCHS SOFTBALL SENIOR Halie LaGrange is the daughter of Robert and Tesha LaGrange. In the fall, Halie will be attending Trinity Christian College while continuing her softball career and working towards a degree in Psychology. One of her favorite memories was going into 11 innings against JCA and the time that she hit 2 triples then another 2 triples at the following game. Halie will miss her teammates and the connections that were made on that team.



RCHS SOFTBALL SENIOR Abigail Sunday is the daughter of Larry and Chrissy Sunday. After graduation, Abigail will be attending Augustana College and working towards a degree in Psychology. One of the memories that sticks out for her was the time she started seventh grade with a black eye after taking a grounder to the face. Abigail will miss Jessica's barbecue pretzels and making jokes with her teammates and coaches while playing the game she loves.

See more
sports photos at
[freepressphotos.
smugmug.com](http://freepressphotos.smugmug.com)

Comets among teams to participate in ILSHSCTL state meet

Students from Reed-Custer High School will be among the more than 1,000 high school athletes participating in this year's Illinois State High School Clay Target League (ILSHSCTL) state tournament, which takes place between June 3 and June 18.

Athletes and teams representing schools from across the state are scheduled to participate in the tournament that features trap, skeet and sporting clays competitions.

Reed-Custer students will be part of the trap shooting state tournament on June 3 at the Brittany Shooting Park in Bunker Hill, IL. The tournament features 920 athletes

from 59 teams.

The skeet shooting tournament will feature 102 athletes who will compete June 2 in Decatur. The sport clay state tournament will feature 26 athletes in a shoot set June 4 in Chesterfield.

The State Tournaments are presented by SCHEELS. Additional sponsors include: The Bass Pro/Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Outdoor News, Walker's, Mark Zauhar, Sportsman's Guide, U.S. Army, and Friends of NRA.

Over all 1,547 student athletes representing 84 high school teams across the state participated in the Illinois State High School Clay Target

League (ILSHSCTL) this spring. The ILSHSCTL is a part of the USA Clay Target League, which offers high school and college programs in 35 states.

The League is the only 100% school-approved clay target shooting sport program in America and the League's co-ed and adaptive nature are key attractions to schools nationwide. The League is fully Title IX compliant with both male and female athletes competing on the same team. Additionally, it's an 'adaptive' sport, which allows students with physical disabilities to take part.

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Questions

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