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Braidwood ESDA adds weather station

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

The city of Braidwood now has additional ways to keep the public up to date in cases of emergencies, weather situations, or just to all around keep people in the know.

Last week, Braidwood Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA) coordinator Josh Bolatto announced that organization had obtained a commercial weather station.

Bolatto noted that part of ESDA's mission falls around weather awareness, which is why the organization posts up-to-date weather alerts and notifications to its Facebook page, including watches and warnings, and uses weather spotters for when dangerous weather heads toward town.

ESDA utilizes information from the National Weather Service and

forecast/SPC outlook models, as well as monitoring real time data in order to post the latest information on weather alerts.

But, he said, sometimes that data can lag.

"With that in mind, our organization recently purchased a commercial weather station to add to our real-time data tool kit," Bolatto posted to ESDA's social media pages. "It will provide us localized values from calibrated weather sensors, versus having to review data that may come from weather stations 20+ miles away with delayed delivery. In addition to real-time data, this commercial weather station will provide historical data for review after incidents of severe weather."

That data can also be shared with the public, meaning anyone can access the latest weather information directly from Braidwood.

"Beyond that, we will be publishing our weather data to NOAA/NWS systems for ingestion into their super computing models," Bolatto said. "It will allow these organizations to ensure forecast models and values they provide for weather data products has a local source of truth."

The weather station is housed at ESDA's Emergency Operations Center at the Braidwood Fire Station.

Residents can access the information at www.tempestwx.com/station/115631/ or www.tinyurl.com/BraidwoodWeather.

The sensor data is also viewable on Weather Underground, with five minute refresh intervals, at www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KILBRAID29..., and can be included as a favorite on the Weather Underground app.

Folks who use the Weather Bug

app can also change their location to the Braidwood 'School Street' station to access the ESDA weather station.

Meanwhile, on Aug. 8, the members of the Braidwood City Council approved a memorandum of agreement with Will County for use of the county's mass notification system for non-emergency notifications.

Will County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) hosts a community alert network, which sends out alerts for both emergencies and non-emergencies within the county and participating communities.

The system is not only for emergencies. Residents can also get alerts for non-emergency situations such as road closures or sewer repairs, or notices on things like upcoming festivals or a change in garbage collection dates.

The system, which will be cus-

tomized for the city's needs, is not used as a severe weather notification system.

Weather emergencies are covered under the Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is the national public warning system that allows for immediate communications and information to the general public at the national, state, or local level.

The city will pay \$750 annually to be a part of the community alert network. Once it is created specifically for Braidwood, the city will make an announcement on how residents can sign up for alerts and notifications.

"This is an excellent program," Mayor Karen Hart said. "There are some people who have logged into it out of Diamond and Wilmington, so if you're thinking about it, it's a good thing to have. You'll be notified if

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Courtesy photo

THE NEW EDUCATORS this year in the Reed-Custer school district are (from left) Tyler Graham, Taylor Anderson, Hannah Best, Brodie Frieders, Justine Reents, Jennifer Bassett, Ryan Marketti, Alyssa Faurot, Nathan Mata, Brian Cann, Tyler Schoonover, Nick Kristofer, Travis Schoonover, Claire Mountain, Gareth Kent, Bobbi Herrera, and Justin Wharrie. Not pictured is new RCMS AP/AD Tyler Anderson.

New educators settle in to Reed-Custer

STAFF REPORT

When classes resumed in the Reed-Custer School District on Monday, there were a lot of new faces, and not just of students.

The district welcomed a total of 18 new educators for the 2023/2024 school year.

Here, a look at who is new at the head of the class:

Tyler Anderson
Lives in Wilmington (originally from Wilmington).
Coming from Morris District 54 - Dean/AD.
Will be the AP/AD at RCMS.

Taylor Anderson
Lives in Wilmington (originally from Naperville).
Coming from Saratoga Elementary School; taught 2nd grade for the last 3 years.
Will teach 1st grade at RCES.

Jennifer Bassett
Lives in Braidwood (originally from Shorewood).

Teaching experience includes kindergarten, K-5 music, 5th grade PE, and 6th grade social studies.
Will teach kindergarten at RCES.

Hannah Best
Lives in Coal City (originally from Coal City).
Student taught at RCES last spring - 2nd grade.
Will teach kindergarten at RCES.

Brian Cann
Lives in Manteno (originally from the Peotone area).
Teaching experience includes 5th grade, math interventionist, and instructional technology coach; coming to us from Peotone.
Will teach 5th grade at RCES.
Special shoutout to Addie Dennis who was Brian's band teacher.

Alyssa Faurot
RC Graduate!
Lives in Braidwood (origi-

nally from Braidwood).
Student taught at RCES last spring - 3rd-grade special education.
Will teach 7th-grade special education at RCMS.

Brodie Frieders
Lives in Braidwood (originally from Braidwood).
Student taught at GSWHS last spring.
Will teach Algebra II And Geometry at RCHS.
Math Team Sponsor.

Tyler Graham
Lives in Buckingham (originally from Kankakee).
Teaching experience includes HS PE and Behind the Wheel; coming to us from Clifton Central.
Will teach HS Athletic PE at RCHS and 8th Grade Social Studies at RCMS.
Football Coach.

Bobbi Herrera
RC Graduate!
Lives in Diamond (originally from Braidwood).

Student taught at RCHS; worked at BBCHS for 1 year.
Will teach Chemistry at RCHS.
Class Sponsor.

Gareth Kent
Lives in Coal City (originally from the Seneca area).
Student taught at United Township High School.
Will teach sophomore English at RCHS.
"Extracurricular assignments TBD"

Nicholas Kristofer
Lives in Joliet (originally from Joliet).
Teaching experience includes Geometry, Algebra 2, Physics, and AP physics; coming to us from Crete-Monee HS.
Will teach physics at RCHS.
Scholastic Bowl Coach.

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Braidwood leaders seek beautification ideas

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

The city of Braidwood is on the lookout for beautification projects. And, they already have some volunteer labor ready to tackle those projects as they come along.

On Aug. 8, City Administrator Tony Altiery told the members of the Braidwood City Council that the city had been approached about getting some efforts off the ground.

"The Cub Scouts came to us, they do beautification projects in town, [a scout] did the flagpole at the Zoo," Altiery said. "If anybody had any ideas or projects they were looking to do in the area, the way it usually works is they bring the kids in to do the

work and we usually pick up the cost of materials," Altiery said. "We had suggestions for some. If anybody knows how fire hydrants work, different colors of hydrants say how many gallons of water flow. So, when there's a fire, the fire department can pull up and see it's a blue top so it flows 1,500 gallons per minute, like that. We're talking about having them paint the tops of them."

In 2021, the city formed a Beautification Committee, however, the committee has only met sporadically with just a few projects under their belts. During a town hall meeting last month, Altiery said that while the committee was not very active, the city is

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

More comments roll in against Tryner Farm development

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

A proposal to develop farmland that sits between Center and Division Streets has only gone through one public comment period.

But public opinion on the initial plans, presented earlier this month to the Planning and Zoning Board by developer Mike Guinta, continues to roll in, much of it negative.

Guinta made a presentation regarding rezoning the property at 1121 N. Division St. during a public hearing at the zoning board's monthly meeting on Aug. 7.

The proposal, which lacks any details or paperwork other than a plat of the property with potential lines dividing it into three segments,

includes commercial development along Division Street, such as retail/shopping developments, industrial/warehouse in the center, and four-story apartment buildings housing as many as 400 units fronting Center Street. Guinta said there would also be water retention in the center/industrial area, to not cause issues with flooding or stormwater retention.

The vast majority of the feedback at the hearing was negative, and that feedback continued during the Aug. 9 regular meeting of the City

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