

First ‘Committee of the whole’ opens discussion on city issues

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Braidwood’s first committee of the whole meeting on August 12 focused on five areas of discussion:

1. Whether or not to drop the one-percent state tax on food or to keep it.
2. Hiring firm, 120 Water, to assist in the Lead survey required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
3. Dumping fill on lots.
4. Internet upgrade for city hall and the police department.
5. Revamping ordinance about who should be required to obtain a permit before working in Braidwood.

Grocery tax

Effective, Jan. 1, 2026, the state of Illinois will eliminate the one percent grocery tax on qualifying food purchases.

Governor JB Pritzker has given municipalities the option of retaining the tax on the local level.

“A lot of people are concerned about low-income people, obviously,” City Attorney Bryan Wellner said.

“As it was under the original one percent state tax, SNAP recipients are exempt under this municipal tax.”

City Clerk Sarah Weaver stated Braidwood receives between \$150,000 to \$175,000 from the grocery tax.

Commissioner Dale Walsh spoke out against the city of Braidwood keeping the tax.

“I just feel like it’s taxing the heck out of people,” Walsh said. “I have high school buddies who are retiring, and they’re moving. So, Illinois is losing.”

Mayor Todd Lyons speculated that at least a portion of the one percent grocery tax comes from tourists and visitors who shop in town. Therefore, the money from the grocery tax would ultimately benefit the city.

“We want to give our citizens a break, right,” Lyons said. “How about we revisit the water bill, because there’s an automatic increase every year; there’s a four percent increase. Why don’t we take a look at that, and maybe next year suspend it or do two percent? At least we’re taking care of our citizens.”

Cities must make a decision on the one percent tax by October 1. An official motion will be made at a city council meeting.

Water consultants

A representative of 120 Water, a company located in Zionsville, IN, shared information about how the company can assist in getting compliance from residents regarding the Lead Line Survey required by the IEPA. It’s also a federal requirement.

120 Water combines cloud-based software and digital sampling kits to assist in water safety compliance. The company tests for lead and copper, but also PFAs, synthetic chemicals that do not break down easily, and are called “forever chemicals.” PFAs may cause cancer, high cholesterol, liver damage, and thyroid disease.

The cost of a contract with 120 Water would be \$24,906. It is also likely that an additional water department professional may need to be hired to handle additional responsibilities. The items will be voted on at a future city council

SEE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PAGE 2



AUDRA BUSHUE (left) and Rhonda Schaefer, owners of Impressions Hair and Tanning Salon.

Water tower at city hall flowing again

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

At the Aug. 12 Braidwood City Council meeting, Mayor Todd Lyons shared good news about the water tower on the property of city hall. The water tower began leaking last January, and has been challenging to repair due to the unavailability of parts.

“As far as the water tower behind the city, it’s up and running, it’s been repaired,” Lyons said.

WESCOM

A motion was passed to approve Mayor Lyons as a representative on WESCOM’s executive board was passed.

WESCOM or the Western Will County Communications Center is one of 911 centers in the county. WESCOM covers 21 police and fire agencies, including those in Braidwood.

Blue Cross Blue Shield

The board passed a motion for approval to renew Blue Cross/Blue Shield health and life insurance for city employees.

Lyons also shared that Commissioner Liz Dixon will be providing a monthly financial report to the city’s accounting firm.

Braidwood Lions Club will participate in the Lions of Illinois Foundation 51st Annual Candy Day fundraiser to help individuals with vision and hearing disabilities.

Lions are known as Knights of the Blind. Funds are raised to assist those with vision and hearing deficits who reside in Braidwood, Godley, and Shadow Lakes.



THE MAIN STREET water tower behind the Braidwood City Hall is operational again after undergoing repairs. The town was non-operational since late November.

Illinois Lions Candy Day will be Friday, Oct. 10 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the downtown intersections of Route 129 and 53 in Braidwood.

The Knights of Columbus will be holding its annual Tootsie Roll Drive from Friday Sept., 19 through Sunday, Sept. 21.

Road work anticipated

Administrative Consultant Steve Gulden reminded residents of road widening and surfacing of Route 129 beginning Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 7 a.m.

Later, Commissioner Dale Walsh reminded residents that IDOT, not the city of Braidwood, is responsible for the Route 129 project.

The city is continuing to attempt to resolve issues related to abandoned homes and blight in town.

Gulden updated residents that the dilapidated garage on Cermak Road has been torn down.

Expenses

The council approved expenses in the amount of \$337,540.62 and payroll in the amount of \$87,076.28.

Also approved was a motion to appropriate the sum of \$12,500 of Motor

Fuel tax funds.

Administrative costs totaled \$28,489.52, zoning costs were \$17,002.29. Expenses for the police department totaled \$3,917.66, with streets at \$17,228.70. Water and sewer related costs totaled \$128,201.66, which included costs to repair the water tower. Debt services were \$13,179.48

Expenses include \$16,429.55 for cloud storage through the city’s data consultants, Springbrook, as well as \$15,057.89 for annual licensing. The cost

SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 2

Are you under the ‘Impression’ that iconic beauty shop is closing?

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Yes, the rumors are true. The shop that houses Impressions Hair and Tanning Salon at 605 N. Baltimore St. is up for sale.

However, that doesn’t necessarily mean the iconic salon will be going out of business any time soon.

Owners Rhonda Schaefer and Audra Bushue, and their father Neil Robertson, have no immediate plans to close up shop. Instead, they will bide their time, hoping for a scenario that allows them to carry on, at least for a little while.

“We are closing shop after the sale of the building,” Schaefer said. “But, we’re hoping the buyer will give us a little time—like in months.”

According to Worldwide Business Brokers, it typically takes six to 12 months to sell most small businesses. Thus, it’s more than likely Impressions will be around to make you beautiful for the holidays.

A family affair

Hundreds of locals panicked at the idea of the closing of Impressions. The shop is practically a landmark in Wilmington.

The family-owned business began as a dream of family matriarch Linda Robertson. Robertson’s husband Neil, and her two daughters were firmly on board, determined to make the salon a success.

“I had gone to beauty school during high school,” Bushue said. “My mom told us that after beauty school, if we wanted to, we could open a shop in Wilmington.”

Eventually, Schaefer also attended beauty school, and the duo have kept the salon in the black since then.

“We opened in the fall of 1984,” Bushue said. “We’ve been doing this 41 years in this location, not this same shop, but the same complex.”

In her youth, Linda Robertson trained to become a stylist and cosmetologist. She was 42-years-old when the family started the business.

Before the grand opening of Impressions, Robertson had shared her talents with local shops, including The Pink Turtle and Family Beauty and Styling in Wilmington, and Cameo Beauty Salon in Braidwood.

Robertson grew the salon into a Paul Mitchell Signature Salon while tending to her home and family.

Through the decades, the family dedicated countless hours to the business. Schaefer and Bushue share that they couldn’t have done it alone—that loyal staff over the years have

SEE IMPRESSIONS PAGE 2



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Impressions, from page 1

contributed vastly to the success of the salon.

“Judith Wilmoth has been with us since the day we opened,” Bushue said. “She has been a huge part of Impressions.”

Taking the helm

On Oct. 21, 2018, Linda Robertson passed away unexpectedly, leaving the sisters and their father adrift. All were determined to keep the family dream alive.

“So in 2018, Rhonda and I were thrust into a management role that we were really not prepared for,” Bushue said. “Our mother had quit doing hair a while before she passed, but she was doing all the managerial work. We had to learn that part of the business. Now, we’re taking care of all of it.”

Seven years later, Impressions continues to thrive. On Monday most chairs were occupied and clients were arriving early for their styling appointment. In other words, it was business as usual.

Time to retire

The decision to sell the building was not an easy one. Impressions had thrived for more than 40 years, and was a way of life for the sisters and those who practice there.

The decision is even more complicated considering Bushue’s daughters both work at the shop. Thoughts of a new generation keeping the shop alive and thriving for another 40 years flit through their minds.

“My dad is 86 now, and we’re retirement age,” Bushue said. “Sometimes, you know when it’s time.”

When the building inevitably sells, Schaefer and Bushue, as well as the shop’s staff, plan to do a few freelance gigs, at least within the city of Wilmington.

“Some of our stylists will continue to service the Wilmington area, even after Impression closes,” Schaefer said.

Meanwhile, it is business as usual at the salon that has graced the city of Wilmington for nearly half-a-century. Don’t hesitate to pay Schaefer and Bushue a visit.

City Council, from page 1

for administrative consulting totaled \$9,550, and costs related to the city’s water and sewer department totaled, \$128,201.66.

Dixon responded to a comment made at the July 29 city council meeting that the four percent water bill hike was not a council decision, but the result of an ordinance in place for an automatic increase.

“It was stated during public comment that this administration raised the water bill,” Dixon said. “That’s not totally true. What the gentleman had forgot to mention is that there is an ordinance that has been in effect since 1989. The ordinance states that each May 1, each of the rates shall increase by four percent, unless the city council prior to the first day of May shall by motion decide that an increase shall be imposed...”

Dixon also refuted a comment that taxes were increased 11 percent. She said her own taxes increased by slightly more than 5.22 percent.

Police statistics

In the absence of Commissioner James Mikel, the mayor provided police department statistics from July 30 through Aug. 11: Calls: 54, Cases: 42 with 15 arrests, 36 charges, 179 traffic stops with 38 citations issued and 102 written warnings, nine semi truck violations and 15 parking tickets.

Work on Route 129 to begin Sept. 2

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 2, the Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) will begin widening, resurfacing and updating Route 129 from Kennedy Road to Coal City Road.

The project will include widening of the roadway, resurfacing and re-stripping, and infrastructure enhancements, including upgraded lighting, curbs, ADA compliant amenities, and crosswalks at the intersections of Route 129/Main Street and Route 53/Main Street.

Construction will begin each day at approximately 7 a.m. At this time, IDOT has indicated that no full roadway closures are anticipated.

Nevertheless, motorists should be aware of flaggers in the construction zone to ensure traffic safety.

Attorney Naughton files Lipuma estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF ANTOINETTE LIPUMA,
Deceased; No. 24 P 592

**PUBLICATION NOTICE
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION
TO CREDITORS, CLAIMANTS,
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES**

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Antoinette Lipuma. Letters of Office were issued to Margaret A. Beaudin, 13540 W. 163rd St., Homer Glen, IL 60491 as Independent Representative, whose attorney of record is Michael R. Naughton, P.O. Box 10, Manhattan, Illinois 60442.

The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (IL Compiled Statute 755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk’s Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson St., Joliet, Illinois, 60432 or with the Representative of the Estate, or both, on or before the sixth day of February, 2026 or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the Representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

On October 10, 2024, an Order Admitting the Will to Probate was entered. Within forty-two (42) days after the effective date of the original order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the validity of the Will by testimony or witnesses to the Will in open Court, or other evidence, as provided in Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1). The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).

Michael R. Naughton
For the Estate of the Estate of
Antoinette Lipuma, Deceased
BY: MICHAEL R. NAUGHTON
(ARDC#06180774)
P.O. Box 10
Manhattan, Illinois 60442
(815-478-3933
naughtonrlaw@att.net

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Committee of the whole, from page 1

meeting.

Illegal dumping

Before discussion of dumping construction debris in empty city lots, Administrative Consultant Steve Gulden touched on codes and ordinances.

“We have heard through various means that we’re changing ordinances, we are requiring people to do more things, we are having higher standards on code enforcement,” Gulden said. “I can tell you, the council and the public that we have not changed one code, one ordinance, other than we added the words ‘recreational vehicle’ and ‘boats.’”

Gulden explained that the 2008 zoning code was adopted, but hadn’t been followed closely in the past. He said that now that the codes are being followed, residents are taking notice.

“We’re not doing anything that’s not on the books,” Gulden said.

According to Gulden, developers and contractors have been dumping fill in vacant lots, including dirt, clay, construction material, asphalt grindings, concrete, and other construction waste.

He said illegal dumping not only violates municipal ordinances, but county and state ordinances as well.

“If we do not enforce that, somebody could come back and say ‘Braidwood, why aren’t you enforcing these ordinances,’” Gulden said.

To remedy the situation, Gulden

is recommending that construction sites be fenced, and that companies follow Will County storm water management rules. They will be required to obtain permits and grading plans, following city, county and state ordinances.

At this time, the city is focusing on three violators.

Surfs up

Josh Bolatto, Administrative Coordinator of the Braidwood Police Dept., researched alternative internet sources as T-Mobile, AT&T, and Surf Internet.

Bolatto came to the conclusion that Surf Internet is the most appropriate choice for Braidwood

He noted that Surf is faster and more reliable and less expensive. With Comcast, the city is currently paying \$325 per month for police department internet, and \$304 per month for city hall. With Surf Internet, the cost will be \$145 each for the police department and city hall.

Licenses and permits

Mayor Lyons brought up an ordinance from 1996 regarding contractors.

There was discussion on what types of businesses should be required to obtain a permit.

Some brought up trades, specifically. Others felt that someone who power washes a house and other such tasks should not require a license or permit.

“We’ll update something, and we’ll figure something else,” Lyons said.

Public comment

Bobbie Earling, who resides on School Street, commented on the subject of ordinances and citations he believes are unwarranted.

“You want to ordinance the living hell out of everybody in this town, go ahead...” Earling said. “Are you trying to push everyone out who is working class in this town?”

Earling stated that he received four citations for vehicles on his property: a semi truck in his driveway, two trailers, and a vehicle purchased at an auction for which he has not yet received a title, and therefore cannot obtain a license and registration.

Earling claimed the trailers do not belong to him, and defended keeping the semi truck in his driveway.

Earling received a notice of violation for a “white semi truck parked in the driveway no registration.”

Likewise, the trailers were not registered, nor was a Dodge Ram.

According to correspondence from the Braidwood Police Department, Earling has seven days to remedy the violations. Otherwise, he is expected to pay fines of \$120 for each violation, for a total of \$480 by August 26.

The next committee of the whole meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 9 at

Giving used motor oil a second life

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Dumping used motor oil is a big no-no. Whether pouring oil down a drain or burning it, oil is a significant pollutant, damaging the environment in a number of insidious ways.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), just one gallon of used motor oil potentially contaminates up to one million gallons of fresh water.

Contamination has significant impact on all aquatic life, animals and plants, drinking water, and overall ecosystem health.

Used motor oil is also classified as carcinogenic to humans. In other words, there is evidence it may cause cancer.

The recycling process

The recycling process begins locally. Many if not most mechanic and oil change shops, accept limited (usually up to five gallons) amounts of used motor oil free of charge.

Danielle Brown of BTI Tire and Alignment of Wilmington (200 E. Baltimore St.) said the shop definitely accepts used motor oil.

“As long as customers bring the oil in some kind of container, we just dump it into our storage barrel,” Brown said.

“Some people just pour it back in container that the oil came in. That works pretty well.”

Ryan Boyd of Oilmen’s of Wilmington (31911 W. River Road) also chimed in.

“People are welcome to just bring it, up to a certain amount,” Boyd said. “There is a small charge after five gallons.”

The charge depends on supply and demand. It’s best to call for the going rate before divesting yourself of large quantities of used motor oil.

In Coal City, Bob’s Advanced Auto and Tire (60 E. Chestnut St.) is happy to relieve you of used motor oil.

Debbie Davis, wife of Bob Davis, for whom the shop is named, explained that used oil is not only surrendered, but possibly recycled one more time before being turned in.

“Sure, we take used oil, and it’s picked up by a recycler called Turn-Key,” Davis said. “We also have local businesses that will come and get it because they have oil burning heaters.”

Used motor oil in quantities of three gallons or less is also accepted by Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone, O’Reilly Auto Parts, and Walmart.

The next step

Used engine oil can be recycled, re-refined into new lubricating oil, or processed for use as fuel. It can also be used in industrial furnaces and power plants for heat and electricity generation.

Shops are paid the “going rate” for used oil,

which is collected by tanker trucks. Used oil is defined as any oil that has been refined from crude oil, and as a result of use, is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities. It’s considered non-hazardous waste.

In this area, shops tend to surrender used oil to Turn-Key Environmental of Kankakee or Southwest Oil of Morris. These sources specialize in used oil recovery and also offer services for used antifreeze, oil filters, and wastewater.

Recycling process

At oil recycling facilities, used oil undergoes a process to remove contaminants like water, dirt, and metal particles. The cleaned oil can then be re-refined into new lubricating oil, meeting the same standards as virgin oil.

This process can be repeated, extending the life of the oil resource indefinitely. The following steps are taken to turn dirty oil into clean, usable oil.

Filtration: Removing large debris and sediment from the oil.

Distillation: Oil is heated under vacuum to separate it into different fractions by boiling point, removing lighter contaminants.

Clay Treatment: The oil is exposed to hydrogen gas to remove sulfur, nitrogen, and other impurities and poured into clay to remove remaining contaminants.

Re-refining: This involves processing to create a high-quality base oil.

Repurposing: Used oil may be processed and burned for energy recovery

Recycled motor oil is often used to produce diesel fuel. The diesel fraction may undergo additional treatment, such as filtration and odor/color removal to meet quality standards. In some cases recycling oil is a more cost-effective way to produce fuel compared to traditional refining methods.

A portion of the oil may be converted into a residue similar to asphalt which is then utilized for paving roads.

Household Hazardous Waste Event

Keeping used oil out of landfills is a priority for Will County Land Use who holds collection drives at various locations including their next one Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in New Lenox.

Residents can make appointments to drop off all automotive fluids, along with electronics, mercury and mercury containing items, all types of paint (limit 15 gallons), pool chemicals, cleaners, all sizes of fluorescent lights (limit 15), rechargeable batteries, pesticides, fertilizers and hand held gas cylinders.

Even scrap metal — nuts, bolts, screens, metal tools, metal doors, metal cabinets—are accepted.

Also good clothing clean bed linens and small home goods such as cookware, utensils, picture frames, collectibles, books, toys, bicycles, with a separate area for worn American Flags, donations for the Troops, donations for animal shelters.

Attorney Wysocki files Stefanich estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Charlotte L Stefanich,
Deceased; No. 2025 PR 401

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to the death of **Charlotte L Stefanich**, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on July 28, 2025, to Pamela Frantini, whose address is 4620 Edinburgh Ct, Joliet IL 60431; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois, 60435. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois or before the representative, or both, on or before February 8, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Pamela Frantini
Independent Executor of the Estate of Charlotte L Stefanich, Deceased

Marilyn L. Wysocki
Meents Law P.C.
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Roo’s Excavating files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Assumed Name
Publication Notice**

Certificate 35395 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on August 1, 2025 wherein the business firm of Roo’s Excavating, located at 229 W. Cermak Rd., Braidwood, IL 60408 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: James Edward Heimberger 229 W. Cermak Rd. Braidwood, IL 60408

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois, this 1st day of August, 2025.

Annette Parker
Will County Clerk

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, August 6, 13, and 20, 2025.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

It's all happening at the Grove, school that is

School houses in the 19th century were more than just places of learning; they were community centers. In Braidwood it was the Grove School that became the town meeting place. Let's take a stroll to the Grove and see what's happening.

Around 1870 three schools were constructed, the Eureka School, the East School and the Grove school. The Grove was located on School Street, south of Main. It was a two-story wooden building with a high belfry and two large classrooms on each floor. It was abandoned about 1905, and torn down in 1915.

We know the Grove school was a progressive one for the times. In 1874



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

an evening school was started for those children who worked in the mines during the daytime.

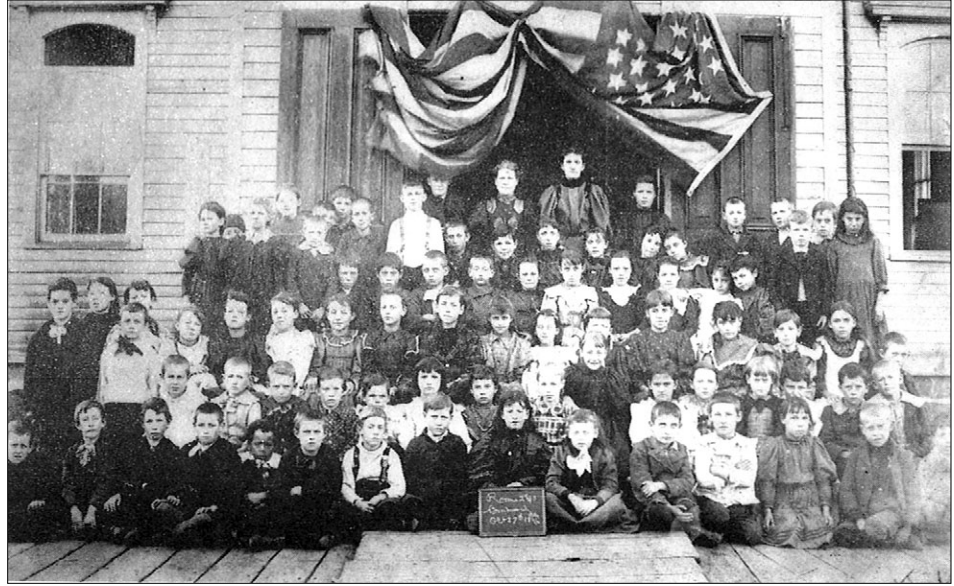
In 1875 the Mormon preacher Joseph Smith chose the Grove to deliver his message. We read, "Joseph Smith, head boss of the church of Latterday Saints, will arrive in this city tomorrow, Saturday, and will address the public at 2 p.m. at the Grove schoolhouse, on Sunday, Mr. S. will preach three times at the same place, viz.: 10 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. All ye from Wilmington and elsewhere who desire light on the Mormon question, will do well to attend. Other lumi-

naries of the church will be present on the occasion; but the ladies need not fear, from the fact that one wife suffices for this branch of the Mormon Church."

Unfortunately, his message did not seem to strike home as we read, "Four different times on Saturday and Sunday last, Joseph Smith addressed large audiences at the Grove schoolhouse upon the Mormon question, both saints and sinners evincing considerable interest in the advent here of this wonderful prophet. His principal theme of discussion was a defense of the tenets of that faith. As the results of his labors we have yet to hear of one convert or one "outsider" who was present with brains enough to fathom his disconnected arguments."

Later in the year we read, "Another temperance "pow-wow" was held on Wednesday evening last, at Grove school house." And "Matt Commerfield, of the Chicago Pilot, delivered an eloquent free lecture upon Daniel O'Connell at the Grove school house, on Tuesday last, to a large audience." And "A meeting of the republican voters will be held at the Grove School House, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of selecting a man to receive the appointment of Deputy Sheriff."

As Braidwood grew and prospered halls were built in various buildings to



A 1896 PHOTO of grades second and third with their teachers at the Grove School.

accommodate larger crowds than the school house could. It then became more of a place for teaching. But like every school district there were problems. In 1879 we read this cryptic message, "We hear a number of complaints in regard to the manner in which the Grove School is being conducted."

By 1883 the Braidwood school districts had all women as principals, an unusual situation compared to other neighboring communities. We read, "In the Braidwood Public School District No. 2, a few changes will be made this year. Miss Ella Coddington, late principal of the Grove school, will teach in Kansas

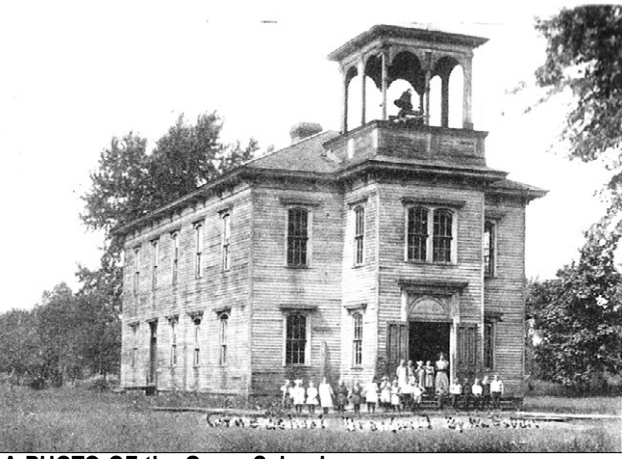
City. Her late position will be filled by Miss Etta M. Bardwell, of the Eureka school, and Miss Lizzie Emmett will take the place vacated by Miss Bardwell. Miss Belle Moore is changed from the principalship of the East school to an intermediate room in the Grove School, vacated by Miss Florence Merrill, who goes to Valparaiso, Ind., to attend school. Miss Josie E. Munhall will probably be promoted to the principalship of the East school, vacated by Miss Moore. Miss Helen Doty will also teach in the East school."

On the first day of school that year we read, "Two hundred and eighty-

five pupils were enrolled at the Grove school on Monday; 200 at the East school, and 209 at the Eureka."

The problems the teachers in Braidwood had are not well documented. We can speculate however, that one of them was the various languages and ethnic groups that the children represented. Another must have been that many children were sent to the mines to work as early as 14 years of age, perhaps earlier if the parents lied about the children's ages.

Despite these problems the education received at the Grove was a good one and its history remains without a blemish.



A PHOTO OF the Grove School.



Banach completes boot camp

ANDREW BANACH, a graduate from Reed-Custer High School Class of 2024, recently completed U.S. Army boot camp at Fort Sill in Oklahoma. He is in Golf 1-40th 1st Platoon Ghost Riders. He is the son of Greg Banach of Braidwood and his mother is Donna Swanson.



New endowment to protect Illinois state parks for future generations

As public lands nationally face threats to their existence, the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF), in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), is launching a new endowment to protect, preserve and enhance Illinois state parks.

"From our wooded trails and caverns to our beaches and mighty rivers, our state parks are a great source of pride for Illinoisans - and these spaces must be protected," said Governor JB Pritzker.

"Thanks to the support from our state partners, this endowment will fund critical infrastructure and conservation efforts to ensure future generations can enjoy the beauty and historical significance of our state parks."

A new Illinois State Parks Endowment will provide long-term, independent funding for critical park infrastructure, accessibility projects, conservation and programming. The fund will be housed by ICF, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the official charitable partner of IDNR. All contri-

butions are permanently restricted to support Illinois state parks and cannot be redirected or swept at any time.

"We want to protect our parks with action and investment. We believe parks are for the people, not for profit," said ICF Executive Director Jenny Vaughn. "Some of our most enduring institutions, from libraries to hospitals, have been shaped by the generosity of private citizens. This endowment gives every Illinoisan the chance to do the same for our parks and the natural spaces we love."

In Illinois, state parks remain free to enter and continue to see investments in staffing, access and infrastructure, thanks to support from Governor Pritzker and state lawmakers.

ICF is welcoming contributions of all sizes to support this effort and is actively inviting visionary supporters to join its Founders Circle. Gifts from individuals, families, private businesses and foundations will help grow this permanent fund and protect Illinois parks for generations to come.

To learn more about the endowment, visit ilconservation.org/stateparks

Fall flower fundraiser

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood is holding a Fall Mum Flower Sale.

These huge 9-inch pots will be delivered to the church on Wednesday, Sept. 17, and will be ready to bloom beautifully for your fall decorating.

They are \$12 each and are available in orange, yellow, purple, pink, and bronze.

Call or text LuAnn Bolatto at 815-790-7134, Joyce Bauer at 815-584-7239, or Lora Grant 815-955-9927 by Sept 10th, to order.

Consider creating "free piles" in your neighborhood. In Belefant's community, residents place items on the curb with the understanding that if someone can use them, they'll take them. Even broken items can find a new life this way. If things remain unclaimed after a few days, they can be discarded.

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs

Monday, Aug. 25- Fiction Addiction Book Club, 5:30-6:30 p.m. The book club meets monthly to discuss a book selected by one of the members. This group discusses a wide variety of books. Copies of the monthly book selections are available at the front desk for checkout. All readers are welcome to join. August's Title: Project Hail Mary, by Andy Weir.

Teen/Tween Programs

Friday, Aug. 22-Sassy Lady Face Planter, 2-3 p.m. Meet the diva of your window sill. She's not just holding a plant, she's holding court. With painted-on eyelashes longer than your

last relationship, lips pursed like she's judging your watering schedule, oversized glasses that scream "fashion over photosynthesis," and a ribbon on top, she's serving looks while serving ferns.

Children and Toddler Programs

Wednesday, Aug. 20- Chess Club for all ages, 5-7 p.m. Do you want to learn to play chess? Are you the most feared player among your friends? This is the chess club for you. All ages are welcome.

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

Makayla Wilkins Participating in UA's cooperative Ed. Program

University of Alabama student Makayla Wilkins of Braidwood is participating in UA's Cooperative Education Program during the fall 2025 semester. Wilkins is working for International Paper.

In the Cooperative Education Program, students alternate periods of full-time study with periods of full-time employment. This program offers work related to the academic major or career interests of each student.

While in school, students carry regular course schedules. While on co-op, they work with professionals in their fields who supervise their training and work. At work, co-op stu-

dents earn competitive salaries and may receive benefit packages in addition to valuable job experience.

Participants maintain their full-time student status while at work and have priority registration status each semester through graduation.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs.

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No response required

BRAIDWOOD—Residents of Braidwood need to understand exactly how the public comment section of a city council meeting works. People think it's their time to have a back and forth discussion with the council members, and it's not. You step up to the microphone, state your comment and then go sit down. The council members are not supposed to respond to you. It's your time to say your peace and go sit down. If the council member chooses to address a concern later on in the meeting under their respective portion of the agenda, then that's their prerogative. Too many people think they can ask questions of the council during public comment and then just stand there waiting for an answer. You're not going to get it because they are not supposed to answer you at that time so quit expecting them to do so.

Illinois gas tax

WILMINGTON—Calling in regards to the Sound-Off, topic "Does not exist." The individual inquired as to why the president hasn't done something about the gas prices in Illinois. I just wanted to respond by letting you know in other states gas prices have fallen, however our governor in Illinois, J.B. Pritzker, and the Democrats, are the ones who increased taxes on Illinois' gas. So if he is wondering if it's the president, it is not the president's fault it is on a governor's level.

Better than 2022

CUSTER PARK—Last week's soundoff about not finding gas for \$1.99 around here. It might may not be that low in Illinois (thanks to the second highest gas tax in the nation) but prices now under Trump are better than when Joe Biden was president. Look back at Aug. 14, 2022 when gas in Illinois was \$4.28/g average and Biden was president.

The brain drain

BRAIDWOOD—Once upon a time but not too long ago, America was the most accomplished nation in the world to which brilliant people aspired to live from all over the globe. It ended when Trump became president and now we are on a downward spiral leading to the emigration of our best and brightest and aptly called the 'brain drain'. The elimination of the Department of Education by Trump is an indicator of the Trump catalyst to dumb down the country which is spreading like a cancer. Trump attacks respected institutions of higher learning; Trump forbids scientists who work for the federal government from expressing their truth; and certain subjects are discouraged or entirely removed from pursuit. Examples are the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) all of which have been eviscerated by Trump. Our talented people are welcomed abroad which is frightening because China is one superpower that is happy to scoop up our best and brightest. Although we already know that Trump is not the sharpest knife in the drawer, does Trump have a nefarious reason for doing all this or is he really that stupid?

A good question

SHADOW LAKES—This is a legitimate question for the people who voted for Trump. Do you still support him, and if you do can you please tell why? And please be specific about it. Don't say because things are better or because we got our country back. Say things like you're paying less for gas and groceries or something like that but tell the truth. On the other hand if you voted for him but no longer support him, why don't you? Same thing here, be specific. Please only people that voted for Trump answer this question.

J.B.'s hypocrisy tour

MORRIS—Governor Pritzker spent much of the past couple of weeks speaking to national audiences about the redistricting controversy in Texas. But everywhere he went, it seemed like everyone

just wanted to ask him "What about Illinois?" Illinois has the most unfair, partisan gerrymandered district maps in the country. Under these district maps, Democrats won a super-majority of the seats. The unfair district maps give Democrats a stranglehold on power in Springfield, which they have used to ram through their agenda, regardless of the wishes of the voters. When asked repeatedly in these national interviews about how he can criticize another state for considering doing the same thing he already did in Illinois, the Governor deflected, changed the subject, and even made a joke about the Illinois map (which he signed) looking like it had been drawn by kindergartners. The Illinois district map was drawn behind closed doors by Democrats to maximize their power in Springfield. It was the exact opposite of a transparent process. It's time for an independent redistricting commission to draw fair maps. But these reforms have been blocked by Democrats in order to keep their hold on power.

What dictators do

WILMINGTON—Trump's new nominee for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, A. J. Antoni, is a guy who believes we should get rid of the monthly jobs report specifically to keep information about the effect of tariffs from the American people. This is what dictators do. Trump weaponizes the Justice Department by ordering investigations on widely admired people such as Obama, Beyonce, Taylor Swift, Kamala Harris. This is what dictators do. Trump launched a bloody coup on Jan. 6th during which 140 cops were injured. Trump fanned his nose at America by pardoning more than 1,500 lawbreakers including those who brutally attacked the police. This is what dictators do. Now four years after Trump's violently criminal insurrection, Trump has the audacity to complain about crime in Washington despite the fact that crime is at a 30-year low today. For the purpose of mere divisiveness and perhaps distraction from the Epstein files, Trump is deploying military troops against residents of our nation's Capitol. This is what dictators do. Irene

In the dark

WILMINGTON—I live in the old part of Wilmington and trying to bring up a safety issue. The U.S. Bank in the old part of Wilmington off of Main St., they have no lights on at night. It's dark and I just wanted to bring it to the attention of the police or somebody in town here. They should turn the lights on so it's not so dark out there for people walking and people that live in the area.

We demand peace

WILMINGTON—The people of Gaza are starving before our very eyes and nobody is doing anything about it. Netanyahu claims "there is no hunger" which indicates he is living in an alternate reality. Trump must put pressure on Netanyahu, the war criminal, considering that Israel is indebted to Trump. A compassionate peace in Gaza as well as an honorable peace in Ukraine is expected from Trump who fancies himself a great deal-maker. Meanwhile Trump should keep in mind that Putin is a war criminal and the first leader since Hitler to invade a democracy, annex territory and kill civilians yet Trump treats Putin like a buddy. If Trump decides in Putin's favor, it's an indication of Trump's continuing shabby treatment toward the middle class here in our own country. And it's Trump's further opportunity to distract from the Epstein files by resolving world problems and thereby earn the Nobel Peace Prize he needs to satisfy his inflated ego. If Trump doesn't come through for the good of those who suffer, he should hang his head in shame. After all, Trump promised peace on day one of his presidency and so far has broken that promise as well as many others months ago.

Follow the rules

BRAIDWOOD—To the upset resident who spoke out at the recent city council meeting regarding the Code Enforcement department enforcing code violations in

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. 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 visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, 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. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.



town, it's apparent that you just don't want to clean up the junk in your yard. It sounds like a case of sour grapes because you believe the rules shouldn't apply to you. In your comments, you kept deflecting to other violations in town, like yours shouldn't matter. How about you clean up your junk, get your vehicles plated and follow the rules.

Volunteers needed

SHADOW LAKES—Where are all the volunteers? We have the same senior volunteers at Shadow Lakes; we are older and getting health issues. Many young families are moving into Shadow Lakes which is very good but they are too busy to volunteer. Surely you can find time at least once a month. Get off the couch and put down the phone. We put our time in; it's your turn.

Not in Illinois

DIAMOND—Someone's looking for the \$1.99 gas in Illinois. Gas could get down to \$1.59 in another state and still not get below \$2 a gallon in Illinois and do you know why? Because you voted in a billionaire governor who raised numerous taxes and fees on his first day in office giving Illinois the second highest gas tax in the country. Next, you'll vote for him to be president so he can raise federal taxes on his first day. Way to go!! By the way, how do you all like your retirement accounts? The only other time I've seen my accounts perform this well was between 2016 through 2020.

Red Carpet treatment

BRAIDWOOD—When Putin came to Alaska, he literally and figuratively got the red carpet treatment despite the fact that he's a war criminal who should have been arrested on the spot. Because no details of the conversation between Trump and Putin were recorded, analysts surmise that the winner of the summit was Putin because no ceasefire was declared which coincides with Putin's desire to continue the war with Ukraine. For those of us who watched the televised video, it was embarrassing to see the body language of Trump and Putin giddy with affection like two school chums going on a date. It was noteworthy that Trump dispensed with protocol by repeatedly addressing Putin by his first name and it was cringeworthy to see Trump figuratively licking Putin's boots. It exposed Trump's deferential treatment toward sex traffickers, murderers and war criminals in contrast to his rude attack on Zelenskyy, a true hero, during the Oval Office meeting months ago. And Trump claims he is a great dealmaker? Ask the writer of the "Art of the Deal" who is the true author of Trump's book.

Little difference

WILMINGTON—What is the difference between the Ku Klux Klan and the ICE agents? Only difference I see is one

had white hoods and the other has face coverings. Otherwise, the purpose of both groups is the same.

A lot nicer

COAL CITY—Just a big thank you for the cleaning of the Coaler Drive retention pond. It will be nice to sit outside in the evening without being a human blood bank. Now if only Unit 1 School District would do the same with the Oak Street pond. We would rather donate our blood to the Red Cross.

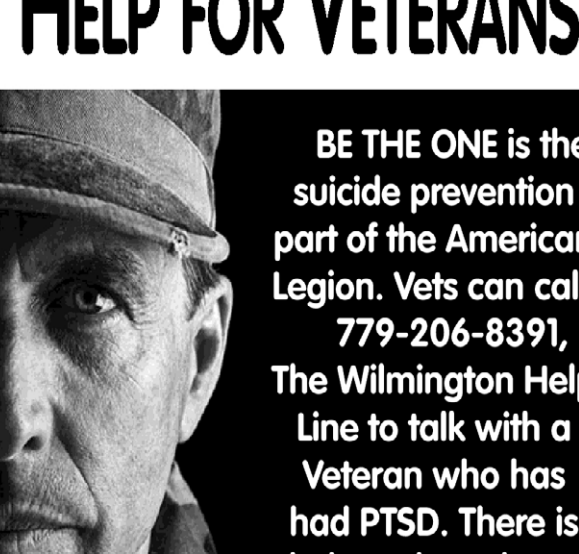
Let's make a steal

Trump expresses his proposed "deal" between Ukraine and Russia as a simple "land swap." If I have a piece of property of a certain value and my neighbor and I agree to the exchange of an equally valued property we have the makings of an equitable swap. Trump's proposal for Ukraine is nothing of the sort. The people of Crimea were forced to choose between becoming Russian citizens or facing jail sentences. Education in Ukrainian and Crimean languages was restricted and only Russian cultural practices were allowed. Media outlets were closed and protests were banned. Many had property seized without compensation. Religious freedom was restricted and arbitrary detention, torture and other human rights abuses were and remain common. Healthcare and pensions were and remain arbitrarily doled out. There is little doubt that the same fate would be in store for Ukrainians freshly subsumed by Trump's "swap." We've had one Monty Hall on "Let's Make a Deal." We don't need another in the form of Donald Trump who continues to trivialize the fate of the people of Crimea and those in more recently Russian occupied Ukrainian territory by framing this as a simple "swap" of real estate. It's about infinitely much more than the land itself. Nobel Peace Prize indeed. More like "Let's make a steal." George Bednarczyk

Burning ordinance

COAL CITY—The burning of leaves, grass and brush is prohibited within the village limits between March 1 and Oct. 31 of each year. The burning of any rubbish, leaves, hay, grass, brush or other materials outside the village limits is prohibited so long as the smoke from such fire emanates into the village limits. So does this ordinance only apply to the residents and not the village of Coal City maintenance department? Tree branches and debris northeast of the maintenance department building continue to be burned regardless of the wind direction so the smoke/smell emanates into the north end of town. Hard to enjoy a morning or evening on the patio in the months of July/August while their smoke invades our neighborhood.

HELP FOR VETERANS



BE THE ONE is the suicide prevention part of the American Legion. Vets can call: 779-206-8391, The Wilmington Help Line to talk with a Veteran who has had PTSD. There is help, only a phone call away.

In an emergency text the Veterans CRISIS LINE 988 THEN PRESS 1

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DUI driver crashes into State Trooper squad car

Illinois State Police (ISP) officers investigated a traffic crash that occurred on I-88 westbound at milepost 139 in DuPage County involving an ISP trooper.

The trooper was assisting another motorist when their squad car was struck by a driver who failed to move over.

On Aug. 17, at approximately 4:02 a.m., an ISP trooper was parked on the right shoulder of I-88 behind a tractor-trailer that was broken down; the squad car had its emergency lights activated.

A Tesla failed to move over and struck the rear passenger side of the trooper's squad car, pushing it forward into the rear of the tractor-trailer. The trooper was inside of the squad car at the time of the crash and sustained injuries.

The driver of the Tesla, 24-year-old Sebastian G. Rodriguez of Romeoville, IL, and trooper were transported to area hospitals with injuries. The trooper's squad car was towed from the scene due to disabling damage sustained from the crash.

Rodriguez was charged with Driving Under the Influence and



AN ILLINOIS STATE Trooper was injured Sunday when a driver failed to move over and crashed into the back of the parked squad car. It was the ninth time since the beginning of the year an ISP Trooper was involved in a Move Over Law-related crash.

Stroke support group to meet at Morris YMCA

Morris Hospital is hosting its Stroke Support Group on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Morris Hospital YMCA, 2200 W. Dupont Avenue, Morris.

Individuals who have a history of stroke or any neurological event are invited to attend along with caregivers, spouses, and loved ones.

The Stroke Support Group meets quarterly with a goal of providing support and education while bringing together people who are facing similar issues.

Those planning to attend are asked to register online at www.morrishospital.org/events, or call Morris Hospital's Speech Language Pathology Department at 815-705-7440.

Registration underway for Morris Hospital Corn Fest 5K

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers will host its annual Corn Fest 5K as part of the Grundy County Corn Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27, with runners taking off from Morris Grade School, 2001 Dupont Avenue, Morris. The race begins at 9 a.m. and is preceded by a Youth Fun Run for children 10 and under beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Early bird registration for the 5K run is currently underway through August 23 for \$28 per person. From Aug. 24 - Sept. 25, the registration fee increases to \$30. Race day registration is \$35.

The first 300 pre-registered 5K participants will receive a t-shirt available in unisex adult sizes.

The 3.1 mile USATF certified course starts on Dupont Avenue in front of Morris Grade School and winds through residential neighborhoods. Awards will be presented to the top three overall male and female finishes, as well as the top three male and female finishers in each age group.

The Youth Fun Run is \$10 per child whether registering in advance or on race day. Children ages 6-10 will run a half mile course around the grounds of the school starting at 8:15 a.m., followed by a 100 yard run for children 5 and under at 8:30 a.m. Children registered for the Youth Fun Run will receive a short sleeve cotton t-shirt available in youth sizes only.

Online registration is available now through Sept. 25 at raceroster.com/100810 or by going to morrishospital.org/events and clicking on the Special Events category for the link to Race Roster. After September 25, participants may register in person on race day at Morris Grade School between 7:30-8:45 a.m. For more information, call the Morris Hospital Wellness office at 815-705-7358.

Aggravated Scott's Law/Move Over Law violations.

In 2025, ISP has already suffered nine Move Over Law-related crashes. In 2024, ISP suffered 27 Move Over Law-related crashes with 12 troopers injured and one death. In 2023, ISP had 21 Move Over Law-related crashes with seven troopers injured.

ISP reminds the public the Move Over Law, also known as "Scott's Law" in Illinois, requires all drivers to move over when approaching an emergency vehicle or any vehicle with its emergency or hazard lights activated.

A person who violates the Move Over Law faces a fine of no less than \$250 and no more than \$10,000 for a first offense. If the violation results in injury to another person, the violator's driver's license will be suspended for a mandatory period of anywhere between six months and two years.

Augustana dean's list

Augustana College announced more than 1,100 students were named to the Dean's List for the 2024-2025 spring semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term.

Local students include: Alexandra Bohac, a Graphic Design and Business Administration-Marketing major, Caelan Cole, a Kinesiology and Biology major, and Gabriella Davies, a Neuroscience major, all of Braidwood. Also included was Braiden Young, a Kinesiology major, of Coal City.

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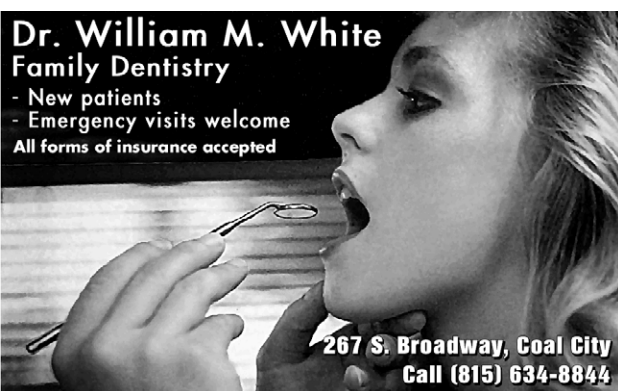


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Republicans better realize unions are always here

Some Republicans in Illinois have taken to regularly bashing Republican state legislative leaders for seeking support from the Illinois Education Association, a teachers' union that has for decades worked to help elect Republicans who are sympathetic to their issues.

With longtime wealthy Republican contributors and fundraisers dying, moving to warmer climes and/or retiring, the IEA and more conservative labor unions can help close the funding and precinct worker gap. But those who do are instantly declared to be persona non grata

"Republicans in Name Only" by some folks who want no ties whatsoever with public employee unions.

On the surface, at least, it's a legitimate policy dispute. Former Gov. Bruce Rauner wiped out years of hard work by the



Rich Miller

IEA when he insisted that Republican legislators reject the teachers union because he hated public employees unions and believed all Republicans should do the same.

But by relying mainly on money from Rauner and some of his pals, the Republicans lost a more permanent revenue source.

Politicians may come and go, but the unions are always there. So when Rauner and his ilk pulled up stakes after suffering humiliating statewide defeats, it was only natural that at least some Republicans would renew their relationships with the IEA and others.

When asked about this schism at the Illinois State Fair's Republican Day, Senate Republican Leader John Curran pointed out that he lives in a "purple" district and will work with anyone who works with him. Curran said he looks at the mem-

bers of the IEA who live in his district, not the union itself.

"I think it's incumbent upon Republicans to represent your districts," Curran said. "This is a very diverse state. A one size fits all is not the path to ultimate victory and success in this state."

"We have got to reflect the communities we represent, first and foremost" Curran said. "That's success. It is not a blanket party one way or another."

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie told my associate Isabel Miller that 46 percent of the IEA members in her district are Republicans. "I think you find that in a lot of our rural areas," she said. "I think, like with every organization, especially as a leader, it's important that I have a relationship with every organization," McCombie said, adding that the IEA has "been helpful to the caucus."

McCombie differentiated the IEA with the National Education Association, however, saying the NEA "has gone too far left for us." She said the IEA is different.

Failed 2022 attorney general candidate Tom DeVore has attracted thousands of online followers and regularly attacks both Curran and McCombie for their IEA ties. He's gone so far as to repeatedly claim that the IEA represents Chicago teachers, even though the Chicago Teachers Union is most definitely not part of the IEA.

DeVore has endorsed a primary opponent against McCombie and against at least one other House GOP member, Rep. Charlie Meier (R-Okawville).

McCombie and her allies will likely have to spend significant money to defend the leader and Meier - money which could've been used to

defend against a predicted House Democratic onslaught next fall. That prospect only buttresses McCombie's claim from earlier this summer that DeVore is a "Democrat operative." Whatever he says, the end result is Democrats benefit.

Americans for Prosperity Illinois is expected to go all-in for Leader McCombie in the primary. The group will also help her caucus fend off the Democrats next year.

Meanwhile, Downstate Republicans often complain that urban Democrats turn up their noses at rural Illinois. During Republican Day, however, Republican DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick made a claim about rural Republicans that could haunt his announced gubernatorial bid.

Like Darren Bailey in the 2022 governor's race, Mendrick is running for governor on a tough-on-crime agenda. But he said Bailey just didn't get it.

"He had no ability to really do anything about [crime]. No offense to him, but he's a farmer," Mendrick said about Bailey.

That "farmer" crack didn't sit well with Bailey's former campaign manager Jose Durbin.

"Taking a swipe at farmers in a state built on agriculture is a strange way to ask for votes - especially in a GOP Primary largely made up of rural voters," Durbin told Isabel. "Perhaps Jim should try other ways to promote his failing campaign. Darren Bailey's roots in farming mean he knows hard work, responsibility, and how to deliver results - exactly what Illinois needs to fight crime and get back on track."

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

Volunteers needed at Custer preserve

The Forest Preserve District of Will County's next volunteer opportunity will take place Sunday, Aug. 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Custer Township.

Seed collection will take place Aug. 24 at Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township. Seed collection. Ages 8 and older.

Then on Thursday, Aug. 28: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve in Reed Township. Seed col-

lection will be held for ages 8 and older.

Wear clothes appropriate for the weather, getting dirty and being near a fire for brush control events. Bring water and snacks. For more information visit the Volunteer page at reconnectwithnature.org/get-involved/volunteer.

Volunteers contribute their time, energy and skills - often with just a few hours of commitment - to improve habitat in the preserves.

St. Rose Parish to hold Feast Day event

St. Rose of Lima, for whom Wilmington's Catholic Church was named, will be remembered and celebrated around the world on her feast day Saturday, Aug. 23.

St. Rose Catholic Church of Wilmington invites the community to a Feast Day High Mass and parish dinner on Aug. 23.

Join in a celebration of the 170th year of St. Rose Parish and the gathering of the new parish with Immaculate Conception

Church in Braidwood.

St. Rose Catholic church in Wilmington opened its doors in 1855 named after the patron Saint Rose of Lima. St. Rose of Lima is remembered for her piety and chastity.

Following the 4 p.m. High Mass there will be food, fellowship, games and music by Ray Koncar and the Boys.

Those interesting in attending should register at the church office, 603 S. Main St., Wilmington.

Homeschool Day coming to Four Rivers

Homeschool Day will be held by the Forest Preserve District of Will County on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

The program called Animal Signs will include a naturalist-led field trip exploring tracks, feeding scenes and other wildlife signs. It will be free for anyone age 5 and older. Adults

must accompany each participant. Register by phone by Tuesday, Sept. 2: 815-722-9470.

There will also be a Tracks, Scat and More program from 10-11:30 a.m. at the same time, featuring a naturalist-led field trip investigating wildlife clues and patterns. Ages 11-18; free; adult must accompany participant. Register by phone by Sept. 2: 815-722-9470.

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Penguin's possible problems

Dear EarthTalk: How are the world's penguin species faring these days and what can we do to help them?

-- Brad Gordon, Methuen, MA



Penguins are some of the most recognizable and beloved birds in the world. Penguins are found across the Southern Hemisphere, with 18 different species adapted to a variety of environments, from the icy shores of Antarctica to the rocky islands of the Galapagos. Some penguin populations remain stable, but others are in steep decline, raising concerns about their future.

Understanding the challenges penguins face and the efforts being made to protect them is crucial to ensuring their survival.

One of the biggest threats to penguins is climate change. Rising temperatures are melting sea ice in Antarctica, which is essential for Emperor Penguins. Emperor Penguins are the largest of all penguin species.

A recent study warns that if current trends con-



UNDERSTANDING THE challenges penguins face and the efforts being made to protect them is crucial to ensuring their survival.

tinue, over 90% of their colonies could be lost by the end of the century. Warmer ocean temperatures also reduce the availability of krill, which is a major key food source for many penguin species.

"We're seeing entire penguin populations struggling because their food sources are shifting due to climate change," says Heather Lynch, a penguin ecologist at Stony Brook University. Galapagos Penguins are one of the rarest penguin species. They are particularly vulnerable because their survival depends on cold ocean currents, which are becoming increasingly unpredictable.

Aside from climate change, human activities such as overfishing and pollution are also putting

penguins at risk. Many species rely on fish and krill to survive, but industrial fishing operations are depleting these resources, leaving penguins with less to eat.

Pollution is another major issue. Oil spills, plastic waste, and other contaminants poison the waters where penguins live. In some regions, penguins also face threats from invasive predators like rats and cats that prey on their eggs and chicks.

Despite these challenges, conservation efforts are making a difference. Organizations like the Global Penguin Society and the World Wildlife Fund are working to establish marine protected areas, that safeguard penguin habitat.

Some breeding pro-

grams and habitat restoration projects have helped stabilize certain populations. Scientists and conservationists continue to push for stronger protections, and better policies to ameliorate climate change and overfishing.

There are also ways for individuals to help. Supporting sustainable seafood choices can reduce pressure on fish populations that penguins depend on. Reducing plastic waste helps keep oceans clean, and prevents pollution from harming marine life.

Moreover, advocating for stronger climate policies and supporting conservation organizations can

contribute to long-term solutions. While penguins face significant challenges, ongoing efforts and public awareness can help ensure these remarkable birds continue to thrive in the wild.

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Parents can register children under 5 for Dolly Parton's free book-gifting

Parents in Will County can now register to have free, high-quality, and age-appropriate books mailed directly to their children from birth until their fifth birthday.

The Imagination Library Program is supported by the Dollywood Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by Dolly Parton in 1988.

Since launching in 1995, the Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world. Recently celebrating its 30th anniversary, the program has gifted over 250 million free books in the

United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and The Republic of Ireland.

The state program matches every dollar raised locally, improving the ability of county-wide programs to raise funds and register children. With the state match, every \$16 raised locally sponsors one child to receive a full year of free books tailored to their age.

"I'm incredibly proud to announce that every child in Will County under= the age of five now has access to this free, book-gifting program," said Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant.

The announcement was made at a launch event at the C.W. Avery Family YMCA in Plainfield. The event recognized local program partners and donors including Amazon, who presented a \$30,000 check.

Due to the state match, Imagination Library is available to children in 77 counties in Illinois and more than 73,000 children in Illinois are currently receiving monthly books mailed directly to their home. The program is a key component of the state's early childhood education goals, as research has demonstrated that children participating in the Imagination Library demonstrate a 29% increase in kindergarten readiness.

Parents can learn more and register for the program by visiting WillCountyImaginationLibrary.org. Individual sponsorships can also be made online to support the program including \$16 to sponsor one year of books for one child.

"A man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time."

- Henry Ford

Learn to eat what's healthy for your heart

Morris Hospital and the Morris Hospital YMCA are offering a free heart-healthy diet program on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Morris Hospital YMCA, 2200 W. Dupont Ave., Morris. The program is open to the community and does not require YMCA membership to attend.

During the program, a registered dietitian from Morris Hospital will explain how to reduce sat-

urated fats, cholesterol, and sodium in the diet while increasing fiber. Eating a heart-healthy diet helps reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol and blood pressure.

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

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OBITUARIES

Ann Marrs

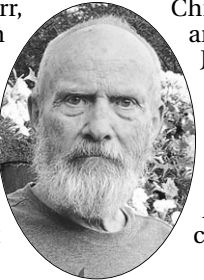
BONFIELD—Ann Marrs (nee Kupczak), 64, of Bonfield, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Aug. 17, 2025, at Forest View Rehab and Nursing Center in Itasca, IL. She was born on March 1, 1961 in Morris, to Henry and Theresa (nee Porebski) Kupczak. On Aug. 24, 1980 on her parent's farm she was married to Ronald Marrs. They shared 45 happy years together. Anne found joy in gardening, baking, and most of all animals. Some of her happiest moments were when she was able to be outside tending to her garden with a dog by her side. She was very passionate about animal rescue, bringing home many new pets to surprise her husband. More than anything she loved spending time with her husband and daughters. Anne is survived by her husband, Ronald Marrs, of Bonfield; two daughters, Rebecca (Marc) Granrath, of Villa Park, IL



and Emily Marrs (Nicolas Dumey), of Bourbonnais; three grandsons: William Dumey, Jacob Dumey and Henry Granrath; one granddaughter, Mary Granrath; one dog, Bruno Marrs. She is also survived by one brother, Jim (Michelle) Kupczak. Visitation will be held on Friday, Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, with the funeral service immediately following, officiated by Pastor Mike Strunga. Interment will immediately follow the funeral at Oakwood Cemetery in Braidwood. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is entrusted with arrangements.

John Kerr

WILMINGTON—John Earl Kerr, 83, joined his wife Marilyn Kerr in heaven on Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025, after a long hard battle with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). Surviving are three daughters: Deborah Rutherford, Dyanna (Robert) Swisher and Cindy McFadden (Robert



Childers); grandchildren: Robert and Tonya Swisher, Cherokee and Jacob Gillette, Holly and Cory Faurot and five great grandchildren. Donations may be made in John's name to Island City Baptist Church, The Salvation Army or a local charity of your choice.

Donate extra garden harvest to pantries

Families maintain and grow a number of fruits and vegetables in their own gardens in Illinois, and in many cases they produce more food than what they can consume. Instead of letting this excess food go to waste, families can consider donating their fresh food to a local food pantry. Ampleharvest.org is a non-profit organization that makes it easy for gardeners and farmers to find

local food pantries to donate their surplus of fresh produce. To learn more about Illinois food pantries, visit illinoisfoodbanks.org or contact your local food bank.

Thousands of barges face retirement cliff

BY TAMMIE SLOUP
FARMWEEK

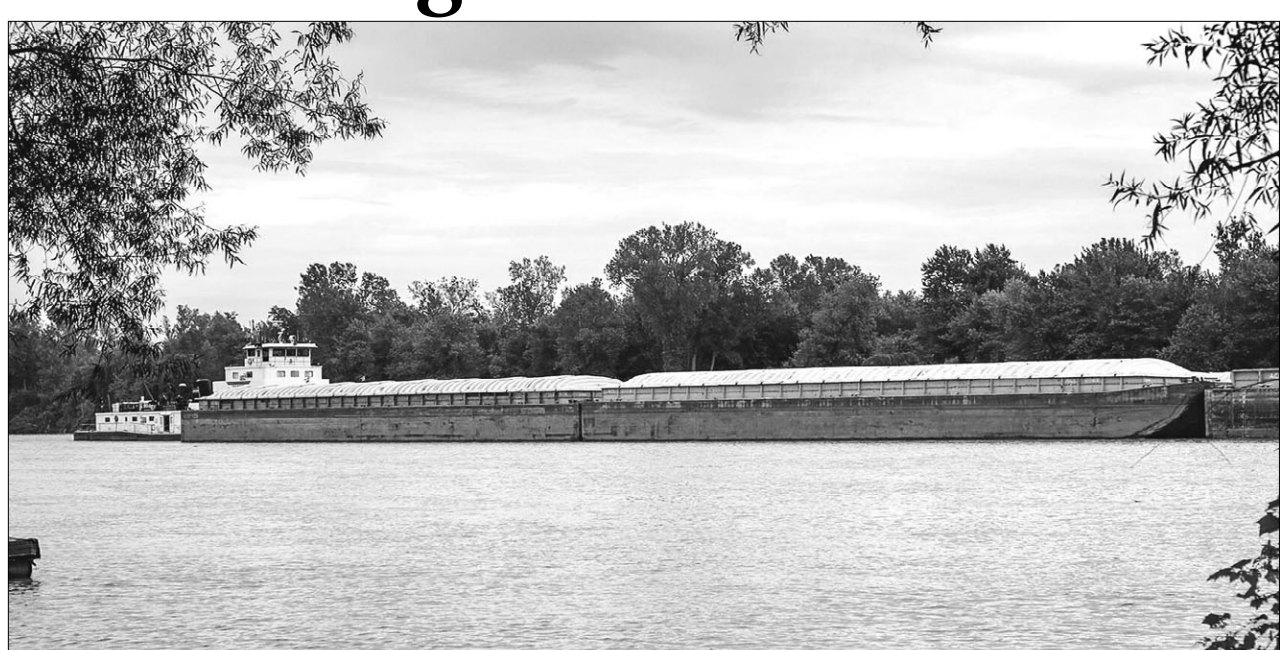
The U.S. barge market is facing a retirement cliff, which could impact ag transportation logistics, one analyst warned. Ken Eriksen, managing member and strategic adviser at Polaris Analytics & Consulting, provided an overview of the evolving landscape of agriculture and barge transport during a recent FreightWeekSTL panel session hosted by the St. Louis Regional Freightway. The analyst talked with RFD Radio Network's DeLoss Jahnke about the outlook for commodities and the barge industry. Here are four takeaways from the conversation:

Barge retirement cliff

"Where we are today with the barge market is rather fascinating, and we're facing a retirement cliff in the dry, covered barge market. They average roughly 25- to 30-some years, and there's a huge spike of barges ... within that 25-to-30-year age right now. Out of a 13,200-barge fleet, we're seeing about 2,000 barges that are coming to the end of their useful life, and there could be some tightness, and we only have a couple major builders in the United States anymore. We've got to be very diligent in how we prepare for that retirement cliff if people retire them en masse."

Infrastructure needs

The lock and dam system has not aged gracefully,



Illinois Farm Bureau photo

THE AVERAGE LIFE of a barge running the Illinois River is roughly 25-to-30 years, with a huge spike of barges within that age right now. That means about 2,000 barges are coming to the end of their useful life.

but the infrastructure has lasted well beyond its designed and engineered lifespan. "There's a lot of work to be done. And now within the Waterways Resources Development Act, there's been a lot of positive reinforcement of revenues to come in, and the industry's done well working with Congress to see this shift in the amount of fuel tax revenue that is paid for projects; the cost share is now 75% by the federal government, 25% from the industry. "Except that when you have problems elsewhere in the system, and we've seen this on the Tennessee River and a few other places

where projects that have major cost overruns, or there's a major impediment or something failed, they've got to siphon the money off and direct it someplace else. "So now you just get further behind, and you're still trying to play catchup. So being able to have full funding for projects like locks and dams is important if we want to maintain our resiliency with our infrastructure." **Future of coal river shipments** On the open barge side, coal production has dropped by more than half since 2015, from 1.2 billion tons to below 600 million tons, with a corresponding

drop in barge loadings. As a result, there isn't as much coal in the St. Louis region's river system. This could change given the new administration's support of the use of coal, creating both challenges and opportunities as it relates to multimodal options and multi-commodity services. "So if you do get a bit more of a push on or at least stable coal movements, now you're going to find a stability with the amount of towboats you need, and the same time with grain exports and grain production from one year to next, we could see massive shifts, because at the end of the day, unlike any other commodity, grain

has one chance to be planted, one chance to be treated, one chance to be harvested. And none of that's guaranteed. "If we lose some volume, like we did through 2023 and we had low water, we saw a diversion of cargo go off through other port ranges. And that's the reliability and resilience of the U.S. ag system. There are still market outlets for us, or ways to get out of the country with our grain, but the

same time, you bring back another 15 million tons of grain to the river, which is wholly possible, and if we have decent water in the Mississippi River system, we could really see some good shift back to the river, and that could put some tightness in the system that's out there. So, we could see some exciting times as we go forward here." **Hub of America** "Indiana likes to be called the 'Crossroads of America,' but maybe Illinois is the 'Hub of America.' You look at the ability to hit the three major rivers ... and the great one that is the Great Lakes, and that gives you multiple avenues. And that's part of that reliability. You get multiple outlets to the world market. Secondly, you've got a strong crush industry, strong grind industry and perhaps a growing feeding industry within Illinois that's very attractive, but you got all the modes with rail, barge, truck, container, that's very attractive. So there's a positive opportunity there. *This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*

Gas prices remain stubbornly up

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.38/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 4.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 36.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. Expect to pay anywhere from \$3.12/g at BP up to \$3.44 at Circle K in Wilmington. For Braidwood and Coal City, gas is running \$3.49/g across the board. Pilot is charging \$3.19/g and BP \$3.39/g in Morris, and at Bourbonnais you'll be paying \$3.11/g at Pilot up to \$3.19/g in Bourbonnais. "The national average is nearly unchanged from a week ago, with gasoline prices continuing to hover

in the same territory where they've spent much of 2025 so far—in the low-\$3-per-gallon range—as oil prices remain anchored in the \$60s," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "For the majority of motorists in non-cycling states, gas prices will likely remain near current levels as we head toward Labor Day. However, it's worth watching developments around a potential peace deal between Russia and Ukraine. If such an agreement materializes, it could send oil prices lower on expectations that sanctions against Russia might be eased, effectively boosting global oil supply." The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.69/g while the highest was \$4.59/g.

20 foods to boost brain health

Pondering what cooking options are best for your brain? Here's some food for thought. Tiffani Franada, DO, is a neurologist with OSF HealthCare who specializes in Multiple Sclerosis. Part of her passion is working with patients choosing brain-healthy diets and lifestyle, which prevents neurological diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis. The MIND diet is a combination of the Mediterranean diet, which is healthy fats, olive oils, fish, fruits and vegetables. And the DASH diet, which is a low-sodium diet, Dr. Franada says. "It's particularly helpful for patients who live with hypertension (high blood pressure). The two of those combined seem to be very effective at preventing the development of Alzheimer's." Patients on the Mediterranean diet often have lower levels of inflammatory markers in their spinal fluid. Higher levels are suggestive of Alzheimer's. Patients also perform better on cognitive testing, Franada adds. **Fiber-rich foods** "In regard to carbs, whole grains are probably best, and they have really good fiber in them. As well as things like legumes and beans which have good fiber levels, which make you feel full for longer," Dr. Franada said. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) lists many

high-fiber foods here. Lentils, vegetable soups, whole-wheat bread and pasta make the list. As well as fruits and vegetables like apples, apricots, broccoli and Brussels sprouts. "Blueberries are great, really berries of all kinds. They really help that antioxidant production," Dr. Franada says. "For vegetables, leafy greens are really helpful. They have a good amount of folic acid, which helps to reduce homocysteine (amino acid) in the brain. Homocysteine promotes inflammation and shrinkage in the brain, and we want to reduce that." The word fat oftentimes has a negative connotation to it. Franada says there are healthy fats out there that offer benefits to brain health. "Fats are not the enemy. Healthy fats are good for the brain. Your brain requires them, like fatty fish (salmon), which have good Omega-3s in them. If you don't eat fish, flax seed is a great alternative," Franada said. "Walnuts also have great, healthy fat in them. As well as olive oil, which has monounsaturated fatty acids which protects against inflammation in the brain. Lean meats, like chicken and turkey, can be good for brain health because there's healthy amounts of protein and fiber in them, Franada noted. "Dark chocolate is great. Dark chocolate has

good amounts of antioxidants. Of course, all things in moderation. But a dark chocolate square once a night, is not a bad thing," Dr. Franada said. "Also, caffeine! Believe it or not, a cup of caffeine, like coffee or tea, can help with focus, attention and is helpful for the brain." Sleep is extremely important for brain health. **Foods to avoid** Ultra-processed foods have been trending lately, with health experts giving them more attention than usual because of their negative effects on people's health. High sodium, added sugars and excessive amounts of bad fat headline are the reasons why we should avoid them, with these elements being linked to diabetes, obesity and cancer. Obesity is typically part of a metabolic syndrome, where a person has elevated blood sugars, blood pressure and cholesterol. This puts patients at risk for stroke, sleep apnea, Alzheimer's and many other health issues. Those risk factors can put someone at risk for neurological disease. "Heavily processed foods are not great for the brain or the heart. Excess sugars, like added sugars, should be avoided as well. If you're going to have sugar, have something with natural sugar in it," suggests Franada. "Berries are much preferred to things with added sugars. Also, white bread and processed

carbs should be avoided, too." **Effect on white brain matter** "There's some real-world data showing that the Mediterranean diet can prevent white matter changes on the brain, which are little white spots that develop on patients' brains as they get older. It's also seen in patients with vascular risk factors," Franada said. "If you follow the Mediterranean diet pretty strictly, you can prevent getting those white spots. They also found people who adhere to that diet have better structural integrity. The left and right sides of the brain talk better to one another." If you exercise five or six days a week and give yourself a 'cheat day' where you splurge, evaluate how the food feels in your body. Instead of packing on the calories and going bananas, Dr. Franada recommends reeling it in a bit and focusing on moderation. "You'll probably start to recognize it doesn't feel so great," Dr. Franada says. "Maybe it's a chocolate dessert at night, or something smaller that you can do to still stay with your healthy diet, just in smaller quantities." Dr. Franada cautions against super rigid diets that make you "fall off the wagon" after a few weeks. "You have to find something that's sustainable for you," Dr. Franada suggests.

Learn more about electric vehicles at JJC

The Joliet Junior College automotive service technology program and Office of Sustainability are working together to host EV Drive 2025 on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at JJC Main Campus on Houbolt Road in Joliet. EV Drive is a free community event to bring awareness to the availability of EVs and educate the public on how they work. There will be a variety of electric vehicles from different dealerships on display in the auto-bay or to test drive, a Pro Driver demonstration course, presentations on EVs, Sustainability/EV vendor tables, and a food truck to keep you fueled for all the

fun. The event will be held inside and outside of the Automotive Services shop (Building C), parking lots S6 and S5. Many residents still express concerns about how EVs work, the environmental impact and basic fear of running out of power while in use. This community event is offered to improve everyone's understanding of the transportation technology and educate the public on how the many varieties of EVs. Reminder, the Federal Rebate of \$7,500 ends Sept 30, 2025. Learn more now and save!

Wesley 4-H Hustlers represent So. Will County at State Fair

Members from the Wesley 4-H Hustlers club of Wilmington & Braidwood attended and competed in the 172nd Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

The club helped kick off the 2025 Illinois State Fair, in Thursday, Aug. 7, by joining with other 4-H clubs from around the state to be part of the Twilight Parade from Lincoln Park, in Springfield, to and through the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

Before the parade the club had a chance to meet the governor of Illinois, and were lined up to walk in front of the famed Budweiser Clydesdales.

On Friday, club members that had their projects selected at the Will County General Project Show, to represent Will County, at the state fair, competed against 4-H members from around the state in their respective project cate-

gories. The results from their showing at the state fair are:

- Samantha Merkel; Visual Art; Fiber – 2025 Exhibit Award
- Henry Merkel; Woodworking – 2025 Exhibit Ribbon
- Caleb Merkel; Vet Science – 2025 Reserve Champion
- Veronica Boyer; Food Science 4 – 2025 Exhibit Ribbon
- Jacob Floyd; Forestry 3 – 2025 Champion Award
- Benjamin Floyd; Small Engines 2 – 2025 Exhibit Ribbon

The state fair is always a time of reflection for 4-H'ers as the activity year ends on August 31st each year. With the 2026 4-H year starting in September, new members are always welcome, as the Wesley 4-H Hustlers continue on the tradition that 4-H in general has had of "Individual

Learning and Development; through Group Service", and follow the 4-H motto of "To Make the Best Better".

Membership is open to any youth between those ages of 5-18 years old.

Wesley 4-H Hustlers is one of the oldest continuously operating 4-H clubs within the State of Illinois; dating back to 1928. This club was formed in Wesley Township, and today is based out of Wilmington.

The primary area of focus for this youth organization is Wilmington, Wesley, Florence, Reed, and Custer Townships in Southern Will County, but is open to all individuals regardless of location of residence.

Learn more about 4-H at www.4-H.org, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/4-H.



WESLEY 4-H HUSTLERS gather prior to judging at the Orr Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Members include (from left, front) Caroline Merkel, Caleb Floyd, Charlotte Merkel and Caleb Merkel. Back row: Henry Merkel, Josiah Merkel, Samantha Merkel, Benjamin Floyd, Jacob Floyd and Veronica Boyer.



MEMBERS OF THE Wesley 4-H Hustlers march in the State Fair Twilight Parade in Springfield. From left, front to back are Caleb Merkel, Caroline Merkel, Samantha Merkel, Benjamin Floyd, Charlotte Merkel, Josiah Merkel and Logan Burmaster.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines

Classified Ads & Classified Display Ads
Fridays - 5 p.m.

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

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

Cost

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

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

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

Auction of a Lifetime - Two Residential Development Opportunities in South Florida! Don't miss this chance to bid on real estate in South Gulf Cove and North Port. South Gulf Cove: 5 canal lots, 13 building lots, and 1 newly constructed home. North Port: 18 building lots and 6 newly constructed homes. Auction Date: September 18 at 3:00 PM. For full details, visit woltz.com or call 800-551-3588. Woltz & Associates, Inc. - Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers, - Roanoke, VA. Russell Seneff (AU4521), in conjunction with Murray R. Wise (BK3295976). 5% Buyer's Premium.

BOATS

Deep V 16 foot fishing boat. 50 hp + 10 hp Kicker motor & trolling motor. Only 200 miles on newer trailer. One owner, garage kept. Ready to fish, \$5,500, 815-210-2100. ca34-36

ESTATE SALES

Coal City, 335 N. Washington Street. Wed., Aug. 20. 4pm to 7pm. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Aug. 21, 22, 23. 9am to 4pm. Antiques, decor, clothing, household goods, furniture, tools and more. ca34

FOR FREE

Free upright piano in good condition. Wilmington. 815-922-7966.

GARAGE SALES

Wilmington, 221 N. Washington St. Thursday & Friday, August 21-22, 9am to 5pm. Recliner, jewelry, lamps, grill, Disney collectibles, dog items, Indian items, cars, purses, silverware, dishes, lots of misc., too much to list. ca34

Wilmington, 920 N. Kankakee St., Thursday & Friday, August 21-22, 10am to 3pm. Full contents of home. Clothes, furniture, tools, toys, mowers, mini bike, quad, misc. No rain date. ca34

HELP WANTED

Full-time employee, responsible for doing a little bit of everything. Hard work, fair pay. Year round, 40 hours. 630-399-4982.

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

HEALTH

HEALTH/PERSONAL/MISCELLANEOUS IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727.

LOST & FOUND

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

Place your classified ad here. Call 815-476-7966.

PETS

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

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

1991 Holiday Rambler Motorhome. 33' loaded. \$8,000. 815-634-2604. ck33-34

SERVICE & REPAIRS

A Thousand Words Photography
385 N. Second Ave. Coal City
Mandy Eaton 815-791-2913

Julie's Remodeling
Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., Call Lee 815-791-5731.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Free roof inspection. Low prices. Lic #104.007296 Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ch21-46

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
- No Deposit - Starting at \$50
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

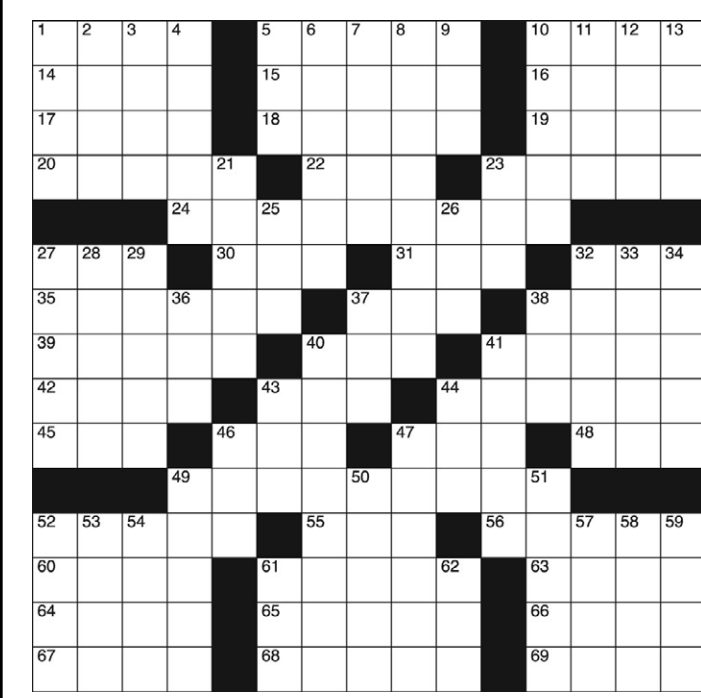
WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

Want to move your car fast? Advertise it in our Classifieds!

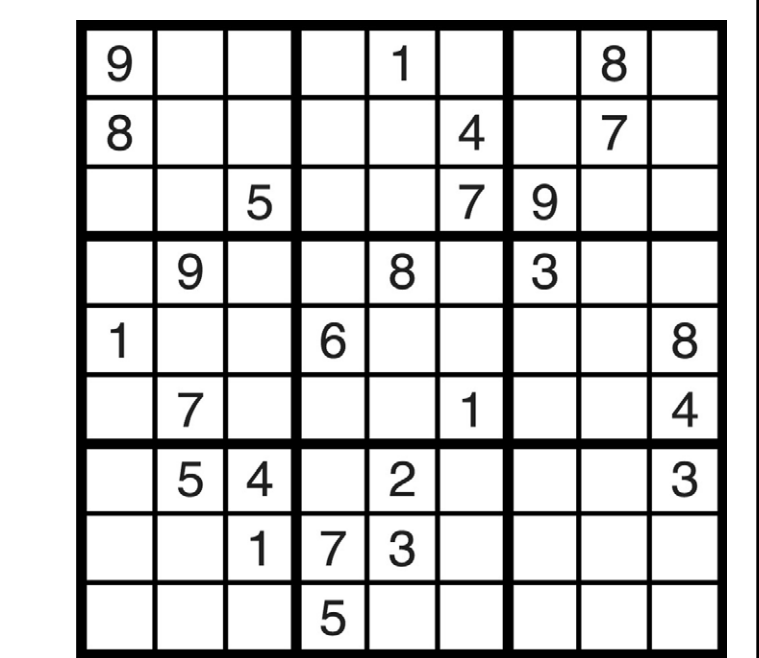


- #### CLUES ACROSS

 - Mongolian politician
 - Coconut palms
 - Rounded knob
 - Japanese city
 - Covers in soft material
 - Walk around
 - Ancient region in Syria
 - French painter
 - Grandmother
 - Cow part
 - Rocky peak
 - Secret plan
 - Sings to one's lover
 - More (Spanish)
 - Father
 - Chinese philosophical principle
 - Hat
 - In agreement
- A person's brother or sister
 - Evil spirit
 - Monetary units
 - Partner to cheese
 - About Sun
 - A place to dance
 - Performer ___ Lo Green
 - Beach accessory
 - Recipe measurement (abbr.)
 - Partly digested food
 - Pooch
 - Honorific title added to family name
 - Salts
 - Lichens genus
 - Lowest point of a ridge
 - Type of sword
 - Albanian language
 - Gold measurement

- Italian seaport
 - Longtime late night host
 - Extremely angry
 - U. of Miami mascot
 - Mid-month day
 - Omitted from printed matter
 - Upper body part
- #### CLUES DOWN

 - Two-toed sloth
 - Cooking ingredient
 - Iranian city
 - Publicly outs
 - Steep-sided hollow
 - Spoke
 - General law or rule
 - Extravagantly theatrical
 - Very fast airplane
 - Arm bones
 - Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - ___ fide: legitimate
 - Gemstone
 - Counsels
 - Top exec
 - Cool!
 - Touch lightly
 - Extract money via taxation
 - Dyes
 - Cloying sweetness
 - Soft drinks
 - Capital of Guam
 - Chemical compound
 - The bill in a restaurant
 - Car mechanics group
 - Late comedian Newhart
 - Health care for the aged
 - Wise individuals
 - A passage with access only at one end
 - Trim
 - Former OSS
 - The upper surface of the mouth
 - Edible lily bulbs
 - Type of reef
 - Vaccine developer
 - Mottled citrus fruit
 - A place to store lawn tools
 - Rare goose native to Hawaii
 - Hollywood pig
 - Musician Clapton
 - Take a chance
 - Spanish soldier
 - Mark Wahlberg comedy



U	L	A	N	C	O	C	O	S	U	M	B	O
N	A	R	A	W	R	A	P	S	L	O	O	P
A	R	A	M	M	A	N	E	T	N	A	N	A
U	D	D	E	R	T	O	R	C	A	B	A	L
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C	L	U	B	C	E	E	C	A	B	A	N	A
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U	S	N	E	A	C	O	L	S	A	B	E	R
G	H	E	G	C	A	R	A	T	B	A	R	I
L	E	N	O	I	R	A	T	E	I	B	I	S
I	D	E	S	D	E	L	E	D	N	E	C	K

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

45th

*We're celebrating with the
best prices of the year!*



The Fisher
Family is grateful
for the support
shown over the
past 45 years.

With the Advocate approaching 155 years, the Coal City Courant
124 years and the Braidwood Journal 67 years,
we've never been more serious about community journalism.

We're proud we're still connecting businesses with LOCAL readers in print and online.

Clip a coupon and save now thru August 31, 2025.

COUPON

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\$4.50**

for a second week
ad 2x4 or
smaller

COUPON

**SAVE
\$45**

on a 2x5 ad

Includes the Braidwood
Journal, Coal City Courant
and Free Press Advocate

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Runs online and in all 3
newspapers, one week

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audience for
45 days
Only
\$20**

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Month
FREE**

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freenewspapers.com

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TRIAL**

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subscription with
a mailed sub.
Get access to all three
newspapers online

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**500
FULL COLOR
Business
Cards
for only
\$45**

COUPON

**\$450
for
1/2 page ad**

in the Braidwood
Journal, Coal City
Courant and Free
Press Advocate

COUPON

**SAVE
\$4.50**
a mailed one year
**print
subscription**
(Will or Grundy
county only)

Coupons must be redeemed before your ads begin, or printing job is started. Some restrictions may apply.

HOT DEAL - Full Color Copies 28¢

Wilmington office only

111 S. Water
Wilmington, IL

**Call 815-476-7966
or 815-634-0315**

271 S. Broadway
Coal City, IL

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COURANT

WILMINGTON
THE FREE PRESS
ADVOCATE