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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

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PACE service remains unused as Will County launches transit survey

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Will County has launched an effort to see just how effective ride services for those with mobility issues are for local residents.

The office of Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant has opened a public engagement period for Access Will County, which will evaluate county-wide paratransit and dial-a-ride services and mobility options.

There are a handful of call for assistance options for folks in the county who need a ride, but not all options are available everywhere.

The Will Ride program covers an

area within 10 miles of seven Will County townships, but, those townships all sit on the county's far eastern side, making local townships including Reed, Custer, Wilmington, Wesley, and Florence just outside the availability area.

Locally, the city of Braidwood has offered its own PACE service for rides for the past four years.

Availability for the service covers trips that originate and end in Braidwood or Wilmington, and in addition to rides in town, the service can take folks to Morris, Joliet, or Bourbonnais.

The bus is a wheelchair accessible passenger van with room for seven passengers plus two wheel-

chairs.

The bus is for senior citizens, disabled residents, or caretakers of any senior citizen or disabled resident, free of charge.

However, that service looks to be coming to an end sooner than later, due to a lack of interest and lack of drivers.

"We've had absolutely nobody put in an application to drive it, we're getting no calls for it, and they actually just picked it up for yearly service so, it's doing nothing," Braidwood city administrator Tony Altieri said of the current situation with the bus. "We're getting nothing out of it, nobody is helping, nobody wants to drive it. I think we've had one, maybe two calls

on it in the last month, but they inquire about what days it is available but nobody schedules anything. So, we've had pretty much less than zero interest."

Braidwood's PACE bus was out for service in May, but came back in July, ready for riders who never came, despite an onslaught of public comments on social media from people saying they were interested in the service.

"We just don't have anybody looking for it," Altieri added. "The people who said that they didn't know about it before but they would use it still aren't calling."

Drivers go through several days of training and are then paid for driv-

ing the bus, but only if the service is utilized. That means drivers would need to have daily open availability, without the option to give them a schedule ahead of time, a job Altieri said no one wants.

"Absolutely the hardest part is trying to get somebody to drive it," Altieri said. "If I told you, you have to be available a few days a week... but you don't get paid unless you drive but you have to be available, and we only call you one day at most, who is going to keep doing that? You have a life, but you can't plan anything because you have to be available to

SEE RIDE, PAGE 2



Courtesy photo

READY FOR HOMECOMING! The members of the RCHS Student Council have planned a week's worth of activities for Homecoming Week, which kicks off on Sunday, Sept. 11. Student Council members include (from left) Tyler Wyninger, Eden Przybylski, Abby Sunday, Macey Valone, Jaina Dubbert, Danny Kuban, Maria Bragg, Ava Van Duyne, Micah Crisp, Alice Gruber, Paisley Hoffman, Alexis Wyninger, Olivia Allen. Not Pictured: Mara Hudson, Gwendolynn Stewart, Miley Morris, Mark Martinez, and Jaida Davis.

Dancing through the Decades Reed-Custer says Welcome Home

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

School has only been back in session for a few weeks. But, the time has already come to welcome back Reed-Custer alums, with Homecoming Week kicking off on Sunday, Sept. 11.

Homecoming 2022 takes the theme of "Dancing through the Decades." The theme week includes activities, sports, spirit days, and

culminates with the annual Homecoming Dance on Sept. 17.

RCHS students said Homecoming is more than just your typical fall rite of passage. As things slowly get back to normal after the pandemic, celebrating a full homecoming week has taken on new meaning.

"It's nice being back to normal because now we can do fun games that involves our friends near us like tug of

war. And I'm looking forward to more school assemblies," said Mara Hudson

"Being back to normal means that we can interact with each other more than we could before, bringing us closer together, both as classes and as a whole school," added Maria Bragg. "I'm excited to have my first 'normal' homecoming, and to have lots of fun with everyone, without having to worry about social distancing. It's going to be a

really great experience and a fun week for everyone!"

"I'm super excited to be back to normal for this school year," said Alice Gruber. "I like that I'm able to officially plan a homecoming week and not have to worry about it being canceled due to covid problems. I'm elated to be able to do games like the class pyramid and the truck push because they're a staple of

SEE HOMECOMING, PAGE 2

Reed Township to sell vacant property

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Reed Township has property for sale.

The township has announced that bids are now being accepted for vacant surplus property located along Bergera Street, an effort to get that piece of property back on the tax rolls.

Township Supervisor Sherrill Knor said the township has been holding on to the vacant parcel for decades, but with no plans for it.

"We have a vacant lot that, when we originally got the lot that our building currently sits on, that was part of the deal, you can have this but you have to take that lot," Knor said, adding that the township first acquired the parcel back in the 1980s.

"It just finally got to a point where there is a board that wanted to sell it," she said.

The lot does not have a street address, but sits on West Bergera roughly kiddie-corner

SEE SALE, PAGE 2

Go gold for kids

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, 30 days set aside to advocate for kids to increase awareness and raise funds. For Megan Bugg, every day was a day to boost awareness and funding.

Through her efforts, Megan raised \$1.7 million to support childhood cancer research and gave a much needed voice to childhood cancer advocacy.

In the words of her father, Kent Bugg, in Megan's perfect scenario childhood cancer would receive the same

amount of attention that adult cancers, like breast cancer receives every October.

Every 36 minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer in the United States.

It was in late December 2014 when Megan was diagnosed with Stage 4 Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma. Megan would go on to endure 150 weeks of chemotherapy and

SEE GOLD, PAGE 2



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Ride

drive. The you have to go through all the training just to [not work]. With all these businesses going up and hiring thousands of people, there are too many better jobs out there with benefits than driving the PACE bus in Braidwood. So, it makes it very hard for us to staff it. Almost impossible.”

The city first made an agreement for PACE services in 2018. PACE runs the municipal program with several towns in Will County, providing a van/bus and allowing the municipality to create their own transportation service to help out local residents.

When the program was first introduced, the original agreement with PACE was a monthly lease for \$100, with the city also picking up the tab for fuel and maintenance. But those costs quickly skyrocketed, and the city was paying around \$40,000 annually to keep the service up and running, for just a handful of riders.

City officials said that in the first two years of the pro-

gram, the service was being used outside of its original focus, providing rides to the store or fast food restaurants.

As the city considered scrapping the service altogether, an opportunity for assistance with funding came from Senior Services of Will County, a total of \$33,500 annually.

But, even with the funding, Altiery said the service is cost prohibitive, adding that regular routes are not cost efficient due to lack of interest, changing pick up and drop off points, and the rising cost of fuel.

“It costs us money not to use it,” he said, adding that the city still has to cover the cost of insurance and some maintenance for a van that sits idle in the City Hall parking lot. “The grant covers most of it but not all of it, so it costs the city money every month for it to just sit here and not use it.”

Altiery added that ending the service will ultimately be the decision of the Braidwood City Council, but said the lack of interest would lead him to recommend that city leaders end the program when the time comes.

“I would rather not have

it, it just sits here,” Altiery said. “I think we’re probably going to end up walking away from it. It’s not a good service or asset for the city, it’s not serving a purpose for anyone.”

The county transit survey is open to residents who utilize any dial-a-ride service, or who are interested in using a similar service in the future.

“I’m proud to be launching Access Will County to assess how the various dial-a-ride services around the county are serving residents,” said Bertino-Tarrant. “Public input is key to this process, and I invite all residents to take the survey and share their perspective.”

The survey is part of the public engagement period of the Paratransit Integration and Efficiency Study, which will evaluate existing services, identify gaps in service relative to community needs, and evaluate alternatives for coordination of services. The study is funded by a \$200,000 grant from Pace Suburban Bus and is expected to be completed by May 2023.

The existing network consists of a variety of services, including through PACE such as Braidwood’s van, Will

County Will-Ride, and several local governments and non-profit organizations. Unlike a traditional bus service, which operates on a published and fixed route, dial-a-ride provides a flexible, on-demand service that responds to rider requests for travel within a specific service area. These services are often geared towards those with mobility limitations that prevent them from accessing scheduled bus service or live outside of an area served by scheduled bus service, such as a rural area.

“Paratransit and dial-a-ride services play a critical role for many residents to get to work and medical appointments, especially for seniors and people with disabilities,” said Bertino-Tarrant. “Access Will County aims to also look at how these services can better serve that population and learn who else might benefit from expanded mobility options.”

The survey, along with more information about Access Will County, is available at www.willcountyillinois.org/access.

The survey will be open until Oct. 5, 2022.

Sale

to the Reed Township building, between two homes. The site is zoned residential, and is approximately 132 feet by 297 feet.

“It goes quite a way back,” Knor said of the property, which is in line with the other residential properties along Bergera, many of which have deep lots full of trees. Knor said this property, originally owned by the Bohac family, is no different.

By state statute, the property must be

sold via the bid process.

While the property hasn’t been staked, it has been appraised. Knor said by state law, the township can only accept bids that reach the threshold of at least 80% of the appraised value.

The money from the sale will go back into the township fund, but with no specific plans for those funds just yet.

“You don’t know how long the [bid process] is going to last, we had this in the paper, but it’s October before we open bids on it and we may have one bid, we may have 100 bids,” Knor said.

The board held a special meeting on Aug. 16 in order to allow the members of

the township to comment on the potential sale before placing it up for bid.

Bids are due to the township by 5 p.m. on Oct. 21, and will be read during the Oct. 28 meeting of the board.

“Let’s put it back on the tax rolls, and if anybody has any questions on it, they can always give the office here a call and talk to me, I’m more than willing to give all the information they need,” Knor said.

Sealed bids can be submitted to the Reed Township Clerk, 440 N. Division St. in Braidwood. The property is being sold as-is for cash sale, with closing costs to be paid by the buyer.

Gold

200 radiation treatments, numerous surgeries and hospital stays and in that time she found there was little being done to find less toxic and more effect treatments for kids. In fact just 4% of total cancer funding by the federal government is directed is directed to childhood cancer research.

“Thanks to the efforts of advocates like Megan, progress is being made towards less toxic and more effective treatments for childhood cancer...but we have to keep pushing,” Kent Bugg said.

Following Megan’s death in March, her family established the Megan’s Mission Foundation, a non-profit ded-

icated to honoring Megan’s goal of ending childhood cancer through advocacy, research and scholarship.

Megan’s efforts to fund research projects resulted in the establishment of the Megan Bugg Global Rhabdomyosarcoma Research Lab at the Children’s Cancer-Therapy Development Institute [cc-TDI].

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the Bugg Family will host a garage sale to support the work taking place at the research lab.

The Bugg garage is filled with items including donations from friends and family so there are plenty of treasures to take home from the sale.

Sports memorabilia, a scooter, household items, yard equipment, clothing and so much more will be sold and all funds received will go directly to cc-TDI. The sale runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 693 Trotter

Dr., Coal City.

The garage sale is just one of several events taking place this month that supports Megan’s mission.

The second annual 5K run/walk will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 in conjunction with the village of Coal City’s Fall Fest.

The race will get underway at 6 p.m. in the 700 block of S. Broadway in Coal City. Babe’s Tap will serve as the host location for the run that will take participants south on Broadway to Reed Road and then back north into the village.

The cost to participate is \$35 for in-person participation or \$40 for the virtual run. Registration can be completed on-line at runsignup.com/RaceIL/CoalCity/MegansMission.

“Megan always had faith in the inherent good in peo-

ple, and in her mind, if people were just made aware of the torture, pain and agony caused by childhood cancer they would surely move heaven and earth to demand a cure,” said Kent Bugg.

Later in the month, Kent and Debbie Bugg will be in Washington, D.C. to participate in CureFest, a multi-day event to raise awareness.

Kent has been invited to speak at this year’s event, something Megan did at prior year events.

“If Megan were still with us, I know that she would be fighting harder than ever for all kids past, present and future who have been or will be impacted by childhood cancer. Now it’s our turn to fight for Megan’s legacy and all of the kids she represented,” Kent Bugg said.

Godley Park District Board of Commissioners to meet Sept. 20

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING DATE & TIME CHANGE
The regular September meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Godley Park District will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, beginning at 5:00 pm.

The new time for all board meetings for the Fiscal Year beginning on the 1st day of May, 2022 and ending on the 30th day of April, 2023, will be 5:00 pm.

All meetings take place at the Godley Park District Community Center, 500 South Kankakee Street, Godley, Illinois 60407.

/s/ Karl DeMarse
Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners
Godley Park District
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church to host Oktoberfest this month

Don your lederhosen and break out your stein. The Immaculae Conception Catholic Church is hosting a night of family fun German style.

It will be held September 24, at Fr. White Hall, 110 S School Street, Braidwood. Doors and Bier Garten open at 5:00 p.m. Serving food will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Carry outs will be available.

For a free will donation there will be an

array of German food and deserts available for you to choose from. For your drinking pleasure several German style alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will stock the cash only Bier Garten.

There will be a coloring contest and board games for you and your family to enjoy. Please call Tami Favero at 815-458-6802 for additional information.

EASY TO REMEMBER
www.braidwoodjournal.com

Custer Fire Protection District Budget and Appropriations ordinance

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-08-24a
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE BUDGET AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2023

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of said CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT have prepared or caused to be prepared in tentative form, a Tentative Budget and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to the date hereof; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Tentative Budget on August 24, 2022, and as said District lies within Will County, Illinois, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto by publication in a newspaper published in Will County and having general circulation within said CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, and all other legal requirements have been complied with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, in the County of Will and State of Illinois:

SECTION 1: That the following Budget containing an estimate of revenues available and expenditures and the appropriations contained therein be and the same is hereby adopted as the Budget and Appropriations of said CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for the fiscal year ending on May 31, 2023, and the following sums of money, or as much thereof as may be authorized by law, is hereby appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, for its fiscal year ending on May 31, 2023, for the respective objects and purposes, as hereinafter set forth, namely:

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS
Cash on hand at beginning of fiscal year: corporate/ambulance/building . . . \$15,523.55
Real Estate tax levy received this fiscal year - corporate/ambulance . . . \$185,927.00
Other (Grants and/or estimated fees collected per ordinance) . . . \$70,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS . . . \$271,450.55

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES
CORPORATE
FY2023
FY2022
1. Administrative expenses
a. Printing, publication postage & office supplies . . . 1,750.00 . . . 1,750.00
b. Legal fees and publications . . . 5,500.00 . . . 5,500.00
c. Membership dues, (MABAS), IAFFD conference . . . 5,000.00 . . . 5,000.00
d. Insurance and official bonds . . . 15,000.00 . . . 15,000.00
e. Auditing and accounting expense . . . 1,000.00 . . . 1,000.00
f. Dispatching & I Am Responding . . . 7,000.00 . . . 7,000.00
g. IT, Software, and administrative expenses . . . 7,000.00 . . . 7,000.00
h. Part time personnel expenses . . . 55,000.00 . . . 55,000.00
j. Public education and fire prevention . . . 1,500.00 . . . 1,500.00
2. Fire Services and Equipment
a. Payment on contract for purchase of equipment. 48,652.00 . . . 48,652.00
b. Payment on contract for purchase of apparatus . . . Refi/consolidated with above
c. Vehicle & equipment maintenance & purchase . . . 20,000.00 . . . 20,000.00
d. Radios/pagers purchase, maintenance, Starcom . . . 4,000.00 . . . 4,000.00
e. Apparatus fuel and oil . . . 6,500.00 . . . 6,500.00

f. Training & Tuition . . . 4,000.00 . . . 4,000.00
g. Turnout gear and PPE (non-medical) . . . 25,000.00 . . . 25,000.00
3. Building and Property
a. For improvement to building/property . . . 12,500.00 . . . 12,500.00
b. For maintenance/station supplies . . . 3,500.00 . . . 3,500.00
c. Utilities . . . 12,000.00 . . . 12,000.00
4. Contingent Fund
a. For misc & Contingent general expenses not included in any of the above . . . 5,098.00 . . . 5,098.00
TOTAL CORPORATE EXPENSES . . . 240,000.00 . . . 240,000.00

The forgoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for corporate purposes.

AMBULANCE
FY2023
FY2022
Emergency Medical Services and Related Expenses . . . 50,000.00 . . . 50,000.00
(EMS Supplies, EMS Equipment, Ambulance Maintenance, Training etc...) . . . 3,500.00 . . . 3,500.00
TOTAL AMBULANCE EXPENSES . . . 50,000.00 . . . 50,000.00

The forgoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for ambulance purposes.

RE-CAP OF ESTIMATED BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2023
BUDGETED
APPROPRIATED
CORPORATE FUND . . . 240,000.00 . . . 240,000.00
AMBULANCE FUND . . . 50,000.00 . . . 50,000.00
TOTAL . . . 290,000.00 . . . 290,000.00
SECTION 2: It is estimated that no cash will be on hand at the end of said fiscal year.

SECTION 3: All unexpended balance of any item or items of any general appropriation made by this Ordinance may be expended in making up any deficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation made by this Ordinance.

SECTION 4: If any item or any portion thereof of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

PASSED in lawful session of the Board of Trustees of said CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT on August 24th, 2022.

/s/ Ronald E. Pruss, Jr.
President, CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Attest:
/s/ Robert Hussey
Secretary, CUSTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022.

Homecoming

homecoming week.”

The students added that the return to normalcy isn’t just good for Homecoming memories, but for the school year as a whole.

“Being back to normal is so exciting because it means that we might get to experience an actual year of exciting and fun High School,” said Ava VanDuyne. “So many times High School is romanticized in movies and TV shows, and this year we finally get to make it ours, the High school we’ve all dreamed about! I’m excited that we finally get to play some of the wild homecoming games upperclassman have always talked about! This year’s homecoming is definitely going to be one for the books!”

“I’m so happy that we are back to normal for a little bit back then we thought that quarantine was going to be the new normal, but we pushed through the quarantine,” said Mark Martinez. “I’m glad that I get experience the joy of high school and make memories that I will remember for years.”

“I’m very glad to have my first year of high school back to normal,” Miley Morris added. I” cannot wait for homecoming which opens up a new world for newer people. With games and chances to have a regular school year puts me in a better mood to push myself to do the most that I can to make the best life!”

This year’s events include the following:

• Sunday, Sept. 11 — Lip Sync Battle at 6 p.m. at the RCHS Auditorium (\$1 Admission, paid to the class attendees want to win)

• Monday, Sept. 12 — Pajama or Sports/College theme (anything but a backpack). Students will be counted for attendance at the Boys soccer game vs. Beecher

• Tuesday, Sept. 13 — Adam Sandler or Monochromatic Colors. Students will be counted for attendance at the volleyball game vs. Wilmington.

• Wednesday, Sept. 14 — Decades or Twin. Homecoming events include Volleyball game, Powderpuff game, Coronation, and the annual bonfire at RCHS.

• Thursday, Sept. 15 — Class Color Day.

• Friday, Sept. 16 — Black and Gold Day. The Homecoming Parade kicks off at 2 p.m., followed by the Homecoming Football game versus Manteno at 7 p.m.

• Saturday, Sept. 17 — Homecoming Dance at 7 p.m. at RCHS

For the students of RCHS, the events are set to create life long memories.

“I’m excited to be back to normal for the 2022-23 school year because we’ll finally get to experience a ‘normal’ homecoming. Our dance will be fun and we will have more opportunities and freedoms when deciding and planning our games because we don’t have to worry about social distancing rules,” said Macey Valone. “I’m hoping to have more all school assemblies, and all around a great year!”

“I’m looking forward for the new school year and homecoming dance, especially as a freshman!” said Gwendolynn Stewart. “I feel like the dances are apart of the high school culture and I can’t wait to be apart of it. I’m excited that restrictions have gone down so we can interact and have that normalcy of every day life back!”

Family fun day in Custer Park

The Custer Park Fire Department will be hosting a family fun day and safety event on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It will be held at the fire station at 21750 Route 113 in Custer Park.

Activities will include a fire hose obstacle for kids, the

Fire Safety House provided by the Fire Safety Alliance, a smoke house provided by the Elwood Fire Protection District, goodie bags for kids, dunk tank, an up-close look at a Lifestar helicopter and more.

Food will be available for purchase from the Wilmington Lions Club trailer.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Monsters and myths, the spirit snake

When I was a little girl in Homer Township, I was playing outside near the pump when a bull snake came toward me. It seemed to me his was 20 feet long. In telling the story later, my father assured me it was only about 4 feet long. Fright has a way of changing your outlook on things. This week we lighten up a little to talk about cryptozoology.



Sandy Vasko

That is the study of things that haven't actually been discovered yet, things like Big Foot and the Loch Ness monster, and a sixty-foot snake. Perhaps some of these stories may be true, or not. You be the judge.

The water seems to attract monsters of many kinds. We read on October 28, 1875 in the Joliet Sun Weekly, "A strange looking animal was seen from Wallace & Hyde's machine shop on the river on Tuesday. It was about three feet long from nose to tip of tail, with arms much longer than the body, being about three

and a half feet long. It was of a greenish color, with yellow stripes and very large, oblong eyes.

The body at the largest place was not over five or six inches in diameter; the tail seemed to resemble a fish. It having four fins, but tapered off quite sharp and seemed to be bone or some hard substance at the end."

"The head was like a large dog fish, but the strangest was the horn that was in the centre of the head, about three inches long, and tapered off to a sharp edge like a pruning knife.

It was first seen by Mr. C. Bentlem in the water in a struggle with a large muskrat, and used its arms and horn quite savagely, soon taking the muskrat under the water. It caused considerable excitement at the time, and a great many people have been watching for it since."

"It has been seen twice since at different places on the rocks, but as soon as any one

made their appearance it would disappear under the water. It was hoped it could be captured alive, but it seems impossible, and the next time it is seen it will probably be shot, as there are a good many watching for it."

And as late as 1915, "A huge fish, with a beak like a bird extending a foot from its head, which barked like a dog as it attacked a rowboat with sufficient fury to capsize it, was described here as the "monster" which fought a 20-minutes battle with Arthur A. Lennon, Joliet merchant, and Lem Northern, proprietor of the Hotel Monroe.

The fishy fight was witnessed from the bank by Harvey E. Wood, mayor of Joliet, who declares he saw the creature leap from the water half way into the boat, bite Northern on the leg, and heard it bark furiously."

Next, we turn to snake stories. As with my story, snakes frighten many people and big ones make the news. In Wilmington we read on August 3, 1883, "Snake stories being in order just now we may remark that a water snake measuring five feet and two inches was

killed near the canal basin on Thursday morning by Peter Ohlhues."

This may have been any one of a number of large water snakes, or even a bull snake. But at five feet it is still not big enough to be called a monster.

From here we step in to the realm of true monsters. But keep in mind that this information comes from a Joliet newspaper called The Weekly Press.

From my reading of the newspaper, I would say that it was the National Inquirer of its time and sensational reporting was its stock and trade.

In September of 1883 it was reported in The Weekly Press that a 25-foot specimen of snake was reported at Ottawa and was being investigated by Professor Baird Lauson of that city.

Shortly after that announcement a man named Anthony Scheidt was fishing on the Des Plaines, three miles below Joliet near Mound Joliet, when a python like snake attacked his dog, a mastiff.

A few days later this report was printed, "While munching their sandwiches near the Indian Mound, a group of pic-

nickers heard the bellowing of a cow.

A little distance away the animal was found with a snake wound around its body. The snake was twenty feet long and a foot in diameter. The picnic party fled without ceremony."

Walter Sunderland, a Wisconsin snake tamer who traveled with a circus heard the story and decided a valuable snake had no doubt escaped from some traveling show. He came down to this area with a friend and for a week hunted around the mound with no luck.

He was just about to give up, but the Weekly Press will tell the story. "He had been out all day and was sitting on a log about two hundred feet from the mound when he saw something move. The animal emerged from the mound slowly and wound along through the debris in the river bottom.

When it had fully emerged he calculated that its length was sixty feet. So, waiting until the head of the reptile came within pistol range, he fired a shot at it. Both men testify that they heard a rush as of a

mighty wind, and the serpent had disappeared."

This story resulted in Professor Lauson from Ottawa and a Col. John Hemmingway from the Michigan Ontological Institute coming to inspect the mound.

Their conclusion was astonishing. They determined that the Indian Mound had been built by a race of snake worshippers. They claimed they found a crude drawing that showed a snake and a woman in conversation.

What's more they also found a cast of a snake fifteen feet long buried in the mound. They concluded that a snake had been trapped in stone over 6,000 year previously in some fetich ceremony and had just now escaped its prison and was out to fill its belly as well as it could.

More investigation was forthcoming. Unfortunately, there was never any more mention of the spirit snake. But if a snake could live 6,000 years trapped in stone, might it not still be around 140 years after its escape? Makes you think.

Wynninger in the RCHS Senior Spotlight for September

The Reed-Custer High School Senior Spotlight winner for the month of September is Tyler Wynninger.

Tyler is the son of Dawn Kochan. During his high school career, Tyler was involved in Concert Band, Pep Band, Marching Band, Solo and Ensemble, Fall Play, Musical Pit, Speech, Soccer, Track and Field, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Student Council, National Honor Society, Academic Challenge Team, and Comet Community Leaders (CCL). He was also a Student of the Month, a participant in the ICE Leadership Conference and was on the Honor Roll.

His future plans are to attend a 4-year university to obtain a degree in Mathematics.

Here are a few thoughts from Tyler's teachers.

Mrs. Dennis says that Tyler is "mature beyond his years. He is patient and kind with others. He's intelligent, hard-working, and is hilarious. He raises up those around him with positivity and helps them be their best!"

Mrs. McGarey is thankful that Tyler "joined Scholastic Bowl as a Freshman. He was REALLY quiet back then. With everything he participates in, I don't see him much but am very grateful that he has stuck with Scholastic Bowl for 3 years now...hopefully he will add a 4th."

Mrs. Leveille had Tyler "as a freshman in our Honors Biology class. Tyler was a true leader in our class and was always ready to help others out. His positive attitude and sense of humor were always something to look forward to. He



also participated on our Academic Challenge team last year. He is just an all-around nice person!"

Mrs. Lee thinks that Tyler is "a very hard-working, intelligent young man! He is a great role model to all students!"

Mrs. Benoit believes that Tyler is "the master at being self-motivated because he loves learning and wants to get the most out of it. What a great habit-building technique for

accomplishing future goals! Tyler is happy to share his knowledge with others to bring up his classmates which creates a positive dynamic in the classroom (students helping students). He is a model student and will succeed in anything he sets his mind to!"

Mr. Gleixner appreciates that Tyler is "the type of kid you want your kids to grow up to be like. He is smart, outgoing, funny, and an all-around great kid. His charisma is a shining

example for younger Comets, and you will not find a single person who does not admire Tyler."

Mr. Newsom says "though I've only had Tyler as a student for the past 2 1/2 weeks, he is a very responsible and respectful young man, kind and considerate to other students and to staff."

Ms. Chinski acknowledges that Tyler is "helpful, talented, and hilariously funny! He is dedicated to his commitments and always gives 100%."

Miss Conley thinks that Tyler is "a kind and witty young man! Conversations with him are calm, cool, and collected, but always with humor tossed in the mix. It has been great to see him grow academically and as a person over the last few years, and I am excited to see where his path goes after high school! The world is his oyster!"

Mr. Welsh says that he has "always enjoyed my conversations with Tyler. He is someone young enough to offer me a fresh perspective and mature enough to consider multiple points of view."

Mrs. Rankin thinks that Tyler is "a fantastic student. He's intelligent, thoughtful, and has a great sense of humor. He raises the level of any class he's in."

As a final thought, Tylers's advice to younger students is, "Do not be afraid of being afraid. It builds character."

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, congratulations Tyler Wynninger as the September winner of the Senior Spotlight.

Reed Township taking bids for West Bergera Road property

PUBLIC NOTICE

REEDTOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF SALE OF TOWNSHIP REAL PROPERTY

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

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

The property is currently zoned for Residential use and is vacant. The approximate size of the property is 132 X 297.33 or approximately 39,394 Sq.Ft. Interested parties must submit sealed bids in the office of the Township Clerk, 440 North Division Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408 on or before 5:00 p.m. Friday, October 21, 2022. Bids will be read at the October 28, 2022 meeting of the Township Board. The Township Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The sale shall be a cash sale. The property is being sold as is. Closing costs to be paid by the buyer.

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

Legal Description of the Property

LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL COS SUB, IN THE E1/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E.

RESOLUTION NO. 08162022

A RESOLUTION OF THE REED TOWNSHIP ELECTORS AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN TOWNSHIP REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL CO'S SUB, IN THE E1/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADOPTED by a vote of 17 to 0 by the electors of Reed Township on August 16, 2022.

APPROVED this 16th day of August, 2022.

REED TOWNSHIP
Sherrill Knor
Township Supervisor

ATTEST: Angela Hutton
Township Clerk

Exhibit A
Legal Description of the Property
LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL CO'S SUB, IN THE E1/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Aug. 31, Sept. 7 & 14, 2022.

Oktoberfest

Immaculate Conception's Oktoberfest Coloring Contest

Kids - submit your artwork at the Immaculate Conception Oktoberfest for judging!

Write your name, age and phone number on the back and bring to Oktoberfest.

Saturday September 24, 2022 5 - 8 PM at Fr. White Hall (110 S. School St., Braidwood)

German food, drink, kids' games and more!

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SOUND-OFF

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Debt for votes

President Biden signed an executive order last week to forgive \$10,000 in federal loan debt for each borrower earning under \$125,000 a year. Students with low income backgrounds who received Pell Grants can get \$20,000. Cost to taxpayers: \$400 billion plus-just an estimate. 45 million people in the U.S. owe \$1.6 trillion in student debt more than what is owed on credit cards or car loans. Half of the 45 million will have their student debt evaporate completely. The vast amount will go to those making under \$75,000 a year. President Biden has let college educated elites and professional students (who never work) off the hook and pushed the cost onto you, me and every one who pays taxes. A slap in the face to those who wished to go to college and couldn't afford it, plus those who scrimped to pay back what they owed. It's all politics folks. The Democratic party needs votes for the November election. The young voters want their abortions and students loan forgiveness. Bingo! Just keep spending our tax monies Joe.

In their memory

WILMINGTON—I would like to thank Eric Fisher and Marney Simon for the beautiful article that was in the paper a couple of weeks ago regarding the donation of the farm that belonged to Roger's family to the historical society. It was very kind of you to reach out to me and offer to do an article. I wanted to keep it private but you felt that the town should know what a beautiful gift Roger and I gave to the community so I agreed to be interviewed. I received many compliments on the article and it made me feel good that Rogers memory was honored in such a positive way. On Sept. 12th he will be gone two years, so please keep Roger in your prayers on that day. And once again thank you to the newspaper. I am always very happy that I can give donations to the town and the many organizations to honor Roger's memory and also my daughter Linda. Obviously I wish that they were here with me but they are in a better place free from their illnesses that took their lives. And I'm glad that I can help out the community by giving donations in their memory. Thank you again, Sherri Michaels.

Protect our rights

DIAMOND—"Remember," America's battle for independence and fight for self-governance was something that had never been done before... We must fight to protect these foundational rights from government interference and indifference. (2020) Sharon, from Governor Kristi Noem of South Dakota.

\$500,000 fence

SHADOW LAKES—A half million dollar fence. The price tag for a taxpayer funded project to build a barrier around President Joe Biden's Delaware beach house. It has grown to almost a half million dollars according to federal spending records. So let's see we can't do the border wall, Pelosi has a wall around her home in California but us average people according to codes and regulations can't have, sometimes even a fence around our home to the heights that we would like it nor do they want us to own firearms. I guess it's something like do as I say not as I do. I hope you people love Democrats, Dan Hill.

Hillary cooperated

WILMINGTON— Last week a caller listed examples of she perceived in differences in the FBI's investigations of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. But she ignored the most glaring example and that is Hillary cooperated with authorities and Trump never has.

Doing time

RITCHIE—While former Department of Defense employee, Asia Lavarello, stares at the four walls of her prison cell, former President Trump spends his time out on the golf course thumbing his nose at the American people. Earlier this year, Lavarello was sentenced to 3 months in prison and fined \$5,500 for mishandling documents which she had access to while she was temporarily assigned to the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines. She made the mistake of taking several classified documents to her hotel room which was reported by her co-worker and Lavarello learned the hard way that if you do the crime, you do the time. Yes, Mr. Trump, that means you too.

Double standards

COAL CITY— It continues to amaze me how hypocritical liberal Democrats are. If they

didn't have double standards they wouldn't have any standards. For years Democrats have had no problem letting millions of illegal aliens cross our southern border. But the minute a bus or train load of illegals shows up in New York, Washington, or Chicago, they go ballistic. It's fine as long as they stay in Florida, Texas, Arizona, but the minute they show up in a Democrat-run city, it's inhumane, it's racist. What's good for the goose is good for the gander. Lastly, we get to watch brain-dead Biden tonight tell us that anyone that doesn't agree with crazy liberal Democrats, that you're MAGA, you're a racist, a fascist, domestic terrorist. Bull****. I'm a proud American citizen that wants America to be great again.

Down the tubes

MORRIS—So the Chicago mayor wants all these immigrants in Chicago that were bused here the other day. She should take them home to live in her house. Governor Pritzker should too. These are not immigrants they are illegal immigrants. We can't even take care of the residents in Illinois without raising taxes like crazy. Now we want to have more people in this country. Why don't Pritzker, Lightfoot and all these other Democrats have the guts to tell the president to close the border and stop all these illegal immigrants. This country is going down the tubes.

Thank you Frank

BRAIDWOOD—This is Albin Rizleris of Braidwood. I would like to give a shout out to the landscaper at the post office in Braidwood. The man is doing a terrific job. I don't know his name. Over the years it's like going into botanic gardens. Just wanted to let him know I appreciate it and I'm sure there are others here in town that appreciate it. Thank you.

For obvious reasons

DIAMOND—In today's government a former president's home was raided, not by hoodlums but by the FBI themselves of the new administration. Not for clearing up potential wrong doings and irregularities but for the singular purpose of preventing President Trump from being elected again. Ignoring for obvious reasons that we have elections for that very purpose during election campaigns arguments used to be tough but respectful. In the last presidential election campaign just days before the election Obama on nationwide TV accused Trump of actually "killing 70,000 Americans." He did not say that Trump did not do enough to prevent Covid-19 or did not take necessary steps to develop a proper vaccine, etc. But that he was outright "killing" Americans. It would be difficult for many to ignore statements like that from a respected former president if they were undecided and had to make a choice it could of very well decided the outcome of the very close election that year. Also Biden right after his inauguration in a speech during a visit to Pfizer in Michigan expressed "my predecessor bless his soul, failed to protect our nation against the Covid while I will be able to vaccinate 100,000 Americans in my first 100 days in office"! We all know Trump developed the Covid vaccine in less than a year, a process that now takes five years. All this in stark contrast to politics as we were traditionally used to in America and it all indicates a new and very dangerous trend in the future of our country if it continues. Sharon

Unequal treatment

SHADOW LAKES—Papers across the country are proclaiming the FBI raid on Donald Trump's house is an example of the Rule of Law. However the Rule of Law requires equal treatment and there are many differences between how the FBI handled Hillary Clinton and Trumps investigations. First, the FBI didn't raid Clinton's house even though she kept classified information on her private server including top secret files. Second, Trump wasn't given the same privilege Clinton had of deleting 33,000 files. Of course there were no charges brought for destroying evidence or obstruction of justice. Third, it wasn't noticed that a Secretary of State does not have the same broad authority to declassify files that a president has. Fourth, it's highly unlikely that Trump would get the same treatment Clinton got when the FBI declared her violations to be non prosecutable when the roll of the FBI is to gather evidence and not to make legal conclusions. Fifth, what is even more unlikely that a member of the Trump family will have a secret meeting with the Attorney General on a plane at some airport while the investigation is going on, so obviously there is a double standard here. Dan Hill

Unfit for office

ELWOOD—I am calling to voice my opinion on the article in Sound-off titled "Terrified of Trump." Well people should be terrified of Trump even though his policies were good and good for the country. Trump is not mentally sound to hold office again and he proved that himself.

Migrant issue

SHADOW LAKES—Attorney General Garland was on the news and stated that the Rule of Law is important to protect the rights of American citizens. He also said that the laws of the U.S.A. are applied evenly and everyone gets due process and Garland also stated that he has concern for the safety and security of the American citizens. He did not say anything about the crime in the country or have the least concern about the southern border or how people in the U.S.A. illegally are receiving more benefits in the U.S.A. than the American citizens. Like being housed in a swank hotel room that cost the taxpayers \$400 to \$700 a night for each migrant. The Democrats must have received their education at the school of liars.



And Democrat leaders throughout the U.S.A. must have flunked kindergarten since logic and common sense escapes their brains.

Less hope

WILMINGTON—The Biden administration has gotten a lot of publicity in the Inflation Reduction Act that will let Medicare negotiate lower drug prices. Medicare is the largest single purchaser of prescription drugs in the country and prescriptions are the program's fastest growing expense. The negotiations will cover just 10 drugs in 2026 rising gradually to 40 in 2029 and will not include drugs that have been marketed for less than nine years. Rules don't apply to new drugs being introduce at astounding prices. More lies-less hope.

Skyrocketing utilities

WILMINGTON—The skyrocketing price of energy is about to upend the lives of millions who will lose their utility service. Twenty million Americans, representing 1 in 6 American homes, are now behind on the their utility bills. It's the worst crisis energy assistance groups have ever seen. A blistering surge in electricity and natural gas, gyrations of gasoline prices at the pump. No plan is in place to keep heat and lights on for those in trouble. Thanks Joe.

Worse for the poor

MORRIS—California Democrat Governor Newsom announced on television no new gas-powered cars will be sold in California in 2035. That's 13 short years away. There is an old saying "The world tilted and all the nuts ended up in California." Then we have Illinois Governor Pritzker who last year signed Climate and Equitable Job Act into law which aims to put one million electric vehicles on state roads by 2030 and take carbon emitting energy generators off-line in Illinois by 2045. The law seeks to a accomplish that by massive rate payer subsidies for renewable nuclear energy and forced closure of fossil fuel plants. Have no idea what those two Democrat governors are smoking? Is this the good old U.S.A. or Cuba? Also, Ford will lay off 3,000 workers as it seeks to become leaner while transition to electric vehicles. The cuts will also affect salaried workers including engineers with experience working on gasoline powered cars. Ford's timing is terrible with 40-year inflation and it's only going to get worse for the poor and middle class. Next all other corporations will follow Ford's lead.

Just 18 months

In just 18 months with 100% Democrats in power: Highest gas prices in history, the highest inflation in 40 years., recession, tax hikes, adding 87,000 IRS agents, more murders, carjackings, all crime rampant, stores closing. Open border with millions pouring in. Gas and electric bills on track to double this winter. Democrat voters say, "Oh yes, give us some more of all of this."

Happy people

SHADOW LAKES—If ignorance is bliss we have some very happy people on sound-off. Eddie.

Rewarding ignorance

WILMINGTON—Just saying, maybe if you ignore it, Dan Hill specifically, he'll go away. Sound-off seems to be where he lives and gets the most attention. Since when do we reward ignorance and bad behavior? Oh wait...I know, it started in 2016.

Will not bow

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas) said many Republicans were "very offended" by President Biden's primetime speech that called out ex-president Trump and MAGA Republicans. Is McCaul deaf? What Trump has said to members of both parties and others during the last six years in his spewing offensive words to anyone who doesn't bow to him? Sorry, Rep. McCaul. It works both ways.

The company you keep

WILMINGTON—It's true that the closer you get to Trump the more you lose your soul and the farther away you are from Trump the more you gain it back. Such is the case with Bill Barr, former President Trump's loyal attorney general, who went to bat for Trump in a big way until Barr resigned almost two years ago because he refused to support the big lie that the election was stolen. Recently Barr appeared in the media criticizing Trump for taking the documents and not returning them. It goes to show that Barr's absence from Trump has knocked some sense into Barr because we all know that one's character depends on the company one keeps. Ralph D.

Agree to disagree

WILMINGTON—A moment of distinction occurred during President Biden's speech on Sept. 1 when Biden acknowledged the heckler's right to free speech. Trump, on the other hand, always berated his hecklers throughout his campaigns and told the audience to beat them up and carry them out on stretchers. That's the

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contrast of democracy with autocracy, fascism and authoritarianism. In a democracy we can disagree and we are encouraged to do so for the sake of debate. But in the end the majority prevails with a winner and a loser at the outcome of elections. Furthermore, democracies are governed by the rule of law, not by the rule of one man. Jude

MAGA snowflakes

BRAIDWOOD—News reports indicate that President Biden's speech offended the tender feelings of MAGA Republicans. Who knew they would be so sensitive to mere words? Despite bashing police officers' heads open and spearing them with flag poles, it seems that the MAGA guys and gals are too delicate to handle the truth. MAGA Republicans definitely didn't object to the vulgarity forced upon the nation through social media for four years by former President Trump as he lashed out viciously whenever it suited him. And recently we learned that the documents Trump stole could result in the deaths of our human intelligence sources, but MAGA Republicans don't give a hoot about those who protect our national security.

Flat earthers

BRAIDWOOD—Heat waves hit earth's every corner with no exceptions including Siberia and Alaska and now it's China's turn to be the global hot spot. The 'flat earthers' claim nothing can be done and thus it seems we are doomed. But China doesn't see it that way considering they are way ahead of us on renewable energy and electric vehicles. History teaches us about the geniuses who were ignored, ridiculed and persecuted in past centuries, only to have civilization advance in the end by brave souls who proceeded with knowledge and learning. We know we must be competitive with the rest of the world, especially China, so let's take heed, let's ignore the 'flat earthers' and let's listen to the scientists. Madison W.

Let them fight

SHADOW LAKES—I'm listening to Biden's speech and he would like to take Trump out behind a gym and beat the heck out of him. I think that would be a good way to settle political differences because I think Trump would beat the heck out of Biden. Biden is mentally ill. And people out here are communists who voted for Biden and the Democrats are trying to trying to bring in communism. Dan Hill

Not paying attention

WILMINGTON—I am a member for over 30 years of the historical society. I was very upset with the comments that a member made in regards to the museum taking ownership of the farm. Obviously this person was not paying attention at the meeting. It was explained that the lawyer told Ms. Michaels not to tell the museum she was giving them the farm. It had to go through probate and open up an estate account and then when it was done the museum could take possession of the farm. The lawyer told Ms. Michaels to let the museum members know this. Everyone knew it and everyone had a chance to speak their mind. I feel very bad for what happened to Ms. Michaels. As a member of the historical society for over 30 years and a member of the community I thank you for this very gracious donation. The person who wrote this article has serious issues. They want to take all this money in. I know for a fact this member was upset because the museum will have to pay the state of Iowa a few thousand dollars each year for income tax and this person fought that tooth and nail. This person fought everything that was happening in regards to the farm being transferred to the museum and they should be ashamed of themselves.

He had no right

WILMINGTON—Classified or not, Trump had no right to take any of the documents covered by the presidential records and what were his intentions regarding these items? He lied to the national archives and repeatedly said he gave everything back. Well, the search proved that wrong. Just having the files was a crime. As usual Trump felt the laws don't apply to him. When he questioned the photo of evidence he said he didn't leave the documents on the floor, he kept them in a desk. He admitted he had the top secret documents he previously said he didn't have. Lock him up. Penny Lane

Childish politics

WILMINGTON—Did anyone else notice that Trump's speech responding to President Biden's speech was pretty much "I know you are, but what am I?"

Help them read

WILMINGTON—I saw that nine-year-olds' math and reading skills went down during Covid, so here is some free advice for parents: Instead of terrorizing school boards over CRT or banning and burning books, stay home and make sure Johnny or Jane can read.

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Will County woman flees police, ends up in county jail

A Romeoville woman with an extensive arrest record was taken into custody after crashing the vehicle she was driving in a field.

The incident began when Morris Police attempted to stop a vehicle for a stolen license plate in the early morning hours of Monday, Sept. 5.

According to Grundy County Sheriff Ken Briley, the driver, 24-year-old Skye R. Interrante, fled from city police at speeds over 100 mph. The vehicle was south-bound on Route 47 when it was spotted by deputies who attempted to stop it.

Deputies pursued the vehicle through Mazon and Gardner before it crashed in a field off of Route 129.

The Coal City Fire Protection District was called to assist at the accident scene.

Interrante was arrested at 3:33 a.m., Monday for possession of a controlled substance, possession of hypodermic needles, aggravated fleeing and eluding and possession of a stolen license plate.

The sheriff's office reports Interrante has had 10 arrests in the last six years including charges of possession of meth, possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of a firearm/handgun and unlawful possession of a black jack on July 28 in Downers Grove.

Also a May 23 arrest in the village of Park Ridge for possession of 15 or more grams of heroin, uninsured motor vehicle/bodily injury, possession of drug paraphernalia, use of false identification and no drivers license.

She was arrested for criminal trespass

to residence in Berwyn on Feb. 28

In June 2021 she was arrested in St. Charles for forgery, forgery possession with intent, theft/control/firearm.

A month earlier she was arrested in Chicago for possession of more than 15 grams of cocaine.

In 2020, Interrante was arrested in Lockport on Nov. 5 for domestic battery/bodily injury and one day later in Melrose Park she was charged with domestic battery/bodily harm. And that same charge was filed against her on May 25, 2020 in Melrose Park and in Bolingbrook on September 11, 2016.

Interrante was booked into the Grundy County Jail pending a court appearance.

Veteran's to gather in Coal City this weekend

It's become tradition for veterans from across the state of Illinois to gather in Coal City each September, and this year's gathering to recognize their military service is just days away.

Operation Firm Handshake will host its 9th annual Illinois Veteran's Picnic at the Coal City Area Club, 1500 N. Broadway, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10.

The free event will take place in the club pavilion. Admission is free for all veterans and active duty military personnel and their families.

The event is organized by Grundy County area veterans whose mission is to help their fellow veterans.

It was a conversation among two friends—Max Valdez and Joe Guereca—who were enjoying a beverage

together at the Area Club when the idea of a veteran's picnic was first mentioned. The two followed through with the idea, brought a few others on board and the picnic grew into a highly popular event attracting hundreds to the recreation club each fall.

Along with a pig roast, the day serves as an opportunity for veterans to meet and greet and have their service to the

nation recognized. Additionally, the event includes displays, presentations, door prizes, a bean bag tournament, kids activities and entertainment.

Questions about the annual picnic can be directed to Max Valdez at 815-791-7978, Clint Mellen at 630-936-9250 or by e-mail to OperationFirmHandshake@gmail.com.

Prairie Day offers free family fun

The 24th Annual Prairie Day offers free family fun. Activities will be located in Prairie Grove Picnic area at Goose Lake Prairie state Natural Area on Pine Bluff Road Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Constellation - Dresden Station, events include Dave DiNaso's Traveling Reptiles, Storm Chasers, Natural Naturalist, Falcon Show & Tell, as well as Lou Aiello's American Indian Traveling Museum, and more.

There will be wagon rides and prairie walks available to get close to nature and the new Cragg Cabin will be open. Visit the food tent, gift shop and meet the Goose Lake Prairie Partners.

Grundy County Mental Health Court receives grant

The Grundy County Mental Health Court has recently received a grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority in the amount of \$148,000. This grant is intended to fund the continued operations of the Grundy County Mental Health Court.

Additionally the Illinois Supreme Court has recently recertified the Grundy County Mental Health Court Program for a period of three years. In approving the recertification, the Illinois Supreme Court has reviewed and determined the Grundy policies and procedures and alternative court handbook to be in compliance with the Illinois Supreme Court Rules and best practices. Grundy County Judge, Scott Belt, was recently assigned to preside over the Grundy County Mental Health Court program. The program was established to allow those charged with non-violent criminal offenses to seek assistance to address their mental health issues.

The Grundy County Mental Health Court was established in 2014, and it has successfully graduated many individuals who have completed the program. The criteria to complete the program has allowed the Court system to work to restore each person, on an individual basis, to a productive and meaningful

life.

Once a participant successfully completes the alternative Court program, the criminal changes that brought them into the program are dismissed. If they fail to comply with the rigorous terms of the program, they are typically sentenced to a Department of Corrections sentence to which they have previously plead guilty to.

Grundy County Judge, Scott Belt, recently commented that "I am honored to be appointed as the presiding judge over the Grundy County Mental Health Court program." "It is refreshing to see that the Court system offers an opportunity to actually treat the underlying problem, rather than simply locking people up based upon their untreated illness," said Judge Belt.

Restoring dignity and confidence in the individual mental health participants is a key component to restoring them to graduation and continued success. Mental Court participants are in the program for an average of 2.5 years, and there are significant obligations required of them to successfully graduate.

"By all accounts, the Mental Health Court has been a great asset," said judge Belt. "I look forward to its continued success."

In need of meals or food?

There are many resources in the area for those who need assistance with food and meals.

Coal City Food Pantry at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., south entrance is open Mondays 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m., except for holidays and during inclement weather. For information call 815-216-3288.

Help for Hope, 100 S. Baima St., Coal City is open Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 4 to 6 p.m. For more information call 815-518-2000.

Braidwood Food Pantry, 112 S. Center Street, Braidwood at Community Care Center is open Tuesdays 8-11:45 a.m. Additional information by calling 815-955-0146

Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry, 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood hosts a food pantry every Friday from 3-4 p.m. Additional details on its Facebook page.

In the Wilmington area there is Kuzma Care Cottage food pantry 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, which is open Monday -Friday 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Call 815-476-2030 or visit kuzmacarecottage.org

We Care of Grundy County Food Pantry, 530 Bedford Rd., Morris food distribution is twice each month. Call 815-942-6389 for information.

St. Vincent Table hot meals are served on Monday evenings from 4:30-6 p.m. Locations rotate.

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., is hosting the dinners this month and in October the weekly meals will move to Immaculate Conception Church, 110 S. School St., Braidwood.

First Baptist Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Route 113 will host the dinners in November.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Coal City will serve the dinners in the month of December.

Apply now for assistance in paying heating bill

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Low-income families in Illinois can now apply for state assistance on their natural gas, propane and electricity bills.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, has \$300 million available. Families can apply by visiting helpillinoisfamilies.com or by calling 1-833-711-0374. Information on other state assistance programs can be found on that website as well.

LIHEAP provides one-time payments directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients.

Families who earn up to two times the federal poverty level are eligible for LIHEAP. That works out to a 30-day

gross income below \$2,265 for a one-person household, \$3,052 for a 2-person home, \$3,838 for a three-person home, \$4,625 for four people, \$5,412 for five people and \$6,198 for six people.

The level of assistance received is needs-based, and last year's LIHEAP recipients received an average of \$1,330 per household, according to the governor's office.

Grundy County residents seeking assistance can call Kendall-Grundy Community Action at 815-941-3262 and Will County residents can obtain information through the Will County Center for Community Concerns at wccccc.net or by calling 815-722-3262.

Morris Hospital's Rhythm of Our Youth returns high schools

Morris Hospital will be offering its free Rhythm of Our Youth cardiac screening at several area high schools this fall, including Coal City High School on Oct. 27. The goal is to identify high school students who may be at risk for sudden cardiac death by screening those who may have undiagnosed cardiac abnormalities.

Rhythm of Our Youth first launched in 2016 as a result of funding provided by generous donors to the Morris Hospital Foundation. Since then, over 8,000 area high school students have been screened through the program.

On the screening day, a team of specially trained volunteers from Morris Hospital perform electrocardiogram (ECG) screenings free of charge to students who have received parental permission to participate. An electrocardiogram is a non-invasive, painless test that measures the electrical activity of the heart and detects certain heart abnormalities that can lead to sudden cardiac death.

Screenings are typically held during PE class or study hall, depending on student schedules. The test takes about three minutes

to complete.

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

Parents who wish to have their child screened should complete an electronic consent form prior to the screening day by going to www.morrishospital.org/rhythmofouryouth.

Reed-Custer and Wilmington high schools are on the rotation for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

For more information or to volunteer at a Rhythm of Our Youth screening event, go to www.morrishospital.org/rhythmofouryouth.

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Rebates for electric vehicle purchases

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—A state rebate program for the purchase of an electric vehicle remains open through Sept. 30, and the state announced this week a new rebate application window will open on Nov. 1.

The current round of funding opened on July 1, offering a \$4,000 rebate for individuals purchasing an all-electric vehicle and a \$1,500 rebate for an all-electric motorcycle. Applications for the first round of funding must be postmarked by Sept. 30 and submitted within 90 days of the vehicle's purchase.

The next round will open on Nov. 1 and run through January 2023.

The rebates don't apply to hybrids or vehicles not licensed for Illinois roads. It also doesn't apply to rented or leased vehicles.

The purchaser must reside in Illinois on the date of the vehicle purchase and it must be purchased at a state-licensed dealer. Documentation requirements include a copy of purchase invoice, proof of purchase, vehicle registration, and IRS W-9 or W-8 forms. The purchaser must also own the vehicle for 12 months.

As of July 1, the fund paying out the rebates had a balance of \$17.9 million, and rebates were subject to funding availability.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which administers the rebates, gives priority to low-income applicants whose income doesn't exceed 80 percent of the state median income and expedites grants to those individuals. Thus far, as of Aug. 25, according to IEPA, the state has received 72 low-income applications and approved 22 of them. It had received 898 that didn't meet the low-income threshold.

IDNR plans Chronic Wasting Disease meeting in Wilmington

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host public meetings throughout northern Illinois to provide updated information about Chronic Wasting Disease, its effect on future deer populations and IDNR's efforts to control the disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in deer living in Grundy, Kankakee, Will and 16 other Illinois counties.

IDNR staff will be available to answer questions about the disease, commonly

referred to as CWD. Landowners, hunters and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend.

Among five meeting locations will be one in Wilmington at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at the Des Plaines Conservation Area, 30550 S. Boathouse Road. A 45-minute presentation will be given with discussion to follow.

CWD is an always fatal neurological disease that threatens the long-term health of white-tailed deer in Illinois. First documented in Illinois in 2002 near Roscoe, CWD has been detected in 19 counties across the northern edge and northeastern portions of Illinois, as far south as Kankakee and Livingston counties.

Braceville church to hold rummage sale

The Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 West Gould Street in Braceville, will be having a rummage sale on Friday, Sept. 30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church.

Also held those days will be a jewelry sale and a silent auction. For any additional information, please call the church at (815) 237-8512.

Class of '67 plans reunion for Sept. 24-25

The WHS class of 1967 is having its 55th class reunion at the VFW in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 5 p.m. to 11.

There will also be a get-together on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the South Island pavilion from 1 to 4 p.m. There is no cost for either event. Please join your classmates at these events.

Morris Hospital hosting pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinics

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers will be offering two pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinics in September for children ages 6 months through 5 years who are in need of first and second doses. Due to limited supplies, appointments are recommended by calling the Morris Hospital location hosting the vaccine clinic. A pediatric COVID-19 vaccine clinic will be held:

- Thursday, Sept. 8, from 9 a.m.-noon at the Morris Hospital Ridge Road Campus, Suite 201, 27240 W. Saxony Dr., Channahon. Phone 815-467-1518.

Children ages 6 months through 5 years will receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

using smaller needles that are designed specifically for children. A second dose of the Moderna vaccine is needed one month after the first shot.

Children receiving the vaccine must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. While there is no out-of-pocket cost, please bring your insurance card.

Parents should allow time for a 15 to 30 minute observation period following administration of the vaccine.

COVID-19 cases in children can result in hospitalizations, deaths, MIS-C (inflammatory syndromes) and long-term complications, such as "long COVID" in which symptoms can linger for months.

Vaccination, along with

other preventative measures, can protect children from COVID-19 using the safe and effective vaccines already recommended for use in adolescent and adults in the United States.

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines may also be available through area retail pharmacies. Please check retail pharmacy websites for availability by location and appointment scheduling. Morris Hospital is not administering COVID vaccines during physician appointments.

Parents who have questions about the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine are encouraged to talk with their child's physician.

Gas price varies per town

Gas prices in Braidwood dropped at an accelerated rate last week, hitting a low of \$3.63/g following the Labor Day holiday. That's a 20-cent drop from a week earlier, according to GasBuddy.com

That's still not the cheapest price in the region as the price on Tuesday at Bourbonnais stations was \$3.54/g.

The highest priced station on Tuesday was in Wilmington at \$4.15/g, down from \$4.19 the week ago.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 4.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.10/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 32.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 81.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Average prices at area towns include \$3.99 in Coal City, \$3.96 in Morris and \$3.79 in Joliet.

"The national average has declined for 12 straight weeks, the longest tally since 2018, and

it could soon eclipse that mark if we see two more weeks of decline. Though, that may be more challenging given OPEC's decision yesterday to cut oil production," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.36/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$5.87/g, a difference of \$2.51/g.

"For now, price movements will be contingent on where you are, with California seeing some minor increases, while the Great Lakes could see an upward move as BP's refinery outage has had an impact on supplies. In the Gulf and Rockies, prices may continue to fall, so a very mixed bag for motorists in the week ahead," DeHaan said.

"In addition, there are several disturbances in the Atlantic to keep an eye on, but we do switch back to cheaper winter gasoline in just over a week which should provide some additional relief."

Dixieland Band to play Sept. 13 at Elwood Garden

The Elwood Children's Garden will host Dixieland Band on Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 7-8 p.m. as part of its free music in the garden summer programs.

In case of inclement weather the show will be moved to the Elwood Church at 101 N. Chicago St.

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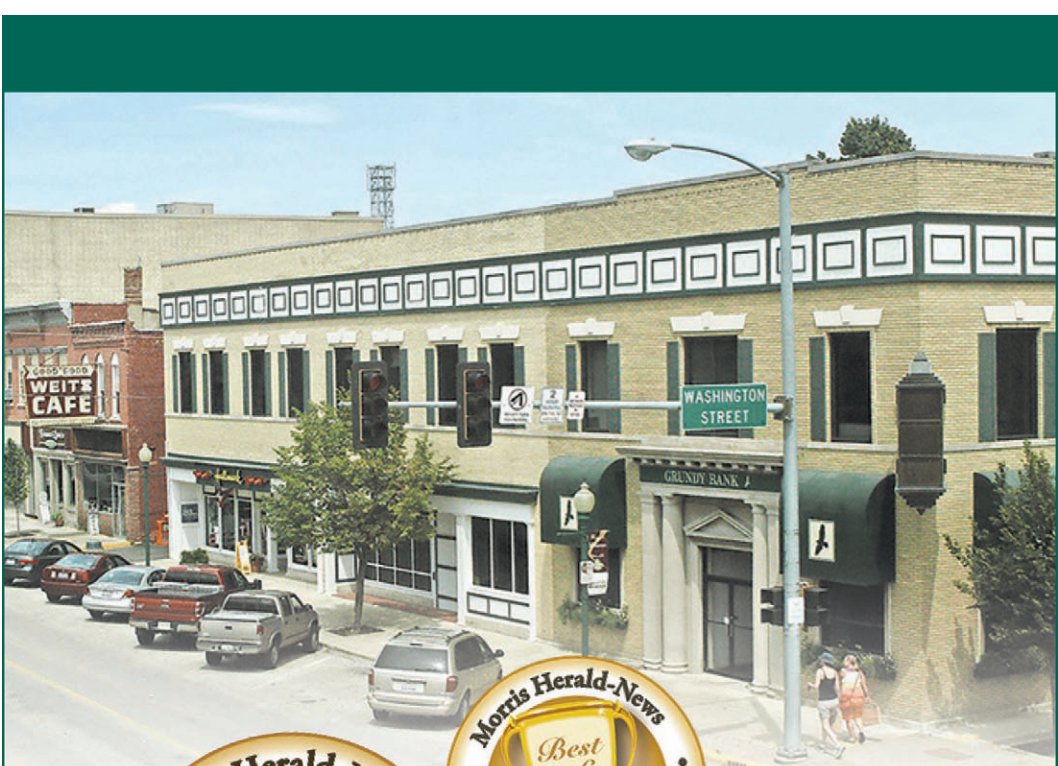
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OBITUARY

Scott Fierro

WILMINGTON—On Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022, Scott Ronald Fierro, of Wilmington, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly.

Over the years, Scott made friends with everyone he met, whether they were work colleagues at Andrew/Commscope (2000-2014), Reichold (2014-2016), or BASF (2016 to 2022), or friends from Wilmington High School. He might not have been quick to laugh, but when he did, it was such a joyous sound. You could not help but join in. He could talk about the Chicago Bulls or Chicago Bears for hours at a time and his passion for baseball knew no bounds.

He loved watching his son, Dexter, compete in whatever sport he was doing from t-ball to baseball, football and wrestling to strongman. Scott was always Dexter's number one fan and supporter. He was looking forward to the same with his grandbabies as they grew. Scott enjoyed playing slow pitch men's softball with some of the greatest guys out there. He played on multiple teams over the years and won many tournaments and awards, the greatest being when he was named Illinois's USSSA 2015 State Tournament MVP with the Quack Pack. In recent years, he enjoyed playing cornhole with The Backyard Baggers, spending hours playing the game and laughing with those men and women who loved the sport like he did. Most Friday nights he could be found playing Texas Hold 'Em with various friends; he never said no to a game.

During the summer, he enjoyed being out on the water, floating on Lake of the Ozarks, playing at the Sandbar on the Kankakee River,



or pulling friends' children behind the boat as they tubed. It didn't matter where, for Scott, it was just about fun with good friends. Scott loved to ride bikes and hike with his wife and high school sweetheart, Melissa. Hiking the Grand Canyon with her was one of his favorite memories, and their plans to hit up the rest of the National Parks were high on the list of future trips to take together. The almost 28 years they spent together were filled with love and laughter.

This sweet, gentle man will be missed by all who knew him, including his wife of almost 20 years, Melissa Fierro (nee Johnson); his son and daughter-in-law, Dexter Fierro and Rebecca Fierro (nee Kuske); his granddaughter, Phebe LaRue Fierro; his grandson, Leonardo Peter Fierro; his parents, Ron and Lynn Fierro; his sister, Chrissy (husband, Ross Cooper); his brother, DJ (wife, Sarah); his niece, Autum Hencinski; nephew, Zachary Fierro and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Scott was preceded in death by his grandparents, Walter and Francis Lickus and Joseph and Rose Mary Fierro.

There will be a memorial Mass for Scott at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations in Scott's name to either his favorite charities, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the National Kidney Foundation.

Please sign his guestbook at www.clan-cygeron.com.

Arrangements have been made by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Extreme rain events could be new norm in Illinois

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

The expression "when it rains, it pours" certainly sums up the weather pattern much of this growing season in Illinois.

Those who received steady rounds of rain absorbed massive downpours that caused extensive flooding, particularly in parts of northern, southwest and southeast Illinois in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, there are farmers in portions of Illinois, and more so in states west of the Mississippi River, who probably still feel like they can't buy a rain this season.

So, what's with the extreme disparity in rainfall events? Convective thunderstorms typically generate a wide range of rainfall within a small geographical area, and that's just what the jet stream is funneling right through the state as the subtropical flow from the south and northern polar jet merge.

"We're in a region where

we're seeing the two jet streams come together," meteorologist Jim Rasor said at the Illinois Wheat Association's summer forum in Okawville (Washington County). "The jet streams are like the train tracks and the storms are the trains."

And some of the storms that barreled into Illinois on this track dropped close to a foot of rain or more in some areas in recent weeks. Some of the heavy downpours were fed by nearly unbearable humidity, at times.

"We're already wetter than normal down here (in southern Illinois) for the month because of one rain event," Rasor said on Aug. 9.

The stretch of extreme rainfall events improved topsoil moisture ratings in the state to 18% surplus, 58% adequate and 24% short or very short as of Aug. 8. Nearly one-third of topsoil moisture ranked short or very short back on July 11.

But there are still areas of the state quite short on mois-

ture. Portions of Champaign County and the southern tips of Alexander and Pulaski were in severe drought as of Aug. 11, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Moderate drought also remains an issue in all or parts of DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Piatt and Vermilion counties in east central Illinois and in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough and Warren counties to the west.

The weather outlook favors hotter and drier conditions to the north and warm, muggy and wet conditions to the south, with a fairly mild and dry forecast for harvest, according to Rasor.

Long term, the rise in rainfall disparity and extreme precipitation events could persist.

"Climate change is real," Rasor said. "A warmer atmosphere will hold more humidity and more humidity will make more rain. But we're also getting extended dry periods in the summer (in between storms)."

Since 1981, the frequency of daily 2-plus-inch rain events has doubled, said Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist at Nutrien Ag Solutions. "The frequency of 500-year flood events is increasing," he said.

But that's not the case everywhere, as evidenced by the multi-year drought in the southwest and western U.S.

"For us, we're getting the rain," Rasor said. "But other places are getting less."

In fact, changing precipitation patterns are causing a shift in the Corn Belt, accord-

Gardner Lions Club is back in action

The Gardner Lions Club has been out of action to do fundraising for some time due to Covid, lack of members and money which has caused activities to be put on hold.

The new 2022-2023 officers are Joe Spiezio, president; Grace Mertes, vice president; Mike Engfer, treasurer and Linda Spiezio, secretary. The

club is down to eight members which doesn't allow them to do many things. The hope is that some new and past members will consider joining. Meetings are held at the Gardner restaurant on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information contact President Spiezio at 815-252-8251.

The Lions are still collect-

ing pop can tabs, ink cartridges, hearing aids and glasses without the cases. Old National Bank has a drop-off box.

The new 1-BK District Governor Irene Leopold will be visiting the Gardner Club on Sept. 13 to give updates on local and international information.

Circle jam coming Saturday

There will be a circle jam on 2nd Saturday, Sept. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy.


The free event is open to everyone including musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more. For more information call Randy Kieffling at 815-237-8139.

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Class of 1961 to hold reunion

It has been 61 years since the WHS class of 1961 graduated. On Saturday, Sept. 10, at noon, the last organized reunion will take place.

It will be informal at Wilmington's South Island pavillion. The plan is to be with long-time friends who have the ability to make each other feel like kids again and catch up with the present.

There is no charge and anyone who would like to join us is welcome. If possible, please bring a folding chair, your own beverage and a dish to share during the potluck lunch. Arrive at noon and dine at 1 p.m.

For more details contact Sharon at 815-861-6534 or Lana at 414-719-1121.

24th Annual Prairie Day in Prairie Grove.

At Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area,
5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL 60450

Spend the day with the Goose Lake Prairie Partners in the Prairie Grove Picnic Area
September 17, 2022 : 10 AM to 3 PM

Put lawn chairs in the car & bring them along.

The **Gift Shop** will be open.
The **Cragg Cabin** door will be open.
The **Food Shop** will serve Hamburgers, Brats and Hot Dogs with chips, sodas & cookies.

Fundraiser will be a lovely Wall Hanging.
Chances are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.



Visit Goose Lake Prairie Partner Page on Facebook
or <http://gooselakeprairie.org/prairieday.htm>.
Or Call (815) 953-4567 for more information.

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SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Dave DiNaso and his Traveling World of Reptiles—10:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the South Shelter.
- Storm Chasers with Nick Bartholomew from noon to 1:00 PM in the South Shelter
- The Natural Naturalist—Kim White from 2:00—3:00 PM in The South Shelter.
- Falcon Show and Tell with Richard Escutia. All day.
- American Indian Traveling Exhibit with Lou Aiello. All Day.
- Photography Techniques with Shannon Range; U of I Extension. 10 AM to 1 PM
- The Illinois Conservation Police Wildlife Mobile Exhibit— a Conservation Police Officer will be on hand. All Day.
- Prairie Wagon Rides and Prairie Walks. Chris Danek and Tom Williams. All Day. *Sign up at the Ticket Master's Table.
- Park Amenities such as the Jug Town Picnic Area, Butterfly Barn, Park Trails & Cragg Cabin will be open.

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How a simple bottle cap can effect our enviroment

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that you shouldn't put plastic bottle caps that are less than three inches wide in diameter into the recycling bin?
-- Bill S., Grafton, VT

Yes! It is true that you shouldn't recycle plastic bottle caps that are less than three inches in diameter; in fact, you shouldn't recycle anything that is less than three inches in diameter.

Why is this? During the recycling process, plastics are sorted, baled, washed, ground down, separated from contaminants, melted, filtered and made into pellets.

This is a long, complicated process, and the smallest plastics are often easily lost. The end result is an overaccumulation of plastic bottle lids and other small plastic items that

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

were disposed of improperly and unfortunately have nowhere to go.

This overaccumulation is very problematic for animal life; marine life in particular. Hawaii, for example, is detrimentally affected by the global plastics issue.

Because of its location in the Pacific, much of the world's plastic waste ends up on Hawaii's beaches, making the 50th state an unfortunate but necessary target of scientific inquiry.

According to the Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (BEACH), plastic caps are among the top 10 items found during beach clean-ups. In another study completed by BEACH, it was found that 100 per cent of albatross chicks that call the northwestern Hawaiian Islands home had eaten plastic derived from a number of sources, plastic bottle caps being one of them.

Unfortunately, most plastic bottle caps, regardless of their size, are not easily recycled and may require a specialized facility.

According to Earth 911, plastic bottle caps are made from a different kind of plastic called polypropylene (plastic #5) which has a higher melting point (a difference of 160 degrees Fahrenheit!). Because of this, when the plastic recyclables are melted down, the bottle caps stay intact.

This can render an entire batch of recyclables useless, which means it becomes unusable waste again.

Thankfully, specialized recycling facilities circumnavigate this issue by grinding the plastic caps into flakes. These flakes are then melted into pellets, which are formed into new items such as reusable plastic bags or car battery casings.

However, finding these specialized facilities may be a bit tricky. Most curbside col-

lectors offer a cap-on standard, whereby you as the recycler may recycle plastic caps if they are twisted onto a bottle.

However, some do not as they may consider a sealed bottle a safety hazard (due to compression/explosion) while others may simply want to avoid liquids. In some select cases, they may refuse to recycle bottle caps simply because the financial return rate is too low.

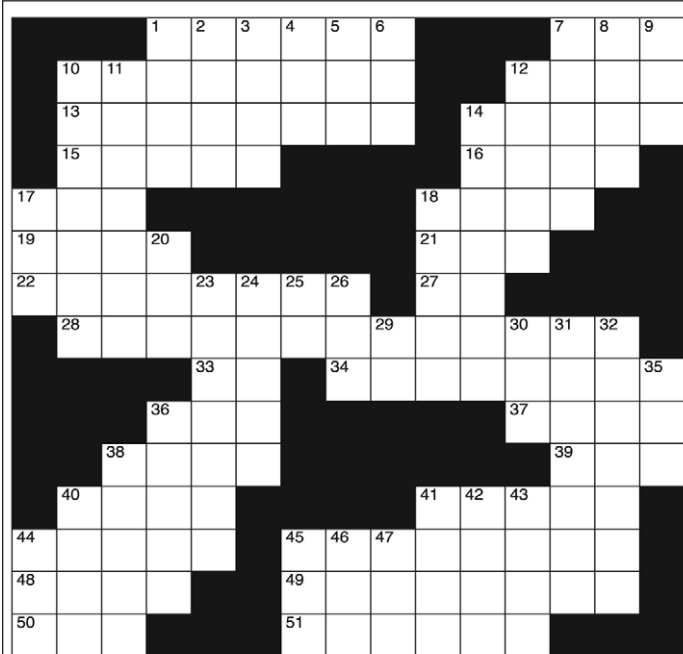
Whatever the case, it is advised that you determine exactly what options your recycling program offers, as

the options do vary.

If you're having difficulty finding a convenient way to recycle your plastic bottle caps, your best option would be to either save them up and then throw them out at an acceptable facility, or to reuse them.

Many plastic caps are actually universal and can be used on all sorts of different plastic bottles. Other more determined recyclers have even gone as far as to make arts and crafts from bottle caps!

Send questions to: questions@earthtalk.org.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Grievous | 33. Commercial |
| 7. Queens ballplayer | 34. Utters repeatedly |
| 10. Honorable title | 36. Google certification (abbr.) |
| 12. Created | 37. Taxis |
| 13. Grillmasters do it | 38. Belgian village in Antwerp |
| 14. Wartime German cargo ship | 39. Talk excessively |
| 15. Cocoplum | 40. Broad volcanic crater |
| 16. Hebrew calendar month | 41. Surgical instrument |
| 17. British thermal unit | 44. Listens to |
| 18. Brews | 45. Revelation of a fact |
| 19. One of Thor's names | 48. Paddles |
| 21. Decorative scarf | 49. Heard |
| 22. Clothes | 50. Tooth caregiver |
| 27. - _ : denotes past | 51. Metric capacity units |
| 28. A way to address a lover | |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Protein-rich liquids | 25. Long Russian river |
| 2. Musician Clapton | 26. Run batted in |
| 3. Wine | 29. Beloved Hollywood alien |
| 4. When you hope to arrive | 30. Holiday (informal) |
| 5. Something one can get stuck in | 31. Furniture with open shelves |
| 6. Midway between east and southeast | 32. Argued |
| 7. Mothers | 35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) |
| 8. German river | 36. Cars have them |
| 9. Israeli city ___ Aviv | 38. Volcanic craters |
| 10. Discharged | 40. Made of fermented honey and water |
| 11. Areas near the retina | 41. Shelter for mammals or birds |
| 12. Greek mythological sorceress | 42. One who utilizes |
| 14. Very unpleasant smell | 43. Moves swiftly on foot |
| 17. "___ Humbug!" | 44. Builder's trough |
| 18. White poplar | 45. Architectural wing |
| 20. Journalist Tarbell | 46. 12 |
| 23. Teachers | 47. Pacific Standard Time |
| 24. One older than you | |

Wilmington Lions Club

There's No Place Like Home

OZ Festival

Saturday, Sep 10th

Downtown Wilmington

10-4 Auntie Em's Farmer's Market
Antiques, Artisans, Farm Fresh Produce

10-12 Breakfast with Oz Characters
Enjoy Biscuits & Gravy
Outside The Corner Tap

12-2 Magician, Face Painting, and Balloon Art in the Gazebo in Munchkin Land. (Claire's Corner)

1-3 Costume Contest- All Ages
At the Lion's Club tent

3-4 Scavenger Hunt
Pick up list at Lion's Club tent at 3:00

Kids Tractor Pull At Auntie Em's Farm

All Events weather permitting

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Gardner Lions pork chop supper Sept. 17

The Gardner Lions Club will host a pork chop supper at the Gardner American Legion Hall on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 4-7 p.m. Meal will include pork chop(s), baked beans, cole slaw, roll, lemonade, ice tea and bottled water. The price for two pork chops will be \$12 or one for \$9. To go orders at the door will be filled accordingly. Drinks are not included.

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**Vendors subject to change

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



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GARAGE SALE

95 W Division St., Coal City. Thur., Fri., & Sat., Sept. 8, 9, & 10 from 9:30am to 3pm. Moving sale of 3 households, lots of different things available. Weber grill, camping equipment, hunting clothes, mower, clothes, dishwasher, horse equipment, English saddle with bridle, lots of nice stuff. Come see what we have.

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1500 N. Kankakee St., Wilmington. Fri. & Sat., Sept. 9 & 10. 8am to 4pm Cleaning out storage rental everything must go! Household items, collectibles, home improvement supplies, Baby items.

HELP WANTED

Green Thumb Farms, LLC looking for fall harvest help, can lead to year round employment. Some experience preferred, but not required. CDL preferred, but not required. Contact: Andy Rousonelos (815) 768-7066 Farm Location: Morris

Polk-A-Dot Drive In now hiring day staff. Work while your kids are in school. Stop by for an application. Braidwood. cc33-36

VanDuyne Motel is looking for part-time maintenance man/handy man, working up to 25 hrs/week. Also, looking for part-time housekeeper, working 8-15 hrs/week. Please call 815-476-2801 or stop by VanDuyne Motel at 107 Bridge St., Wilmington, IL. Come to office and fill out application. cc30b-37b

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. fr/tfn

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SITUATIONS WANTED

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Entry-Level Police Officer Hiring Process



Wilmington Police Department, Wilmington, Illinois

The Wilmington, Illinois Board of Police Commission is accepting applications for the position of police officer with the Wilmington Police Department.
Starting Salary: \$57k - \$61k
Population: 5,735
Sworn Police Officers: 22* (17 Full-Time and 5 Part-Time)
*Will add four (4) full-time within next 2 years.

The Wilmington Police Department is proud to announce that they are now certified by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs for the Police Officer on-the-job Training Program. Please visit http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/onthejob_apprenticeship.asp

All applicants must meet the following minimum requirements established by the City of Wilmington:

- U.S. citizenship;
- No felony convictions;
- Possess a valid state-issued driver's license with good driving record;
- Must be a minimum of 21 years of age and UNDER 35 years of age at the time of application unless otherwise exempt by State Statute 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6;
- Possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent;
- Possess a valid NIPSTA card – OR - equivalent criteria as per the State standard, **issued within 12 months of the written exam date (October 1, 2022):**
 - POWER Test Cards issued by NIPSTA, Triton College or Joliet Junior College will be accepted.
 - Applicants must present the POWER Test card **NO LATER** than the written exam date (October 1, 2022).
- Attend an Optional Wilmington Police Department Candidate Open House: Saturday, September 24, 2022 from noon to 4pm. Candidates are invited to attend an open house at the Wilmington Police Department hosted by Police Chief Joe Mitchell. This will be an opportunity for applicants to tour the facility, view the equipment, speak with staff, and participate in a ride-along;
- Successfully pass a written examination with a minimum passing score of 70% on each of the (4) sections;
- Successfully complete an oral interview with the Board of Police Commission;
- Successfully complete a background investigation, polygraph, and psychological testing;
- Successfully complete a medical physical, to include drug and alcohol screening;
- There is no application processing fee.

To apply for this position or obtain additional information, please visit the following website: <http://www.applytoserve.com>
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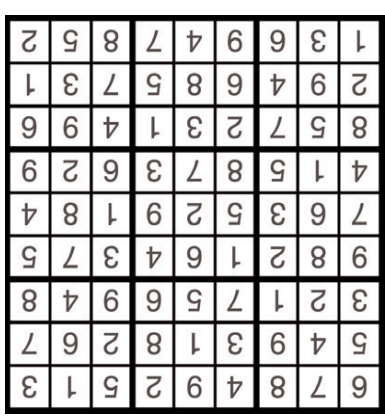
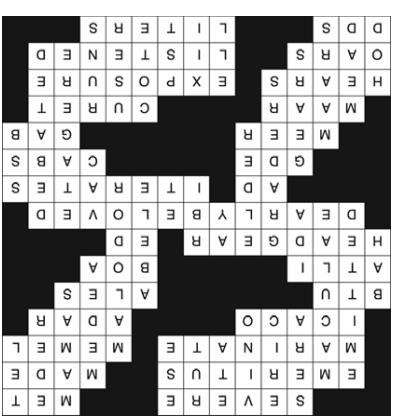
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DON'T BE LEFT OFF THE HOMECOMING PAGES

Our readers love local high school sports and are following teams as they win through the season. Area sports teams will be featured in print on our Homecoming pages starting Sept. 14 and your business can be featured as a supporter! For \$60 we'll include your business in all three of our publications read by Comet, Coaler and Wildcat fans during September.

Call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315 to be included
Or email Eric Fisher at efisher@fpnusa.com or Patti Sorg at fpnpatti@comcast.net



Deadline is Sept. 9

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Oz Fest is Saturday in Wilmington

Join the Wilmington Lions Club Saturday, Sept. 10 for a family-fun event in downtown Wilmington.

Among the activities will be a breakfast from 10 a.m. to noon with Oz characters. Perhaps youngsters will want to dine with Dorothy, the Tin man, Scarecrow, or the cowardly Lion. Costumes welcomed throughout the day.

Auntie Em's Farmers


Market will be held on North Water Street, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., to peruse the antiques, artisans and crafters offerings. Farm fresh produce including vegetable and harvest décor will be available for purchase.

The Oz cordially invites all ages to a costume contest starting at 2 p.m., so dust off those ruby slippers, Glenda's wand or Wicked Witches broom.

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We may never see another politician like Jesse White

Way back in 1996, I spent a few minutes walking around the Chicago-based Democratic National Convention with then-House Minority Leader Michael Madigan.

Madigan at the time was working to regain his chamber's majority after the 1994 national Republican wave combined with the Republican-drawn legislative district maps to knock the Speaker's gavel out of his hand. But even with his lessened official status, Madigan was still hugely powerful within his party and he was clever enough that many figured he'd somehow find a way back.

At some point that evening, Cook County Recorder of Deeds Jesse White approached Madigan. White had served 18 years in the House with Madigan, so the two knew each other well.

White told Madigan that he was seriously considering running for secretary of state. Madigan was polite but non-committal in response.

After White walked away, Madigan turned to me, chuckled, shook his head no and sighed, "Jesse." He clearly had other plans for the office, which had been held by the Republican Party for 15 years by that time and was likely to be an open seat if incumbent George Ryan did as expected and ran for governor.

Long story short, Madigan ended up supporting Tim McCarthy, a former Secret Service agent who took a bullet to his chest while protecting President Ronald Reagan

during a 1981 assassination attempt. White ended up winning the 1998 Democratic primary by 13 points. Madigan, by then the House Speaker, brought a large campaign check to his first post-primary meeting with the winner and supported White from that point on.

White went on to win the 1998 general election against former state Rep. Al Salvi, whose spouse Kathy is currently running for U.S. Senate, by 13 points.

From that election forward, Jesse White became a singularly unifying force in Illinois politics. He routinely managed to win areas where no other Democrat could even hope to compete. In 2002, he won all 102 Illinois counties, raking in 68 percent of the vote and cementing his legendary status. He won 63 percent of the vote four years later, then won subsequent elections with 70, 66 and 68 percent.

A determined worker, White had gone all-out to defeat Madigan's candidate in 1998, campaigning everywhere, and he was not happy that he lost a few counties in 2006 after sweeping them four years earlier, so he made sure to ramp up his efforts in 2010.

Over six elections, White outpolled his party's candidate for governor by an average of 13.8 percentage points.



Rich Miller

In 2018, he lost just two of Illinois' 59 state Senate districts, according to the Illinois Elections Data website. Nobody has ever tried to quantify White's impact on down-ballot races. Did crossing over for White help nudge Republican-leaning voters to maybe support a Democrat for the legislature or local office? There's no data to prove such an hypothesis, but I gotta figure he helped, and nobody can ever doubt that White has been a strong net-positive for his party.

And when his preferred candidate to replace him as Secretary of State failed after innumerable problems were exposed with how she has run her current Chicago office, the Democratic nominee Alexi Giannoulias was quick to embrace the longtime incumbent White, knowing he'll be an asset in the fall campaign.

When White leaves office in January, I just don't see how we'll ever see another politician like him. His appeal not

only crosses party lines, but he showed Madigan and others in 1998 that people of all colors and origins would eagerly support him.

In 1998, I wrote that White was an American hero and predicted Illinois voters would pick up on that. He recruited kids out of neighborhoods that many folks are afraid to even drive through to his eponymous Tumblers team and helped shape them into solid citizens. He's run that team since 1959, and over all those decades only a tiny handful have ever had serious trouble with the law. His fellow party members aren't the only ones who owe him a debt of gratitude.

White's retirement may or may not make a difference for Democrats on election day going forward. As I said above, we simply don't know what actual impact his huge wins have had on other races.

What we do know is that we are losing an elected official whose consistently unifying appeal has no equal in this state's politics. And we will be the lesser for that loss.

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

Chamber opens meeting on SAFE-T act up to the public

Anyone interested in learning more about the Illinois HB 3653, also known as the SAFE-T Act, is urged to attend an evening meeting of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

The Illinois law signed by Gov. Pritzker last year is the criminal reform bill that will waive cash bail requirements for anyone arrested, among other things.

The Chamber has invited Will County State's Attorney

James Glasgow and candidate for Will County Sheriff James Reilly to speak of the consequences of the bill. Several police chiefs fear the bill being implemented in Jan. 1, 2023 will hinder law enforcement officers and give violent offenders a pass on serving jail time.

The meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. at Tuffy's Lounge, 1099 S. Water St., Wilmington.

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COMET SPORTS

Meet the fall 2022 Comets and Lady Comets



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER players for 2022 includes (front row, kneeling) Dylan Maschmeyer, Spencer Conger, Max Lichaj, Tyson Whittum, Stephen Condreay, Carter Jones, Wyatt Crater, Ethan Hertz and Jayden Bustos. Standing: Coach Andy Gleixner, Danny Kuban, Brady Shultz, Jake Ozee, Josh Sprinkles, Jerrick Hirsch, Christian Koca, Jack Krall, Ryan Bushue, Logan Leckrone and Coach Rich Bell.



THE FRESHMEN VOLLEYBALL team for Reed-Custer for 2022 includes (from left, kneeling) Kamryn Marschner, Ella Anderson, Jayden Brodinski and Skyler Wilkins. Standing: Miley Morris, Gwendolyn Stewart, Makenzi Thompson, Morgan Toler and Coach Alyssa Tiangco.



JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL team for Reed-Custer for 2022 includes (from left, kneeling) Leah Grace, Emma Wilson, Cameron Wallace and Camryn Garrelts. Standing: Abigail Koonce, Natalie Flores, Payton Isaac, Kara Steffes and Coach Lauren Homerding.



Photo by Zadi Sims

THE REED-CUSTER freshman team celebrates after pulling ahead of Marquette Academy on Monday.

Panther A team rallies over Bradley

The Reed-Custer 8th grade baseball team lost to Herscher 16-6 on Friday.

Corbin Neese led the offense with 3 hits, while Alex Fierro added 2 hits.

Jeffrey Wolford, Orion Bergmann and Jon Doran had a hit a piece.

RCMS 4, Bradley 2

The Panthers defeated Bradley, Thursday, rallying from a 2-1 deficit in the bottom

of the third inning to pull away for good.

Alex Fierro led the way on the mound pitching 6 innings while striking out 13 and allowing just one hit. Corbin Neese struck out 2 in the final frame to pick up the save.

The varsity Panthers garnered eight hits, led by Fierro, Neese, and Kaaden Wood each collected 2 hits. Jeffrey Wolford and Logan Bean had a hit a

piece. Fierro and Wood had two stolen bases each.

Beecher 6, RCMS 0

The Panthers fell to a solid Beecher team. Jeffrey Wolford was lights out on the mound allowing 1 earned run on 3 hits with 7 strikeouts over 5+ innings of work.

Offensively, Alex Fierro, Orion Bergmann, Corbin Neese, and Reed Newbrough had a hit a piece.

Kuban's grand slam aids JV Panthers to victory over Saratoga

The RCMS B baseball team won their seventh in a row against Saratoga last week.

With Caedon Baumgartner and Kenny Hopf on the mound for the day, the Panthers were able to hold the visitors to just 4 runs.

"Defensively we had three double plays in just six innings," said coach Alex King.

Offensively, leading the way for the Panthers was Matt Kuban with four hits including a triple and a walk off grand slam.

Nathan Vogler, Cole Yeates, and Jagger Garcia all collected multiple hits as well. On the bases Reed Newbrough had 3 stolen bases for

the night. Panthers record moves to 7 and 1 with 3 games to go.

RCMS 13, Herscher 0

Matthew Kuban was brilliant on the mound on Friday throwing a no-hitter with only one walk to lead the Panthers B team past Herscher.

Kuban also went 4-for-4 at the plate. Jagger Garcia, Caedon Baumgartner and Nathan Vogler each managed multiple hits. The Panther record improves to 8-1 with two games left in the season.

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CAN'T MAKE THE GAME?

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Arcola no match for blazing Comet offense

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Fans better find their seats before the fireworks start. Not the booming lightshows we see in the sky, but the blazing offense of the Reed-Custer football team which has yet to be stopped through two games.

After scoring a school-record 67 points in the opener against Elmwood Park, the Comets made the two-hour bus ride to Arcola Friday and led 22-0 after the first and 46-7 at the half. The final: 66-7.

R-C has scored 132 points in their first two games. In the 2019 season, they only managed 95 points total as they finished 1-8.

"It was more or less about starting quick. We were a little concerned about making sure we got off on the wrong foot after the long bus ride," said Reed-Custer coach Gavin Johnston.

"Our kids answered the call and that's part of the benefit of having a seasoned, veteran team that has a lot of varsity experience."

The Comets forced a three-and-out to start and then the offense marched right down the field and scored and scored and scored.

Ooh Ahhh

"Before you could blink it was 22-0 which is really good for our offense to make sure we own the line of scrimmage right from the get-go," said Johnston.

"All the kids on our team are dynamic when they touch the ball. Obviously Lucas Foote had a big night for us."

The 6'4", 215 lb. senior finished with four receptions for 166 yards and three touchdown catches (36, 40 and 73 yards). He also added a 74-yard touchdown run.

"I think I'm going to start getting tougher coverage so I'm going to need to start working with my defensive backs at practice," said Foote. "There are a lot of improvements to be made. Still very early in the season."



Photo by Eric Fisher

BLOCKING BUDDY - The Reed-Custer Rex Pfeifer (15) clears the way for running back Nick Cieslak (8) during the season opening game at home. On Friday Cieslak ran for 43 yards in four attempts resulting in two touchdowns.

R-C finished with 551 total yards, 373 rushing.

Senior quarterback Jake McPherson was 7-for-8 passing for 178 yards and three touchdowns. He also added four carries for 103 yards and two rushing TDs (52 and 30 yards).

"McPherson worked hard last week on his timing with Foote. Last week we missed some plays to Lucas and they both put in the work this week to get that corrected," said assistant coach Nick Klein who runs the offense.

"Jake really played almost a flawless game against Arcola. Lucas was finally able to show everyone what he can bring to the game when given opportunities."

Nick Cieslak had four rushes for 43 yards and two rushing TDs in the second half (5 and 18 yds.) and Brandon Moorman had a five-yard scoring run and a 13-yard reception. Rex Pfeifer recorded 57 yards on two carries.

Josh Bohac had a 28 yard run, Jace Christian tallied 27 yards on three rushes and Peyton Bradley finished with four carries for 21 yards and had a four yard catch.

Defensively, Bohac led the charge with six tackles, two interceptions and a sack, part of five Comet sacks. Christian, Gavin Bruciak, Gunnar Berg and John Aylward also tallied a sack.

Moorman made five tackles and Travis Bohac, Christian, Bradley and Zack Cieslak all recorded four stops apiece.

Arcola was held to 91 yards of total offense. As impressive as the Comet offense has been, the defense has been just as good with only 48 total yards allowed in two games.

"So far this season we haven't punted once and every time we've had the ball we scored, except for when we took a knee and that's even with our reserves in at the end of the game. We have a talented roster so credit coach Klein and our offense for getting the job done," said Johnston.

The Comets travel to Lisle on Friday.

Comets hoping to exorcise demons in Lisle

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Benedictine University's stadium has been a house of horrors for the Reed-Custer football team. They haven't won in Lisle since Aug. 28, 2009.

"We just have not fared very well playing up there. It has not been kind to our Reed-Custer football team. We've had a couple heartbreakers there and we've gotten worked over a couple times as well," said R-C coach Gavin Johnston.

But that all may change on Friday if the Comets come out and take charge like they have so far.

"It's definitely a tough place to play. They try to run the ball about 80-85 percent of the time. Coach Paul Parpet

does a really good job."

Last year, the Comets defeated the Lions 42-14 in Braidwood.

Lisle is coming off a 29-0 shutout loss to Wilmington. They didn't find much success on offense with just 91 rushing yards. They have yet to complete a pass this season.

"Defensively our best game plan is to have our offense clicking like it has been. So we need to try to get them behind early and get them out of their game plan," Johnston said.

The Comets' game plan likely centers around getting Lucas Foote touches.

Against Arcola, he had eight touches and scored four touchdowns.

"These two guys (Foote and quarterback Jake McPherson) have a connection

that extends beyond the football field and we are excited to watch the progress as the season goes on," said assistant coach Nick Klein who runs the offense.

Lisle figures to have their hands full with a dynamic R-C offense that is averaging a scorching 66 points and 405 yards per game.

"It has been awesome. Everyone on our offense makes plays. We have an amazing quarterback who distributes the ball well," said Foote.

"That's a big reason why we have been scoring so much, everyone has been involved. Not to mention our offensive line is amazing and is the biggest part of our success."

The road to a conference championship starts in Lisle. Where will it lead from there? We suspect all the way to state.



Photo by Eric Fisher

QUICK ON HIS FEET is Reed-Custer's Wesley Shats had a tackle for a loss during the first home game of the season.



Photo by Eric Fisher

BIG PLAY MAN - Reed-Custer senior Lucas Foote had an impressive game at Arcola with three rushes for 89 yards and a touchdown. He is pictured running the ball in the season opener at home.

IHSA rule: Paying in cash will cost you more during the playoffs

Cash isn't always king when it comes to future attendance at IHSA state series sporting events.

The IHSA Board approved a recommendation to change ticket prices for those paying in cash vs. using the GoFan ticketing app on their phone.

That means football playoff rounds that require GoFan, the cost of cash tickets will be one dollar more than the cost of the digital GoFan ticket.

This will also apply if a host school chooses to use GoFan in a State Series round when GoFan it is not required.

"A cash ticket option will always exist in some capacity

for IHSA postseason events because we respect that there are portions of the audience that may not have access to a smart phone or a digital payment option," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson.

"However, as we continue to broaden the usage of digital ticketing across IHSA Sectional events and beyond, we have also heard frustrations from host administrators regarding the fans with the ability to pay digitally who choose not to. This creates issues for host schools in event management, staffing, and financial reporting that can impact a school's ability to

run a successful event. Thus, we wanted to create an incentive for fans who are able to use the digital ticketing option to do so."

In other action the Board approved a recommendation to discontinue the Three-Point Showdown contest as a part of the IHSA Girls & Boys Basketball State Series.

Anderson commented that the showdown enjoyed a great run, but changes in the State Series dates and format last year created challenges conducting it at multiple levels of the State Series.

"As a result, we recommended discontinuing it for

the time being so we can focus on how we make these pivotal postseason contests the best experience possible for the student-athletes, coaches, and fans."

The Board approved a recommendation to approve the experimental use of the shot clock during girls and boys basketball games for regular-season tournaments and shootouts this school year.

All tournaments seeking to use the shot clock for regular-season tournaments and shootouts must apply for approval from the IHSA. Information regarding the approval process will be dis-

tributed to member schools in mid-September.

IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson:

"The IHSA's survey of administrators and coaches last year made it very clear that our membership wasn't ready to implement the shot clock in basketball at this juncture. Our priority now shifts to gathering feedback and data on the impact that the shot clock creates on game play, game management, and school finances. We look forward to working with our schools to pilot usage of the shot clock in some tournaments and shootouts this winter."

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