



RCHS August
ACE winners

Lady Comets
battle Wildcats



BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Braidwood police use technology to nab suspects

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Despite the hype about Illinois – and especially Chicago – being among the most violent territories in the country, there's not much evidence to back it up. According to World Population Review, Illinois is not even in the Top 20 for violence. And when it comes to bucolic cities like Braidwood, violence is nearly non-existent.

Among the many reasons new residents are flocking to Braidwood is its lack of violent crime.

Braidwood Police Dept. Chief, Brett Goodwin, is proud of the fact, and is also wise enough to understand that crime scenario might very well change overnight. He takes nothing for granted.

In fact, the FBI agrees that Braidwood is very nearly idyllic as far as crime is concerned. Back in 2019, the last time the Bureau took notes, there were 10 violent crimes, five rapes, five instances of aggravated assault, 34 property crimes, four burglaries, and 30 larceny thefts in Braidwood.

Being close to Interstate 55 and Route 66 makes Braidwood attractive to potential residents. Unfortunately, it also attracts thieves, drug traffickers, and felons on the run.

Last month, suspects led Braidwood and other police departments on a wild goose chase throughout the county. In the end, all but one suspect was apprehended.



FLOCK CAMERAS are popping up at intersections and the sides of roadways as the new technology alerts local police to wanted vehicles.

Drugs and weapons were involved.

Small town, Big Brother

Though a few wily scofflaws may attempt to outrun police, the vast majority of the time they're caught, thanks to "Big Brother" technology. Automatic license

plate readers or Flock cameras are a surveillance system that reads license plates and stores data.

When a vehicle passes a Flock camera a photo and video is taken, AI technology pulls the license plate number and catego-

rizes the vehicle characteristics.

If you're not a suspect, and don't have a warrant, your information is kept for 30 days. If you are wanted, location data is flashed over to appropriate law enforcement.

"We currently have eight cameras in use," Goodwin said. "They were instrumental in the car-jacking case we had in March of 2023. They were beneficial in locating a missing person case."

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Flock is building a nationwide camera network that records people's comings and goings and keeps a database of the information. Law enforcement agencies may search this database.

"Every new customer that buys and installs the company's cameras extends Flock's networks, contributing to the creation of a centralized mass surveillance system of Orwellian scope," according to ACLU.

Still, the majority of police departments believe the benefits of Flock cameras far outweigh the drawbacks.

"They are obviously key in locating stolen vehicles that we've had regardless of where they are in the country," Goodwin said. "Because vehicles are a staple in our daily lives, much like cell phones, these cameras enhance our investigations capabilities tremendously."

Body cameras

Police body cameras are small cameras with microphones worn on an officer's chest or head to record interactions

SEE TECHNOLOGY PAGE 2

ESDA: Be prepared before disasters strike

September is National Preparedness Month and Braidwood Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA) would like to encourage residents to review the various tips and suggestions on how to be prepared for when disaster strikes.

Disasters can happen anywhere, at any time, often without warning. Whether a fire in someone's home or a storm that destroys an entire town, these emergencies can change lives forever in just minutes. Some disasters, like floods, can happen anywhere, while others are more common in certain areas.

Disasters can be anything from natural (severe weather, tornados, floods, winter storms, earthquakes, etc.) to manmade (nuclear, chemical, structural, etc.), and there are a wide variety of ways to be prepared.

As disasters occur more often and become more powerful, being prepared is half the battle, and when disaster strikes, those who fail to plan ultimately have a plan to fail.

The better prepared you are before a disaster strikes, the better off you will be during and after. Preparedness is important not only at home, but also at work, at school, at church, in public, or anywhere.

Five Basic Steps of Preparedness

1. You may need to stay where you are or go somewhere else to stay safe. If you need to leave,

think about where you will go, how you will get there, where you will stay, and what you'll take with you. Plan well in advance if you'll need help leaving or use public transportation.

2. Next, gather and organize critical supplies — like food, water and medicine — into a go-kit and a stay-at-home kit. Make sure to include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.), a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, and critical personal records. Your go-kit should include three days of supplies that you can take with you. Your stay-at-home kit should have two weeks of food and water, and a one-month supply of medications, if possible.

3. Customize your kit to meet your household's specific needs. If you have young children, don't forget formula and diapers. If you have pets, include leashes, carriers, food, bowls, litter and a litter box.

4. Make a plan to reconnect with loved ones if you are separated or if the phone or internet is down. Write down important phone numbers on a contact card and carry it with you.

5. Finally, ensure that you have multiple ways to receive alerts and warnings for things such as severe weather and disaster related instructions & updates. Some methods of receiving alerts & warnings include NOAA Weather Radios, Mobile Apps (the Ready Will County App and

Grundy County EMA App are highly recommended), Wireless Emergency Alerts, Television New Stations and trusted social media outlets such as the National Weather Service or your local, county or state Emergency Management Agencies.

Additional preparedness resources, tips and brochures can be found online at Ready.Illinois.Gov

Outdoor Warning Siren System Information:

We often get a lot of questions about the outdoor warning sirens in the Braidwood area and what the criteria is to activate them. Over the years we've discovered that there is quite a big misunderstanding as to what exactly the outdoor warning sirens are, what they're used for, who is meant to hear them, and the biggest misconception of all, where someone should be able to hear them from.

So let's dig into some of the facts and misconceptions about outdoor warning sirens.

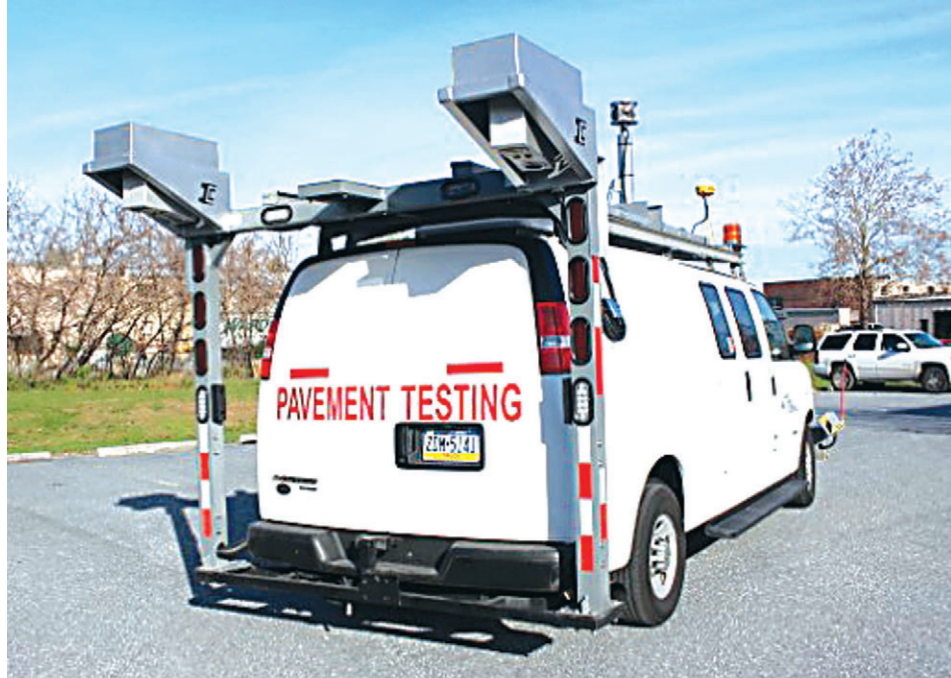
When can the sirens be activated?

1. If a tornado warning is issued from the National Weather Service for the area which includes the Braidwood Community.

2. If a funnel or tornado has been spotted near the Braidwood community and heading in the direction of the city (with or without an official warning issued by the NWS).

3. Sustained winds greater than 65 mph (straight line winds, microbursts, downbursts).

SEE PREPAREDNESS PAGE 2



A PAVEMENT TEST vehicle like this may be spotted in Godley next week as it scans the village's roads for future repairs. Residents may get suspicious of the van but rest assured it's focus is on the roadways.

White van to analyze road conditions in Godley

STAFF REPORT

Godley residents shouldn't panic if they see a funny looking white van driving slowly down the street.

It's just a vehicle collecting data that will hopefully lead to better streets.

The Village is working with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) in determining the worst streets in the area and which can be rejuvenated for the least amount of money.

CMAP has contracted with AECOM and Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA) for the road assessment and pavement management implementation

for the Village of Godley.

Weather permitting, data collection on the four miles of public roads within the village will begin as soon as next week.

Applied Research Associates, Inc. uses their high-tech pavement evaluation vehicle.

Navigating its way at posted speeds through the streets of each town, ARA will capture high quality digital images and laser data of pavement surfaces. The data will be used to perform a comprehensive analysis of the condition of roadways.

Lasers on the Digital Survey Vehicle (DSV) can measure the change in road surface within two-

thousandth of an inch, or roughly 1/2 the thickness of a piece of paper in a single pass to identify cracking, rutting, texture, potholes, raveling and roughness. The DSV will also collect high definition digital images of the right-of-way every 20 feet.

Engineering staff at each agency will be able to use their collected data to manage street maintenance in the most cost effective and efficient manner for their short and long term roadway maintenance program.

SEE ROADWAYS PAGE 2



BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

SALE VALID 9/12-9/18/24

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272
COAL CITY 815-634-4224
BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD AT
BERKOTFOODS.COM

<p>Dutch Farms Jumbo Eggs- Dozen</p> <p>Sale Price 2/\$7</p> <p>Digital Coupon -\$2.00 when buying 2</p> <p>FINAL PRICE 2/\$5 when buying 2 with \$2 dig. coup - LIMIT 2 PKGS*</p>	<p>Home Run Inn 12" Classic- 27-33 oz</p> <p>Sale Price \$5.99/ea</p> <p>Digital Coupon -\$1.00/ea</p> <p>FINAL PRICE \$4.99 ea with \$1 digital coupon LIMIT 2 PIZZAS*</p>	<p>Taylor Farms Salads 9.2-13.5 oz</p> <p>Sale Price \$4.99/ea</p> <p>Digital Coupon -\$2.00/ea</p> <p>FINAL PRICE \$2.99 ea with \$2 digital coupon LIMIT 4 PACKAGES*</p>	<p>Happy Apples Caramel Apples- 3 pk</p> <p>Sale Price \$3.99/ea</p> <p>Digital Coupon -\$1.00/ea</p> <p>FINAL PRICE \$2.99 ea with \$1 digital coupon LIMIT 4 PACKAGES*</p>
---	--	---	---

Difference IS WHAT WE DO.



Courtesy photo

REED-CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL named the Ace winners for August. They include (from left) Zofia Graaf (junior), Shelby Smith (freshman), Kenny Hopf (freshman) and Drew Emanuelson (senior).

Roadways, continued from page 1

A combination of preventative maintenance techniques from crack sealing and patching, to asphalt resurfacing when a road surface has reached the end of its service life, can be used to ensure smooth, safe and economical pavements across a roadway network. Village President Cheryl Schott said Godley is working with the Godley Park District to help pay for the \$1,000 road data project. "We're excited about getting a report on our roads and being able to make repairs knowing our limited road repair dollars are being best spent." For right now, her goal is to inform residents about the van and not to be concerned.

Technology, continued from page 1

between the officer and the public. According to Britannica ProCon, cameras improve police accountability and lower reports of police misconduct. The cameras are said to be especially useful in domestic violence cases, making the victim feel safer and more credible. The most significant drawback to cameras is invasion of privacy. Victims of crimes and those with mental health conditions may be further traumatized being recorded. Again, to law enforcement agencies, the cameras are invaluable, recording not only the suspect, but also the interaction between the officer and the suspect. Many believe the cameras are beneficial to the public or suspect as well as the officer, sometimes recording possible evidence of police misconduct. Goodwin believes the cameras are an essential component in fighting crime in Braidwood. "Every officer is equipped with them," Goodwin said. "Because of the progressiveness of previous chiefs, we have had them for many years, well before the new law."

Seeking officers Like many, if not most, police departments, Braidwood has experienced some turnover. "In a department as small as us, losing one officer is significant," Goodwin said. "I think your question is whether we have a chronic problem with losing officers. I don't believe so, but we do what we can to retain officers." Goodwin believes the reasons police officers leave or fail to apply are complex. He cited relative pay, with applicants wanting to work for larger departments that pay more, and present more opportunity for advancement. "We do our very best to recruit and retain officers while competing with the larger departments," he said.

Beware of thieves Inflation and the resulting stagnant economy have led to an increase in certain types of crimes. While violent crimes are rare in Braidwood, thievery is becoming an increasingly common pastime. "Package thefts, retail thefts, credit card thefts, various types of fraud cases are all on the rise," Goodwin said. "Typically during the summertime we see a lot of burglary to motor vehicle crimes. Because of this predictability, we have noticed that we have been pretty light thus far this year, which we are thankful for."

Preparedness, continued from page 1

These can do a lot of damage to property or harm to individuals who are outdoors.

4. Chemical releases from a facility or mobile container (truck, train car, etc.) which would affect the community either in whole, or in part.

5. In the unlikely event of a nuclear accident at the Constellation Braidwood Nuclear Power Station.

One of the biggest misconceptions is that sirens in our area are activated just for tornadoes, which is FALSE. The correct term for them is "Outdoor Warning Sirens" and are NOT only for tornado purposes, like many assume. If there is any threat to life and/or property due to natural or a man-made disaster, the sirens can be activated.

Many people complain that they cannot hear the sirens while inside their home, their garage or a vehicle. That's because they are meant to be heard by those who are outdoors, hence the name "Outdoor Warning Sirens". Many factors come into play which make it difficult or practically impossible to hear the outdoor warning sirens while inside a structure, home or even a vehicle. Types of construction, sound-proofing building or insulation materials, vehicle traffic, interior noises such as a TV, radio, air conditioning unit, furnace, fan, casual conversation, etc. are just some of those contributing factors. You should never expect to hear them while inside a building or vehicle. You should also not wait or rely on hearing the outdoor sirens before seeking

shelter in a severe weather event. Also, just because the siren stops does not mean you are in the clear. During a severe weather incident, you should immediately go to a NOAA weather radio or other source to see what warning is actually occurring and for how long. In Will County, the sirens are NOT reactivated to give an all clear. If you hear an outdoor warning siren, you should head indoors immediately and seek additional information to figure out why they are going off. Do NOT call local fire or police agencies to ask why the sirens are sounding. If it is an emergency, they are busy getting equipment and manpower to the emergency scene.

For the city of Braidwood and Will County, you can tune to one of the following radio stations for the latest information and possible emergency instructions: WCCQ 98.3 FM; WRXQ 100.7 FM; WSSR 96.7 FM; WJOL 1340 AM

It does NOT mean the threat has ended when the sirens stop sounding. Sirens are activated by the Will County Emergency Management Agency and

The Public Service Answering Point (or 911 dispatch center) serving the Braidwood Community, not the National Weather Service. There is also no local controller or switch within the City of Braidwood to activate the sirens. Part II of this story will run Sept. 18.

Josh Bolatto
Braidwood ESDA Coordinator

Braceville All Town Garage Sale

Braceville's All Town Garage Sales will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, from 8 a.m. to closing. Get your basements, closets and garages cleaned out and have a big sale. The more the merrier. Nothing like getting rid of your junk and making a little money.

Attorney Meents files Howell estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOUELLA CHRISTINE HOWELL, Deceased; No. 2024 PR 471
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Louella Christine Howell, Letters of Office as Independent Co-Executors were issued on August 30, 2024, to Christine L. Flint, whose address is 103 W. Bodine Drive, Braidwood, Illinois 60408; and James L. Howell, Jr., whose address is 620 Eagle Court, Coal City, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 19, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Christine L. Flint and James L. Howell, Jr.
Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Louella Christine Howell, Deceased

Attorney Meents files Schulte estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA SCHULTE, Deceased; No. 2024PR446
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of PATRICIA SCHULTE, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on August 19, 2024, to Alexis Seifert, whose address is 1036 W. Eureka Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before February 28, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Alexis Seifert
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Patricia Schulte, Deceased,
Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Aug. 28, Sept. 4 and 11, 2024.

August weather mostly pleasant

August was a mostly pleasant month with a monthly average of 84 pleasant degrees. There were more than 20 days of bright sunshine, a pleasant summer month indeed.

Only six days brought temperatures that surpassed 90 degrees. Of those six, Aug. 26 temperatures hit a whopping 96 degrees, which sent residents scur-

rying to bodies of water to cool off. On the chilly side, temperatures bottomed out at 51 degrees on Aug. 21.

August wasn't particularly windy month. Peak winds hit 42 mph on Aug. 16. Otherwise, the month was pleasantly breezy.

It's been a swampy summer, and August was no exception. The area got

socked with 3.8 inches of rain for the month, with 2.21 of those inches occurring on Aug. 28, which was also the only foggy day of the month.

There was measurable rain seven days in August, and the total precipitation for the year was 34.84 inches.

PERSONAL INJURY

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

Attorneys at Law

Michael D. Block • Elizabeth A. Klukas • Thomas J. Manzella
Bryan L. Shell • Aaron B. Morrow • Kyler W. Juckins

"Local lawyers with big city results"

Free Initial Consultation • No Fee Unless Successful

815-726-9999

19 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432 • Across from the Courthouse

WORKERS COMPENSATION

City of Braidwood seeks bids for pavement management program

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
The City of Braidwood will receive sealed proposals for the following improvements at the City of Braidwood Clerk's office, 141 West Main Street, Braidwood, Illinois, 60408 until 10:00 A.M. on September 19, 2024.

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
FY 2024 Pavement Management Program
Proposals will be publicly read aloud after 10:01 A.M. on September 19, 2024. No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of the proposals without the consent of the Mayor and City Council for a period of ninety (90) days after the scheduled time of closing bids.

All proposals shall be sealed in an envelope addressed to the City of Braidwood, attention City Clerk. The name and address of the bidder and the name and number of the project shall also appear on the outside of the envelope. Proposals must be submitted on the forms provided by the Engineer. The Bid Documents, including specifications, are on file at the office of the Engineer, Robinson Engineering, 10045 W. Lincoln Highway, Frankfort, IL 60423, (phone 815-806-0300). However, they may only be obtained electronically via email. Email reladministrative@reltd.com to obtain an electronic digital set. The bid documents will be issued for requests received until 4:00 PM on September 18, 2024.

A certified check/bank draft drawn on a solvent bank, cashier's check or bid bond, payable without condition to the City of Braidwood in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid shall be submitted with each proposal, as a guarantee that, if the proposal is accepted, a contract will be entered into and the performance of the contract is properly secured. A performance bond in a sum equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of the bid, with sureties to be approved by the City Mayor and City Council for the faithful performance of the contract, must be furnished by the successful bidder. All bids or proposals shall contain an offer to furnish bond upon acceptance of such bid or proposal.

The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities, to postpone the bid opening, or to advertise for new proposals, if in the judgment of the City Mayor and City Council their best interests will be promoted thereby. A certified check/bank draft drawn on a solvent bank, cashier's check or bid bond, payable without condition to the City of Braidwood in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid shall be submitted with each proposal, as a guarantee that, if the proposal is accepted, a contract will be entered into and the performance of the contract is properly secured. The Contractor will be required to pay not less than the prevailing wage rates on this project as established by the State of Illinois Department of Labor. He shall also comply with all applicable Federal and local regulations. The Contractor shall have sufficient experience, as determined by the Owner and his representatives, with street resurfacing and be IDOT qualified to warrant release of the bid documents. If in the opinion of the Engineer and the City Mayor and City Council, an applicant would not be able to serve the best interest of the City, a proposal will not be issued to the applicant.

City Mayor and City Council
City of Braidwood
Will County, Illinois
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Sept. 4 and 11, 2024.

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"

39TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza

XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$28⁹⁹

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 09/30/24.

634-8858

715 S. Broadway • Coal City

Gift Certificates Available

Order online at www.geospizza.net

Award Winner

ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Serving newspapers since 1865

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:

- 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-7966
- 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2024 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G-W Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G-W Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher

The peaceful Illinois, wiped out by greed

The signs are all around us, "Pottawattamie camp ground" or "Indian Boundary Line" or "Wauponsie Glacial Trail." Those romantic Native American names are not just for show.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Time was when white men did not live here, only tribes of warring Indians roamed the prairie. Set the way-back machine to the late 17th century for a look around.

The very state we live in, Illinois, is named for a tribe of Indians. The Illinois Indians, who called themselves Inuka, were made up of five distinct bands: Kaskaskias, Cahohias, Peorias, Tamaroas, Moingwene and Michigamea. The last two lived north of Lake Peoria in our region. They were once the most numerous tribe in the Midwest.

There were many towns along the Illinois River belonging to these tribes, the principal one, La Vantum, was located at the present site of Utica. They were not a war-like peoples,

preferring instead the peaceful life of hunting and fishing.

At that time herds of buffalo roamed Illinois prairies, deer were plentiful and wolves made the night sing with their howls. The fur bearing animals like beaver, muskrat, weasel, etc. were also easily procured.

But then came the French fur traders, coming into our area from Canada. The trade goods and whiskey offered by the whites for fur pelts were impossible to resist. Soon what was plentiful became scarce.

As furs became scarce there was more competition among the tribes. Neighboring tribes like the Iroquois from the east, jealous of the great abundance of game, frequently raided the towns of the Illinois, stealing furs, food and women and children for slaves. According to tradition, the Iroquois once carried away 800 women and children of the Illinois, only

to burn them to death.

As the game and the Illinois tribes both began to lessen in numbers, other tribes like the Pottawattamie from Michigan became aggressors as well. When the French Jesuit priest, Father Marquette, arrived their numbers had been reduced to a few pitiful bands, located mainly in the Starved Rock area.

The French recognized that area as strategic and located their missions and trading posts there as well. Then came the hot day in August of 1680 when the whole world of the Illinois Confederacy of tribes changed. That day a scout arrived at La Vantum with his horse foaming, shouting at the top of his lungs. The Iroquois were coming!

Although peaceful, the Illinois warriors were brave. They caught up their weapons, painted their face for war and did the war dance around the fire to keep up their courage. The morning brought the sun and the Iroquois too.

During the night the women, children and elderly were canoed downstream to a marshy island for protection. About 60 warriors were left in the

high reeds around the island for their protection.

At the time there were only about 500 warriors around La Vantum because the chief, Chassagoac, was at Cahokia for a feast along with a great number of warriors. The Iroquois numbered five times that amount, never the less, the Illinois warriors advanced to meet the invaders.

The battle was engaged, and at first the Illinois fled in terror at the ferocity of the Iroquois, but finally held their ground. The French fur trader and explorer Henri de Tonti tried to mediate a settlement but was attacked and only saved by an Iroquois chief who saw that he was white.

The outnumbered Illinois warriors were no match for their attackers and fled back to La Vantum on the banks of the river. La Vantum had been fortified with a stockade fence, but it did little good. The Iroquois burned the town and the wigwams with the Illinois warriors still in them.

The surviving Illinois warriors were tortured for the location of the squaws and children. Soon the hiding place was told, and the Iroquois attacked the



A PAINTING DONE in 1830 of a Peoria chief named "Man Who Tracks" or "Pah Me Cow Ee Tah".

island, murdering every single person hiding there. The sixty warriors left to guard them had fled in fear.

Three months later La Salle came down the river to check on the little settlement of La Vantum and found the scene of carnage. The scene is described like this:

"On the charred poles which had formed the framework of the lodges, were many human heads with flesh torn away by the

buzzards. Wolves scattered at their approach, and bodies were strewn everywhere. On the island where the women and children hid, charred bodies standing upright, bound on poles where they had been burned stood everywhere."

The Illinois as a tribe had been wiped out. The Iroquois would not stay either. It was the Pottawattamie tribe that would move in next.



The Senior Spotlight winner for the month of September is Addi Brown. Addi is the daughter of Pat and Brooke Brown.

During her high school career, Addi was involved in Softball, Basketball, Golf, National Honor Society, Student Council, Safe School Ambassadors, and World Language Club.

She was a Class Officer, on the High Honor Roll, was part of the ICE Leadership Conference, and was a Student of the Month. Additionally, she was named Academic All-Conference in Softball and Basketball, All-Conference in Softball, and she helped coach the RCMS Softball team for 2 years.

Her future plans are to attend a 4-year university to obtain a degree in Computer Engineering.

Here are a few thoughts from Addi's teachers.

Mr. Smith says that Addi "has a great personality. She is hardworking, positive, and always reliable. She is a joy to be around."

Ms. Chinski appreciates that Addi "always has a smile on her face and a friendly, welcoming presence."

Mrs. Meyr thinks that Addi "is a great role model

for others. She is kind, personable, and leads by example."

Mrs. Lee believes that Addi "is such a great person! I love how kind and positive Addi is to everyone around her. She always includes others and goes out of her way to make them feel valued. Addi loves to learn! She often comes in early to ask questions and is the first person to try to help someone else. Her work ethic and kind heart will carry her far!"

Mrs. Rankin acknowledges that Addi is "a complete delight in every way. She is kind, intelligent, thoughtful, helpful, and an all-around positive influence on everyone around her."

Mr. Gleixner says that Addi is "the epitome of what a Reed-Custer student should be: Kind, caring, smart, and friendly. Addi comes in everyday with a smile on her face and backs it up with her attitude. She is a leader in the classroom and on the athletic field. Watching her grow since 8th grade has been great."

Ms. Baron appreciates that Addi "has taken six art classes with me since she was a freshman at RCHS and she's been an absolute joy to have in the class-

room. In the last four years, I don't think I've ever seen her without a smile! Addi is the prime example of a kind, responsible, and hardworking student. I know Addison is a dedicated athlete, a focused scholar, and a passionately creative person. Her polite, cheerful disposition has a way of brightening the lives of those she meets. I've personally witnessed Addi reach out to students that may not have many friends or find it difficult to speak to new people. Her genuine care for others and emotional intelligence truly sets her apart from her peers. Aside from being a positive role model, Addison's artwork is impeccably and heartfully created, with her ceramic pieces being some of her most impressive works. Addison goes above and beyond to push her artwork to the next level. I know that Addi will have an incredible senior year and a richly successful life beyond high school."

Mr. Kristofer thinks that Addi is "an absolute pleasure to have in class. She radiates positive energy, a desire to learn and a determination that is unmatched. No doubt that success and high levels of

achievement is in her future."

Ms. Watkins acknowledges that "from my first day student teaching at RCHS to now, Addi has been one of the most positive and kind students I have met. Her energy spreads and inspires other to do their best, especially in her art classes. Addi always is eager to help others. I don't think I've ever seen her without a radiant smile on her face. She is a student I am proud to have met and know is bound for great things! Her joy, positive energy, and leadership will be missed once she graduates!"

Mrs. Robinson thinks that Addi "is a wonderful student and a very hardworking individual. Her infectious smile can always brighten someone's day, and she never lets a stumble in the road affect her goal for the future. She is always fun to be around and a great addition to any class or group. I am very proud to have been her teacher during her time here."

Mr. Davis says that Addi is "a great student and an even better person. She is a joy to be around." Mrs. Redwitz believes that Addi is "a student that is incredibly pleasant. She always has a positive attitude and is just a kind-hearted person."

Ms. Ames appreciates that Addi "comes to school each day with a smile on her face, and that kindness radiates whether she's in class, or working with her team. She is a leader that isn't afraid to ask questions. Her attitude and work ethic will carry her far." Mr. Welsh says that Addi "lights up a room with her smile and positive attitude. She is a true joy to have in the classroom."

As a final thought, Addi's advice to younger students is, "Be organized. Get your work done before it's due so that you can relax in the future. But don't forget to have fun as well!"

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, we would like to congratulate Addi Brown as the September winner of the Senior Spotlight.

Braidwood Presbyterian Women to host scrapathon

The Braidwood Presbyterian Women will be holding their annual Fall Scrapathon Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the church on 106 S. Lincoln Street.

The cost is \$40. This year's theme will be pump-

kins. Delicious food will be served throughout the day along with some great raffles and door prizes.

Anyone interested in signing up and reserve your spot before they are gone please call or text Elizabeth Bell at 405-820-5944.

Braidwood Lions accepting pre-orders for Christmas greenery

The Braidwood Lions Club is accepting pre-orders for fresh greenery Christmas decorations.

Items include grave blankets & pillows, balsam swags, sprays, crosses, wreaths & garland. All pre-orders and applicable deposits are due by Aug. 31 and will be available for pickup between Nov. 29

and Dec. 6.

To place an order please call (779)233-1026 or email marykaminsky55@gmail.com. More information and full details can be found on the Braidwood Lions Club's website www.braidwoodlionsclub.org or on the club's Facebook page.

Knights to hold Tootsie Roll Drive

The Knights of Columbus annual Tootsie Roll Drive will be held Sept. 13, 14, and 15 to benefit people with Intellectual Disabilities.

Members of Braidwood Council 1574 will be out in force in the communities of Coal City, Braidwood, Gardner, South Wilmington, Braceville and Diamond accepting donations.

This year they are again hoping to collect outstanding contributions for fellow citizens of the local area. Your worthy donation will be appreciated.

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs

Thursday, Sept. 12- Microsoft Basics, 10-11:30 a.m. Join our expert instructor to master the basics of Microsoft Office in a supportive, classroom-style environment. Bring your questions and enthusiasm for learning. Handouts and practical exercises will be provided to enhance your understanding and skills.

Wednesday, Sept. 18- The British Invasion: A concert with Dave Rudolf, 6-7:30 p.m. Join musician Dave Rudolf for a nostalgic journey through the iconic sounds of the British Invasion. Experience an evening filled with the music that revolutionized the world of music, fashion, and style. Enjoy timeless hits from legendary bands such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Who, Peter and Gordon, and many more British icons.

Childrens Programs

Wednesday, Sept. 18 & 25-Lap-Sit, 10-10:30 a.m. Let's instill a love of books in children from birth to three years old. This pro-

gram is designed to introduce your child to the wonderful world of books. Caregiver participation and guidance are required as we read, sing, and do finger plays.

Thursdays, Sept. 12, 19 & 26-Toddler Time, 10-11 a.m. We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us every week to explore various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.

Thursday, Sept. 19-Community Helpers Storytime, 1:30-3 p.m. Join us at the Braidwood Police Department, 141 W Main St. for a tour of the police station. Meet Chase, the police dog, and listen to stories read by the police officers. Registration is required, and a caregiver must accompany their child.

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

DAVE RUDOLF'S

BRITISH

RE-INVASION

Join multi-award winning, Gold Record artist Dave Rudolf for a trip down memory lane (maybe even Penny Lane) for a night of music from the British Invasion that influenced a whole world of music, fashion, and style!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic. Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.

A temper tantrum

BRAIDWOOD—The few Braidwood residents who were called out in last week's soundoff apparently realized that the shoe being described fit on their foot. Once again, someone put them in their place so they decided to take to Facebook, stomp their feet and throw a temper tantrum. They have outright admitted their own ignorance and put it out there for public display. The only people they're embarrassing are themselves.

e-learning plan

COAL CITY—I really wish the school district would get with the times. How does every district around us have e-learning but we still don't. The school is already scheduled past Memorial Day then add on some snow days. Let's catch up with these other schools who have had it figured out for a couple years now.

Kamala stalling

SHADOW LAKES—I hope you watched Vice President Kamala Harris 17-minute interview. She will really be classified as one of the world's great orators. How can you talk and say nothing? I believe this is her plan. Very soon it will be mail-in ballots time. She is hoping she can stall this out until the mail in starts. Then she will come out with the surprises. After this takes place, you will have people say, "if I had known this, I would have not voted for her." Obediently yours, Margot Lane

Time to move

BRAIDWOOD—Why do they keep moving from town to town? Do they wear out their welcome? They sure move fast. They've got two buildings and they got daddy, we need a new building. Time to move to a new town. Wore out your welcome. Thanks Barb.

Educate yourself

BRAIDWOOD—Does anyone read books anymore? Trump loves Elon Musk, two dictators who love to fire people. Read part of proposal 2025; very scary; plan to get rid of thousands of workers and rid Medicare and Social Security. Don't listen to TV propaganda; read and educate yourself. Why is Bush and Liz Cheney not voting for Trump? Since when are veterans losers? Trump is the biggest bully and loser; loves to call people names. Did you ever hear Reagan or Obama call people names? Think about it.

Americans first

DIAMOND—Someone should explain why tax dollars are being given to the people in the USA illegally. They receive free rent, food stamps, benefits from the Social Security administration, debit cards with money and everything else in the USA free while American citizens are being forced into poverty and to live in the streets without any funds. So why can't the American citizens receive everything free like the people that crossed our borders without proper authorization. But not one of our leaders will dare answer this question and Democratic voters will not answer unless they were forced into poverty which shows that they do not honor any American citizens or the freedom of the USA.

Vote on policies

WILMINGTON—Never heard Trump repeatedly promise to be a dictator when asked if he would be. The only thing he said was that he would be one only on the first day back in office to reverse the Biden administrations restrictions on drilling for

our oil. This is so important for us because it will cause gas prices and many other prices to go down and be affordable again. Also, the only Supreme Court Justices who seem to be activist instead of strict constitutionalists are the three who were appointed by Democrats. Project 2025 was a product of a conservative group and not a project of President Trump. His name is not on it. Although he is not in favor of abortion generally, he believes it should be allowed in cases of rape, incest and the life of the mother because most of the citizens of the U.S. agree with these conditions. This election in November is very important because our President will be making decisions that will affect our lives in many ways. Vote policies and not personality.

Just a campfire

BRAIDWOOD—Over the last several weeks I've been listening to the Braidwood police and fire department's radio feed on a scanner app and one thing that has stuck out is the ridiculous number of illegal burning complaints that are being called in from someone living over on Third Street. It seems like the same person is calling in 3-4 times a day with complaints of someone burning something in their yards. Most of the time these complaints seem to be unfounded or are a result of someone enjoying a small campfire in their backyard. When we moved to Braidwood 12 years ago we moved here because of the small town feel which includes being able to have camp fires, burn our leaves and have a wood burning stove. But it seems that someone is trying to put an end to all of this. There should be a law against constantly calling the police or fire department with unfounded complaints like this. To the constant complainer, if you don't like the smell of smoke then move to a bigger city because you're going to be in for a real treat now that it's fall time.

Stand together

BRAIDWOOD—This is in response to the Sound-off in the Sept. 4 issue titled Enough is Enough. Just to let you know there are hundreds of citizens unhappy. Two years ago the citizens came out and voted for change and won. This April 1st the citizens of Braidwood will win again. Stand together, fight together and we will win together and we will put the clown back on the train.

The fine print

COAL CITY—Coal City citizens and board members. Regarding the Senior housing project. Are we victims of gaslighting by the developers? Sounds good, looking at the headlines, but if you read the content it's extremely deceiving. If you are a senior well enough to stay in your paid-for home, why would you want to move to this development? And if you are not well enough, perhaps you are looking into assisted living, which I don't believe this project entails. The developer indicates there are no citizenship requirements to qualify. What exactly does that mean? Is this a senior development or are we going to house illegal aliens? I quote, "Applicants may be disqualified if they have a poor rental history, poor credit report, criminal record, or if documents are falsified." The article reads "May be disqualified" not Will be disqualified. Which leaves the door open to someone's discernment. Is the developer aware that this property was once part of, or extremely close to the city dumps? Back in the day there were no rules as to which dangerous chemicals could be dumped there. Has the area been decontaminated?



This project appears to contain a lot of loopholes.

Middle class suffers

SHADOW LAKES—Trump's 14% corporate tax cuts have been in place for the last six years up until now and apparently into the near future. If these tax cuts are beneficial to the working class why are all the Republicans complaining about how bad things are in this country. Why aren't they instead talking about how good we have it thanks to the corporation tax cuts? Sure they tell you that cutting taxes on the rich benefits everyone, but those are Republican lies. The reality is that the rich are getting richer and the middle class is shrinking. The Republican control congress propose a bill that included immigration reform. The Senate reviewed it, approved it and sent it back to Congress to be voted into law. Trump knowing this would lower his chances of being re-elected ordered the MAGA Republicans to reject it. This is true it was well publicized in the media. With many real Republicans in disbelief.

No billionaires

DIAMOND—A big high five for the writer that stated we have this billionaire that never had to worry about money in all his life like the rest of us and wants to be president. I could not have said it better myself. Let's not stop there though. We have the governor Pritzker that never had to worry about money in his life already elected. After you all helped him get elected the first thing he did was to double your gas tax as well as raise other taxes and fees. He does not understand how he hurt people. Why? Because he can't understand it. I've stated in Soundoff before, I would rather see one of the elected officials in our small towns be in these positions because they understand how we live and what we need. No billionaires allowed!

Trump's tariffs

SHADOW LAKES—Before people decide who they're going to vote for in the next election. They should take some time and do some research, about the impact that Trump tariffs had on the economy. All you have to do is Google Trump tariffs impact on the economy. You need to know this because it has impacted the price you pay for almost every thing you buy at the store.

Make no mistake

Does it bother you that Trump drags America through the mud and trashes the Constitution? Project 2025 would destroy the Constitution, dismantle American freedoms and transform our nation into the darkness of Russia, North Korea, Hungary and other dictatorships where the people must sit up at attention and take orders without question. In fact, on July 28th at the Turning Point Action event in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump told his supporters they would never have to vote again if he wins. This is a warning from a wannabe dictator in accord with Trump's previous threats and with Project 2025 which states that the President's power would expand beyond the Oval Office. Also, the Supreme Court's immunity ruling on July 1st states that the President would be above the law and he could assassinate his political enemies without punishment. There is no mistaking it. Your vote for Harris-Walz is essential to ensure that there will be elections in our future.

Hunter pleads

SHADOW LAKES—So Hunter Biden falls on the sword and pleads guilty to tax evasion to avoid a trial that would have shown Trump was right about the Biden crime family. Not to worry, he will not spend time in jail like any of us would, daddy will handle it. Remember the Democrats always say no one is above the law. Watch

Tariffs rebuttal

WILMINGTON—Tariffs are not the reason things are so expensive today; things are expensive because of the care-less spending and printing of money by the current administration. Corporate tax decreases results in corporation buying new equipment and hiring Americans. It has a chain reaction of hiring in all facets of our economy because people are finally working. On the other hand, Kamala wants to tax all Americans for unrealized gain. Can you afford to come up with

\$100,000 or more to pay for unrealized gain on your house? I can't. She wants to control our grocery stores. That will only lead to shortages worse than during covid. I prefer Trump's single digit inflation, no wars, oil independence, safe borders, criminals go to jail, etc. Kamala has done nothing to help the American people.

Cheney endorses Harris

BRAIDWOOD—Why is Dick Cheney's endorsement of Kamala Harris so significant? Cheney's reputation far outstrips any Republican, including Trump, and is considered the toughest Republican of all Republicans earning respect throughout our nation as well as the entire world. When Cheney speaks the world listens. Cheney states that in our nation's 248-year history Trump has proven to be the most dangerous man to our nation's democracy, a "threat to our republic" and a "coward." Cheney's daughter, Liz, sacrificed her political career by standing up to Trump when she served on the Jan. 6 committee to tell the American people how Trump staged a bloody coup thereby reducing our noble country to a lowly third world nation. Fortunately Trump failed but continues his traitorous rampage to burn down democracy and embrace dictatorships throughout the world.

Think twice


COAL CITY—Tariffs are good for the USA, it not only stops manufacturers from moving out of the country but brings manufacturing back. Goods may be a little higher but better jobs will bring higher pay. So think twice before you want to stop tariffs. Face it, other countries from becoming rich while we get poorer and losing jobs. Also, be sure to notice how much time Kamala gets on the biased mainstream media compared to how much time Trump gets. Also, they always show her or Biden smiling while Trump is always shown with a frown on his face or a mean look. They sure do their best to sway the country their opinions that are paid for by the swamp. Don't believe everything you hear on the news and take note how biased it is.

The childcare word salad

WILMINGTON—Once again Trump insulted the American people when he gave an answer Sept. 5 to the Economic Club of New York on how families will get access to child care. Considering Trump's rambling answer, parents should know better than to expect a check in the mail anytime soon if Trump wins the election. Trump agreed that child care is very important but then babbled on and on about how much money tariffs will bring into our coffers, at least if the economic experts are ignored. If Trump meant tariffs will pay for child care, how does that work? How do parents get to dip into those coffers and get their piece of the pie for child care? Trump didn't say and that's the problem. Is he ignoring the fact that legislation must be written and then debated repeatedly in the House and the Senate after which modifications are made and the whole cycle repeats itself endlessly before it ever lands on the President's desk for signature? In other words hard work is necessary to get the money to go to the proper place. But perhaps Trump forgot about the hard work of passing legislation to improve the lives of the middle class because during his presidency Trump was too busy creating chaos and continues to do so today. Irene

Our first responders

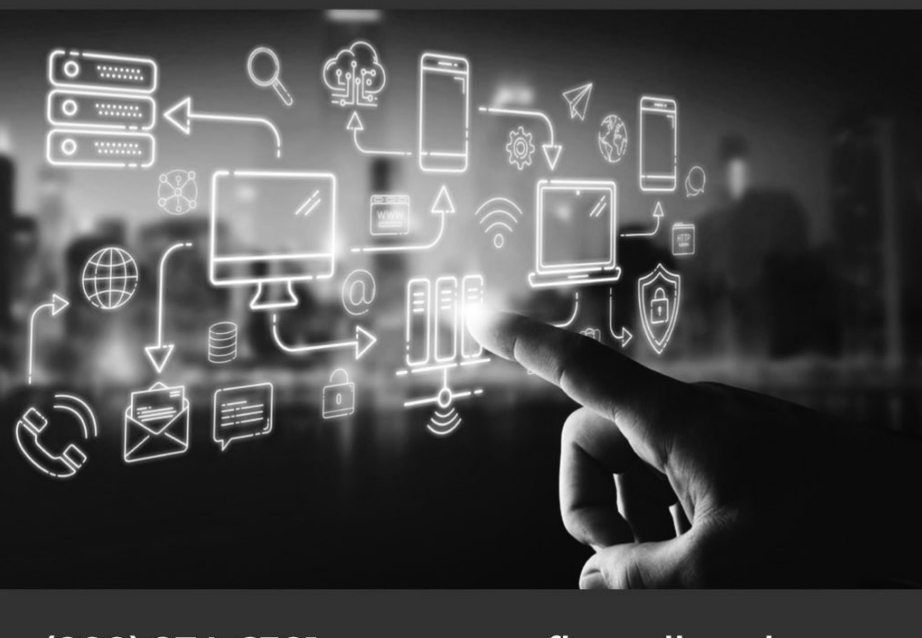
WILMINGTON—I would like to thank the Wilmington Fire Department who came to my house late on Sunday evening because the detectors in my house started going off. They found that there was a leak in my furnace and gas was seeping into my house. They took care of the problem, they opened up windows, they ran fans to clear the air and had me stay outside until they contained the gas leak. I truly appreciated them coming and I felt so bad that I called them so late at night. It was after 11 p.m. and they were probably all sleeping but they were very kind and courteous, just amazing young men. We are lucky to have the first responders we have in Wilmington, the police, fire department and ESDA. I don't know what I would do without them. Sheri Michaels



Surf | Broadband Solutions
Connect Further, Faster.

RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive
FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!



(888) 274-6381 • www.surfbroadband.com

Fall Into Super Savings at Berkot's!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!



Experience the Berkot's difference
Fresh. Friendly. Focused on you.

Sales valid 9/12/24-9/18/24 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM
ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.



Berkot's Fresh, All Natural Duroc Boneless Pork Chops - (Sold in 3-4 ct)

USDA Choice Angus Filet Mignon - 5 oz portion (Sold in single pack)

Berkot's Fresh Homemade Sausage - All Varieties (Sold in 5 pk)

Berkot's Farm Fresh Chicken Leg Quarters (Approx 3.5 lb pkg)

HUGE 5 for \$25 Meat Sale

Berkot's Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef 1 lb Cryovac Packages

Berkot's Farm Fresh Premium Whole Chickens (Approx 3.25-3.5 lbs)

USDA Choice Angus Sandwich Steaks (Sold in 3 pack- approx .75 lb pkg)

Censea Large Raw, Peeled Shrimp 31-40 ct (Sold in a 1 lb bag)

Berkot's Fresh, All Natural Duroc Boneless Pork Ribeye Roast or Center Cut Pork Roast - 32 oz

Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillets - 6 oz portion

USDA Choice Fajita Meat - (Approx .75 lb pkg)

*Discounts applied at register when buying any 5 meat items included in 5 for \$25 Sale.

LOOK FOR FILL IT FRESH SIGNS ON SELECT PRODUCE ITEMS & FILL OUR BAG FOR ONLY \$25



Mix & Match These Included Items! Bananas • Fuji, Gala, or Red Delicious Apples • Fuji, Gala, Red Delicious, Gold Delicious, or McIntosh Apples- 3 lb bag • Grapefruit • Grapefruit- 3 lb bag • Jumbo Cantaloupe • Honeydew • Navel Oranges • Navel Oranges- 3 lb bag • Pineapple • Lemons • Cut Watermelon Bowls • Fresh Express Coleslaw- 14 oz • Fresh Express Iceberg Garden Salad- 12 oz • Celery • Baby Carrots- 1 lb bag • Carrots- 1 or 2 lb bag • Cilantro- bunch • Curry or Italian Parsley- bunch • Green Cabbage • Red Cabbage • Brussels Sprouts • Broccoli Crowns • Cauliflower • Head Lettuce • Romaine Hearts • Romaine Hearts- 3 pk • Kale- bunch • Spinach- bunch • Yellow Onions • Yellow Onions- 3 lb bag • Sweet Onions • Red Onions • White Onions • Green Onions • Yukon Gold Potatoes- 3 lb bag • Idaho Baking Potatoes • Idaho Potatoes- 10 lb bag or 5 lb bag • Red Potatoes- 5 lb bag • Sweet Potatoes • Acorn Squash • Butternut Squash • Spaghetti Squash • Zucchini • Yellow Squash • Green Peppers • Red Peppers • Orange Peppers • Yellow Peppers • Jalapeno Peppers • Eggplant • Cucumbers • Sweet Corn • Cherry Tomatoes- pint • Roma Tomatoes • Beets • Green Beans

GREAT GROCERY DEALS TO FILL YOUR BASKET

Entenmann's Little Bites Muffins or Cookies 6.88-9.75 oz Single: \$5.79

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

Aunt Millie's Artisan Style Bread - 20 oz Italian, Texas Toast, Country Buttermilk, or Cracked Wheat Bread- 22 oz Stadium Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns- 8 pk

2 FOR \$4

Johnsonville Brat Buns - 6 pk

Kraft Blue Box Macaroni & Cheese, Premiums, or Shapes 5.5-7.3 oz

99¢ EACH

Prego Pasta Sauce 23-24 oz

2 FOR \$4

Absopure Purified Water - 24 pk .5 L btl

Single: \$3.99

3 FOR \$10 when buying 3

Campbell's Chunky Soup 16.1-19 oz Bowls 15.25 oz

2 FOR \$4

HALFWAY TO St. Patrick's Day

Berkot's Famous Homemade Corned Beef **\$4.99 PER LB**

Green Cabbage **49¢ PER LB**

Baby Carrots 1 lb bag **\$1.49 EACH**

Dutch Farms Jumbo Eggs - Dozen

Sale Price 2/\$7

Digital Coupon -\$2.00 when buying 2

FINAL PRICE 2/\$5 when buying 2 with \$2 dig. coup - LIMIT 2 PKGS*

Kentucky Legend Original or Applewood Smoked Bacon - 16 oz

Sale Price \$3.99/ea

Digital Coupon -\$1.00/ea

FINAL PRICE \$2.99 ea with \$1 digital coupon LIMIT 5 PACKAGES*

Prairie Farms 1%, 2%, or Skim Milk Gallon

Sale Price \$3.49/ea

Digital Coupon -50¢/ea when buying 2

FINAL PRICE \$2.99 ea when buying 2 with digital coupon - LIMIT 2*

Home Run Inn 12" Classic - 27-33 oz

Sale Price \$5.99/ea

Digital Coupon -\$1.00/ea

FINAL PRICE \$4.99 ea with \$1 digital coupon LIMIT 2 PIZZAS*

Happy Apples Caramel Apples - 3 pk

Sale Price \$3.99/ea

Digital Coupon -\$1.00/ea

FINAL PRICE \$2.99 ea with \$1 digital coupon LIMIT 4 PACKAGES*

Taylor Farms Salads 9.2-13.5 oz

Sale Price \$4.99/ea

Digital Coupon -\$2.00/ea

FINAL PRICE \$2.99 ea with \$2 digital coupon LIMIT 4 PACKAGES*

Clementines 3 lb bag

Sale Price \$5.99/ea

Digital Coupon -\$3.00/ea

FINAL PRICE \$2.99 ea with \$3 digital coupon LIMIT 4 BAGS*

Miller High Life or High Life Light 12 pk 12 oz btl or cans

Sale Price \$7.99/ea

Digital Coupon -\$3.00/ea

FINAL PRICE \$4.99 ea with \$3 digital coupon LIMIT 2 12-PACKS TOTAL LIMIT 1 OFFER*

*Clip Coupon at BERKOTFOODS.COM & Share Loyalty Phone Number at Register to Redeem Limit Permitted Per Loyalty Account Per Ad Week.

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE →



Third term for Gov. Pritzker may be up to his wife

"It seems crazy, but it's true that when I serve out the end of this second term, I will be the longest-serving Democratic governor in the history of Illinois," Gov. JB Pritzker said last month during the Democratic National Convention. I looked it up and it's true. Pat Quinn served about six years as gover-



Rich Miller

nor, replacing Rod Blagojevich, who also did six years before doing time in prison. Dan Walker served four years before he also went to prison. Otto Kerner left before the end of his second term to become a federal judge, then went to prison. Sam Shapiro filled out the remainder of that term. Adlai Stevenson did one term and then ran for president twice. Henry Horner

died before the end of his second term, which John Stelle completed. Edward Dunne, John Peter Altgeld and Joel Matteson were all one-termers. Augustus French served seven years because of a change in the new state constitution. The five Democrats before that served one term or less. The state's earliest governors were members of the Democratic-Republican or Republican-Democratic parties. None served more than four years. What people wanted to know last month, though, was whether Pritzker wants to try for a third term in two years. I'm told that one priority for a potential third term could be finally addressing why Illinois has historically lagged the nation in employment. The state's unemployment rate in July was 5.2 percent, which is widely considered to be "full employment" but was still almost a point higher than the national average. And that's consistent with history. Pritzker in a recent

interview with me pointed to the state's relatively high labor force participation rate as a reason, but our participation rate really isn't that much different than lots of other states that have lower unemployment rates. The governor talked about a third term during a state delegates' convention breakfast, but cautioned his audience that his wife, MK, was his "term limit," explaining that if people want him to run again they'll first have to convince her. MK grew up in a political household. Her father was chief of staff to South Dakota Gov. Richard Kneip and then ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate. She was a U.S. Senate staffer in D.C. when she met the future governor. This stuff is in her blood. Mrs. Pritzker has kept a fairly low profile the past six years, fiercely guarding her family's privacy, particularly during the pandemic. She's probably best known for throwing huge, swanky parties (including convention-week's Salt Shed soiree featuring John

Legend) and for finishing the task of decorating the governor's mansion and publishing a book about the official residence. But she made a rare appearance at a bill signing event this summer to talk about her involvement with incarcerated women. The bill her spouse signed into law provides free identification cards for newly released inmates. Mrs. Pritzker took up the cause of incarcerated women at the beginning of the Pritzker administration. MK helped set up an ID pilot program at Logan Correctional Center back in 2020, and told reporters at the event that she'd visited women's prisons more than a dozen times since Gov. Pritzker was sworn in. She said her focus since her first prison visit in January of 2019, "has been on ensuring incarcerated Illinoisans are treated with respect and dignity, and that they are given a real opportunity to rehabilitate and return to post-incarceration life with a chance at avoiding recidivism and making positive change." There are no current

signs that Mrs. Pritzker is ready to move on to private life. And her spouse clearly appears to be enjoying his current job, regardless of what just happened to his national ambitions with Vice President Kamala Harris' elevation to presidential nominee. So, does MK want to move back to Washington, D.C. if VP Harris wins and if Gov. Pritzker is offered a Cabinet position? Or would she want to continue her work here in Illinois? And would Gov. Pritzker himself be happy working for someone else after years of leading a large state? Or does she just want it all to end? Those are a lot of ifs, starting with Harris' election and then an actual Pritzker appointment and if he'd want it. I've gone back and forth on this. I thought for a while that I had a good handle on it, but now I'm not so sure. Let's see what their options look like in a few months. Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

warrencollisioncenteril.com

✓ Finest quality warranted collision repair
 ✓ Rentals available
 ✓ Certified technicians
 ✓ All insurance accepted
 ✓ Completed in a timely fashion

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
 860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
 815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

HANSEN'S
 WINDOW COVERINGS & FURNITURE UPHOLSTERY

FREE in home measuring & selection

Keep the sun at bay with **GREAT PRICING** on Energy Saving Window Coverings.

Serving Will, Cook, Grundy & Kankakee Counties For Over 20 Years

Come visit us at our **Bradley & Mokena Showrooms!**

200 North Washington • Bradley (815) 935-0010
 19827 South LaGrange Rd. • Mokena (708) 479-6600

HunterDouglas
 Frankfort (815) 469-6610
 New Lenox (815) 485-2058
 Orland Park (708) 403-1110
 Joliet (815) 722-0011
 www.HansensWindowCoverings.com

Illinois saw increased visitor spending in 2023

Heritage Corridor Destinations announced the area generated a local economic impact of \$1.6 billion and contributed to an increase in visitor spending across Illinois in 2023.

In addition, this boost in tourism contributed \$54.4 million in local tax revenue while directly supporting more than 12,200 jobs in the tourism and hospitality industry, according to the latest data provided by Tourism Economics.

"I'm thrilled to see our six-county region continues to provide significant economic impact from visi-

tors to the region - celebrating the 175th anniversary of the I&M Canal, the beauty of Starved Rock Country, and the nostalgia of The First Hundred Miles of Route 66 Illinois," said Robert Navarro, President & CEO of Heritage Corridor Destinations.

"Visitors are spending over \$1.6 billion on transportation, lodging, attractions, food & beverage and other tourism related services in our region - that translates to over 12,000 jobs and more than \$54 million in taxes for our local communities."

Illinois welcomed 112 million domestic and international visitor who spent \$47 billion in 2023 - an increase of 1 million visitors and \$3 billion in spending from 2022. Visitor spending in 2023 surpassed 2019 levels for the first time, reaching 4% above its pre-pandemic benchmark.

Economic Impact of Domestic Travel by County:

- Bureau travel expenditures-\$55.6 million (4.9 decrease) Local tax revenue-\$1.4 million
 - Grundy travel expenditures-\$119.8 million (.34% increase) Local tax revenue-\$3.3 million
 - LaSalle travel expenditures-\$323.6 million (.9% increase) Local tax revenue-\$9.8 million
 - Livingston travel expenditures-\$51.2 million (1.9% increase) Local tax revenue-\$1.7 million
 - Putnam travel expenditures-\$10.1 million (4.1% increase) Local tax revenue-\$1 million
 - Will travel expenditures-\$1.037 billion (.5% increase) Local tax revenue-\$37.2 million
- Fast Facts**
- Illinois welcomed 112 million domestic and international visitors in 2023, an

increase of 1 million visitors from 2022

- Visitor spending resulted in \$47 billion in 2023, an increase of \$3 billion from 2022
- State and local tax revenue from visitor spending generated \$4.6 billion in 2023
- Visitor spending supported 278,200 tourism related jobs, an increase of 7,600 jobs from 2022
- Illinois reached its highest-ever hotel tax revenue figures in FY24, \$322 million - a 4.5% increase over the previous record set in FY23

Heritage Corridor is a destination of six Illinois counties (Will, Grundy, Livingston, LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam) including the first 100 miles of Route 66, I & M Canal towns and Starved Rock Country.

Pledge your support by sponsoring an ad on our Homecoming pages!

HOMECOMING 2024

Pick a team or pick all three!

Reed-Custer Comets
 Sept. 18 edition
 (Deadline Thurs., Sept. 12)

Wilmington Wildcats
 Oct. 2 edition
 (Deadline Thurs., Sept. 26)

Coal City Coalers
 Oct. 2 edition
 (Deadline Thurs., Sept. 26)

Call your ad rep today!

Eric Fisher (815) 476-7966 x209 efisher@fpnusa.com

Patti Sorg (815) 634-0315 fpnpatti@comcast.net

THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE THE BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL THE COAL CITY COURANT

Immaculate Conception Church to host October Fest

Don your lederhosen and break out your stein. Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood is hosting Oktoberfest Saturday, Sept. 28, in Father White Hall 110 S. School Street.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with a cash Bier Garden. Starting at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. a variety of German cuisine will be available for a free will donation for you to enjoy. Carry outs available.

New this year is a German Potato Salad contest, enter your favorite recipe and you could win a prize. We will also be having a German costume contest - dress your whole family and join in on the fun.

Any question please contact Tami Favero 815-405-0982.

BINGO IS BACK!

DOORS OPEN @ 5PM
 EVERY THURSDAY @ 6 PM

VFW Post 5422
 557 Baltimore St., Wilmington
 (815) 476-9210

Kitchen open until 8 p.m. with special menu!
 All you have to do is play Bingo, our staff will get your drinks and cook a delicious meal for you!

NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED!

Wilmington Knights of Columbus
Spaghetti Supper

Saturday September 14th
 5pm - 7pm

St. Rose Hall ~ 626 Kankakee St., Wilmington

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert, Drink

Carryout Dinners Available

Good Faith Donation

Rare sighting of swallow-tailed kite in Will County forest preserve

A bird that has never been reported in Will County in the past was spotted and photographed recently in and around the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Hadley Valley preserve.

A photo of a swallow-tailed kite was posted to the District's Will County Wildlife [2] Facebook group on Monday, Sept. 2, by Kara Senders Morales. According to eBird maps, this is the first time the bird has been reported in Will County. The 854-acre Hadley Valley is in Joliet, New Lenox and Homer townships.

Swallow-tailed kites spend the summers in the southeastern United States, primarily in Florida, then migrate south to South America for the winter. These raptors have been described as "the coolest bird on the planet," according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website.



A SWALLOW-tailed kite.

Photo by Kara Senders Morales

The birds are easy to identify due to their bold black-and-white plumage. Swallow-tailed kites spend

most of their time in flight, which can make them easier to spot.

According to the

Cornell website, "The kite's aerial acrobatics while on the hunt are something to see. It continually flicks and rotates its tail, switching from a straight course to a tight turn in an instant as it scans for prey. Sometimes it rolls and dives backward to catch an insect behind it. Adults swallow their food while flying, rarely perching during the day."

Other rare birds that have been spotted in the Will County area include a cinnamon teal, great kiskadee, painted bunting, red-throated loon and black-legged kittiwake. Birds can make their way far outside of their range for a variety of reasons. They can be thrown off course by weather, or they may be first-year birds that have migrated in the wrong direction.

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

Gas prices fall sixth straight week

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 10.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.52/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois

Prices in Illinois are 36.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 44.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 4.5 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.62/g - the lowest since early 2022.

In Wilmington, expect to pay \$3.16/g at Mohsen, up to \$3.63/g at stations in town.

Braidwood is holding out, with gas at \$3.57/g at

Casey's and \$3.63/g at Marathon.

Coal City is selling gas for \$3.51/ at Shell, and \$3.53/g at BP.

You can find gas for \$3.19/g at Pilot for \$3.17/g, and \$3.24 at Shell in Morris.

In Bourbonnais, expect to pay \$3.19/g at Gas N Wash, and \$3.41 at Road Ranger.

"Impressively, for the sixth straight week, gas prices have dropped to their lowest since winter. GasBuddy now counts 11 states and over 45,000 stations with gas prices below \$3 per gallon," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"With oil prices falling

below \$70 per barrel, their lowest since 2021, there's solid room for gas prices and diesel to continue falling for some time. We expect the national average could fall below \$3 per gallon as early as October for the first time since 2021, which would be music to the ears of motorists and certainly to politicians who are angling to be elected this fall."

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.79/g while the most expensive was \$4.95/g, a difference of \$2.16/g.

Take a hike in pursuit of spiders

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is hosting a Spider Hike on Friday, Sept. 13, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Search in the moonlight for local spider species and learn their benefit to the environment and some of their amazing adaptations. Free, all ages. Register by Sept. 12.

Electronics dropoff Thursday

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Sept. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite

receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

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

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

Coming Soon New Wilmington Office

A "TAKE SOME OF THE WORRY OUT OF LIFE" POLICY.



With rewards for safe behavior that protects what matters most, rather than penalties for what doesn't go quiet right. And with the support you need, every step of the way. For your car. Your home. For your unique life. Dream fearlessly with American Family Insurance. Contact me today.



Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364

teamgresham@amfam.com
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

WEESIP LIQUORS

Heinken
12 pk btls



\$17.99

Rolling Rock
12 pk. btls



\$8.49

Dos Hombres or El Tequileno Blanco Tequila



\$3.00 OFF
750ml

Jacquins Rock & Rye
750ml



\$2.00 OFF

Grey Goose or New Amsterdam Vodka



\$2.00 OFF
750 ml

Captain Morgan Rum
750 ml



\$1.00 OFF

Jack Daniels Whiskey



\$2.00 OFF
750 ml

Dark Horse or Apothic Wine
750ml



\$2.00 OFF

LIL VEGAS

6 Machines • Private Room
COME TRY YOUR LUCK!
Must be 21 yrs or Older

Offers good through September 17, 2024

1099 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-2764

Lisa Marie's HAIR SALON

- Men
- Women
- Children

CUTS ★ COLOR
450 Davy Ln., Wilmington
(708) 465-3198



Listen to what your heart is telling you.

- Chest discomfort
- Shortness of breath
- Lightheadedness
- Extreme fatigue
- Racing or slow heartbeat

These are signs that something might not be right with your heart.

Our board certified cardiologists are experienced in diagnosing and treating heart problems using advanced capabilities and technology at Morris Hospital.

If you have a family history of heart disease or any concerns about your heart health, call 815-705-1000 today to schedule an appointment with a cardiologist.

Syed Ahmed, M.D., Mostafa Ghanim, M.D., Mary Menz, D.O.
Alexander Green, M.D., Athar Saeed, M.D.

Office locations in Channahon, Dwight, Morris and Ottawa



MORRIS HOSPITAL
CARDIOVASCULAR
SPECIALISTS

www.morrishospital.org/cvspecialists



6 Month CD Special
5.00% APY*

13 Month CD Special
4.55% APY**



Bank of Pontiac

Bloomington • Coal City • Delavan • Dwight • Fairbury • Forrest
Melvin • Minier • Odell • Paxton • Piper City • Pontiac
Toll FREE 855-844-6151 | www.bankofpontiac.com
Member FDIC

*Annual Percentage Yield accurate as of 7/8/2024; \$5,000 minimum deposit; Rates subject to change without notice; Penalty for early withdrawal.

**Annual Percentage Yield accurate as of 7/8/2024; \$2,500 minimum deposit; Rates subject to change without notice; Penalty for early withdrawal.

OBITUARIES

Diana Bremer

MORRIS—Diana Lynn Bremer, 72, of Morris, passed away peacefully on Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, at Arcadia Care of Bloomington.

Born in Christopher, IL she was the daughter of the late Robert and Mary (King) Hargis. Diana was raised and educated in the Chicago area. She worked for the former Standard Bank in Morris for many years before retiring while it was First Midwest Bank, Now Old National. She enjoyed gardening, the outdoors, and fishing with her husband from time to time.

Diana is survived by her loving husband, Carl; daughter, Dawn (William) Miller and family.

A visitation for Diana will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, 1201 W. Route 6 at Deerpath Drive in Morris. As it was Diana's wish, cremation rites will be accorded after services. Inurnment will be held at a later date in Evergreen Cemetery.

For information, visit her Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com where you can share a favorite memory or leave a condolence.

Fred C. Dames Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

Cheryl L. Myers

PLAINFIELD—Cheryl L. Myers, 62, and a lifelong resident of Plainfield, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.



Born on Nov. 11, 1961, in Joliet, Cheryl was the daughter of Richard Laverne and Dixie Florence (McCulley) Myers. Raised in Plainfield, Cheryl graduated from Plainfield High School with the class of 1979, where she began to form the deep roots that kept her connected to the community throughout her life.

Cheryl's professional life centered around retail and service, where she built lasting relationships through her roles at Toys R Us, Eagle Foods, and the Plainfield School District's Food Services. Most recently, she was employed at Wal-Mart in Shorewood. Cheryl was an avid outdoorswoman with a particular love for fishing. Whether it was casting a line or playing softball, she enjoyed being active and always found a way to stay involved in the things she loved. A true sports fan, she faithfully cheered on the Chicago Cubs and Bears, sharing her passion for the game with those around her. Her love of the outdoors extended to her garden.

In years past, Cheryl enjoyed attending concerts, embracing her love for music and the joy of being part of a lively crowd. She will be remembered for her infectious spirit, her love of having a good time, and her ability to bring laughter and joy to any

situation. Cheryl's legacy is one of love, friendship, and a passion for life. She leaves behind cherished memories with those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her loving life partner of 22 years, Randy Miller, of Plainfield; two brothers, Rex (Jeannie) Myers, of Channahon and Kevin (Sandra) Myers, of Manlius Township; two nephews, Russell Myers and Richard Myers; one niece, Katherine Mia Myers and several great-nieces and great-nephews, as well as her lifelong friend, Gail Schwab Work.

Cremation rites have been accorded and Cheryl will be privately laid to rest in the family lot at Plainfield Township Cemetery with her parents.

A celebration of life will follow on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13, 24741 Renwick Road in Plainfield.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Cheryl's memory to Lightways Hospice or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

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

IDNR to host CWD deer meeting in Wilmington

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host public meetings throughout northern Illinois on the status of chronic wasting disease, its effect on future deer populations and IDNR's ongoing efforts to control the disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in deer living in Grundy, Kankakee, Will and 18 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 eight meeting locations will be one in Wilmington at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Des Plaines Conservation Area, 30550 S. Boathouse Road. A 45-minute presentation will be given with discussion to follow.

CWD is an important issue that will continue to dominate future deer management discussions in northern Illinois.

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 21 counties across the northern edge and northeastern portions of Illinois, as far south as Ford and Livingston counties.

For more information about the meetings or about CWD, contact Chris Jacques, wildlife disease program manager by email at chris.jacques@illinois.gov.

BEACH PARTY
is back at Tuffy's

Sat., Sept. 14

Music by **ST. JUPITER**
8pm-midnight

LIMBO CONTEST
How low can you go?

CASH PRIZE

If 5 or more contestants...
A Bikini Contest! Cash Prizes

NO COVER

TUFFY'S
WILMINGTON, IL

A Class Act

Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment
1099 S. Water St. (Rt. 102), Wilmington
Phone: (815) 476-2700

Check out our website

Like us on!

PEOPLE WHO READ NEWSPAPERS ARE

STUDENTS WITH BETTER GRADES

It all starts with newspapers

Establish a Lasting and Loving Legacy

Taking legal action to protect your assets, provide for your loved ones, and ensure your final wishes are followed while you can make these decisions on your own terms is important.

- Simple wills
- Estate planning
- Trust administration & probate



Phone: **815-476-7635**

207 S. Water St., Wilmington

F M
FISHER MEENTS LLC

2024 Fall Festival

September 14, 2024
DOWNTOWN COAL CITY

EVENTS

- 3-6 p.m. Car Show
- 3-6 p.m. Makers Court
- 5 p.m. Community Service Award
- 6 p.m. Megan's Mission 5K
- 4-7 p.m. Fine Tunes Center for the Arts
- 8-11 p.m. Snap Shot

FOOD & DRINKS

- Picture Me Smokin' BBQ
- Lil Deb's
- Grill Masters, Trackside Grill
- New Hope Presbyterian Church
- Turkey Poorboys & Bake Sale
- Boy Scout Brats
- Cub Scouts Candy Apples
- Lemon Shake Ups
- Methodist Church - Pie ala mode
- Downtown Restaurants & Bars will be Open!

ACTIVITIES

- Free Inflatables
- Touch-A-Truck
- Games & Mini Golf
- Rock Wall
- Giant Joust and More!

COACHMEN CAR CLUB

Rage Racing

Coal City Dental

Ancel Glink

INSULATION CONCEPTS

LRS

McCoy Marine

Constellation

Babe's Tap

Grundy REDI-MIX

The Cove

Bank of Pontiac

Advanced Auto & Tire, Inc.

Subway

LORI BONAREK REALTY

BOB'S

SEPT. 13TH

Friday Night Sponsor Kickoff 6pm

At

Advanced Auto & Tire, Inc.

60 E. CHESTNUT COAL CITY, IL. 60416

6-10PM - Live Music By The Sumthins

9:00 p.m. FIREWORKS

"D" Construction Inc.

Gardner Lions to serve breakfast Sept. 15

The Gardner Lions Club will serve breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 15, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Gardner American Legion Hall. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, bacon, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, toast. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10 years and under age 5 is free.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond
(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

INSURANCE

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

Make your home greener

Dear EarthTalk: How can homeowners make their homes greener and more efficient to cash in on rebates and incentives available under Biden's Inflation Reduction Act?
- Bill O., Dewey, OK

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Joe Biden's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act created \$8.8 billion in tax

credits and rebates to help lower- and middle-income homeowners contribute to the country's emission reduction goals. As with prior housing policy, the act defines lower- and middle-income Americans as those making 150 percent or less of their Area Median Income, or the midpoint of their local area's income distribution.

The bulk of these incentives come from federal tax credits which, like the act's state-based rebates, are available through September 2031, and can be applied retroactively to purchases and installations after August 2022.

The Residential Clean Energy Tax Credit covers up to 30 percent of installation costs for alternative energy sources including solar panels, small wind turbines, geothermal heat pumps and battery storage systems. The \$3,200 Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit, on the other hand, covers upgrades to existing energy sources.

The credit can be applied with a cap of \$1,200 for new windows and skylights (up to \$600), new doors (up to \$500), and

improvements to insulation (up to 30 percent). Out of the 23 total states that have applied for rebate program funding, eight have recently been approved: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Washington. Two more, New York and Wisconsin, have already begun distribution.

The Department of Energy expects that several states will join them later in 2024 beginning with the Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES), which will offer rebates of up to \$8,000 and \$4,000 respectively for low- and middle-income households that can cut energy usage by 35 percent or more.

The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) boasts a cap of \$14,000 in rebates per household and is expected to follow implementation of HOMES.

Under HEAR, low and middle income homeowners can expect 50-100 percent point of sale coverage on several appliances including up to \$8,000 for electric heat pumps; \$1,600 for insulation and air sealing; \$2,500 for electric wiring; and \$840 for electric stoves, ovens and heat



HOMEOWNERS CAN claim a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for installing an electric heat pump under the terms of the Inflation Reduction Act.

pump clothes dryers. Energy upgrades have the potential to save homeowners money far beyond installation. For example, more efficient homes can mean reduced energy bills.

Furthermore, green homes can qualify for benefits such as a \$5,000 tax credit if they meet the Department of Energy Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) standards. A qualified home energy auditor can help homeowners looking to cash in on the myriads of incentives determine which upgrades fit best with their homes and budgets.

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

CountrySide Village

OUTDOOR MARKET

CRAFTERS-ARTISANS-MUSIC-FOOD-FUN

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

9 AM - 2 PM

*STOREFRONT CLOSSES AT 4P

CountrySide Village
1540 N Division St, Braidwood, IL

WWW.COUNTRYSIDEVILLAGEGIFTS.COM

1	2	3		4	5	6	7
8			9			10	
11						12	
13			14			15	
16						17	
18				19	20		
			21			22	
			23			24	
		25				26	
	27			28			29
						30	31
						32	33
34							
36							37
38							39
40							41
42							43

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Engine additive
 - A type of test
 - Curtail
 - Irish surname
 - The opposite of good
 - Got rid of
 - Central parts of a church building
 - Stylistically
 - Intestinal
 - Negative potential outcomes
 - Lived up to a standard
 - Snag

- Time units (abbr.)
- Ad ____
- "Partridge" actress Susan
- For each
- ___ Paulo, city
- League titles
- More intensely black
- Slang for lovely
- Petrarch is known for them
- Old Eurasian wheat
- Body part
- Swedish rock group
- They're worth avoiding
- Rising and falling of the

- voice
42. Wings
 43. Enzyme import for respiration

- CLUES DOWN**
- Idyllic
 - South Pacific island nations
 - Shrub of the olive family
 - Boundaries
 - Encircle
 - Weights
 - Samberg is one
 - Sheep sound
 - European country
 - Respected group of people
 - Trigraph
 - Prosecutors
 - Assign a nickname
 - Huge size
 - Partner to cheese
 - Fastballs
 - Principle underlying the universe
 - Distinct units of sound
 - Title of respect
 - Against
 - Foot (Latin)
 - One point east of due south
 - Concerning the blood
 - Type of pentameter
 - North American peoples
 - Layers of rock
 - Georges ____, French philosopher
 - Lengthy tale

Spend the day with the Goose Lake Prairie Partners. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, bug spray, sun hats and enjoy the day!

26th Annual Prairie Day - September 21, 2024

Prairie Grove Picnic Area* at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area
5010 North Jughtown Road, Morris, IL 60450

From 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Sponsored by Dresden Clean Energy Center
Assisted by the Goose Lake Prairie Partners & the GLPSNA Staff

*Events of the Day - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Falcon Show and Tell, with Richard Escutia.
- Illinois Conservation Police Wildlife Mobile Exhibit with Conservation Police Officer Wessels assisting.
- Jackie & Gerrik Grove explaining Animal Rescue & Rehab.
- Louis P. Aiello, Jr. teaching from the American Indian Traveling Exhibit
- Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Staff giving Program Information on Midwin
- IDNR Fisheries - Learn basic casting techniques & play casting games.



Prairie Blazing Star

A Raffle for the Insects.

"An Insect Backpack" raffle will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the Gift Shop tent. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each & six for \$5.00. Ticket sales are in the Gift Shop until the drawing. (More information on our website) Winner may pick up the Insect's Backpack Prize after the 2:30 p.m. drawing. The Pack must be picked up by October 5 or another winner will be drawn.

NOTE: Cragg Cabin Will Not be open but take a peek in the windows. The Visitor Center is closed indefinitely.



Driving Directions: Take Route 47 South of the Illinois River to Pine Bluff Road; East about 5 1/2 miles to Jughtown Rd. Watch for park sign. Take I-55 South of Kankakee River; take Lorenzo Rd West 6 1/2 miles; watch for park sign. Turn North on Jughtown Rd. Continue on to the Prairie Grove.

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

SUDOKU - Here's how it works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

WILMINGTON CHAMBER

4th AUTUMN FESTIVAL OF CRAFTS

October 13

FREE ADMISSION - FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

- NORTH ISLAND PARK 10:00AM - 4:00PM RAIN OR SHINE
- WILMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- JURIED CRAFT SHOW
- FOOD TRUCKS
- WINE GARDEN
- LIVE MUSIC
- VINTAGE ITEMS
- PUMPKIN PAINTING

FOR MORE INFORMATION & VENDOR APPLICATIONS
www.wilmingtonchamber.org/crafts



CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOME FOR RENT

Wilmington, 1 BR, stove, refrigerator (courtesy), \$850/mon. Security deposit, first month's rent and lease. No smoking, no pets. Utilities not included. 815-931-9537. ck35-38

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

Two boat motors with stand. 9.8 Merc, 2 stroke, long shaft. 1998 Evinrude 3.3, 2 stroke. \$350 for all. 46" snow plow blade fits Cub Cadet riding mower LTX42. Model # 190-833C-OEM 9236, \$100.00 815-954-6853

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

SERVICE & REPAIRS

FIREWOOD, Cherry BBQ firewood \$169. Dry, seasoned, oak firewood \$169, mixed woods \$149, plus delivery. CAMPING & BBQ FIREWOOD. Quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc37-44

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



SERVICE & REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Free roof inspection. Low prices. **INSULATION.** Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck21-46

Relief is just a phone call away. Let me clean your house. Senior discount. 815-388-7743. cc35-38

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn

STORAGE

KELLY ROAD STORAGE
BOATS*RV*TRAILERS
OUTSIDE STORAGE
27040 KELLY RD.
Wilmington, Corner of Kelly and Blodgett (old Carpies Cove)
815-405-7337.
ca37-40



WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

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

Free pickup 7 days
815-210-8819

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



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Large one bedroom apartment in Gardner for rent. On second floor with private entrance \$625 per month. One year lease required. One month deposit required. Water, sewer and garbage included. Tenant pays electric. Available October 5. No dogs. No washer, dryer connection. Criminal background check needed. Text preferred. 815-277-6018. cc37-39

BOAT FOR SALE

For Sale: 1998 StarCraft 1709. Fish and Ski with 115 Mercury and trailer. Minn Kota Power Drive v2 bow mount trolling motor, with quick release and protective cover to clear the way for comfortable riding on the cushioned bow. Hummingbird 587 ci HD down imaging depth/fish finder with GPS. Integrated ladder on swim platform to easily board the boat. Transom saver for smooth towing. \$6,000. Call or text 815-347-7760.

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood - 177 S. English Street. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, September 12, 13, 14 from 8AM-6PM. Huge 4 family sale! Household tools, women and girls clothing, some of everything. cc37

GARAGE SALES

Carbon Hill, 790 N. 7th Street. Saturday, September 14th from 10AM-3PM. Furniture, rototiller, pots, pans, much misc. cc37

Wilmington - 410 Daniels St. Thursday & Friday, September 12-13, 9AM-4PM. Saturday, Sept. 14, 9AM-2PM. Housewares, beauty/personal care, Fiesta-ware, Christmas & fall decor, winter apparel, toys, books, DVD's, craft supplies, more! ca37

HELP WANTED

Looking for a landscaping carpenter to build decks, docks, timber walls, etc. Must have driver's license. Call 815-476-2012. cc34-37

FOR FREE

Free Granny Smith apples. 218 Hintze Road, Wilmington. 815-476-7414. fr36-37



21 CENTURY 21
Locally Owned
Nationally Known
Coleman-Hornsby

Call Us At 942-9190 or Log on to C21.com

Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker

1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

NEW LISTING



MORRIS \$199,900
Spacious 4-5BR, 3BA home w/ oversized 1 1/2 car garage in prime location near downtown Morris. Shawn 815-474-6670. NC206

PRICE REDUCED



WILMINGTON \$469,000
3BR, 1BA ranch home on 11.53 acres. Large pole barn. Whole house generator & metal roof. Call Tami 815-325-0550. BS19502

SOLD



MORRIS \$410,000
5 Acre farmette w/creek & woods in Saratoga sch. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 car gar. 42x16 Pole Bldg. Jo 815-252-1724. RJ10625



MORRIS \$359,900
3BR, 2.5BA Cape Cod home with detached two and a half car garage. Saratoga School District. Shawn 815-474-6670. CJ2730



COAL CITY \$340,000
4BR, 2.1BA w/2 car attached garage in Meadow Estates. Coal City school district. Cody 815-514-5733. 981

GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER
SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT **C21.COM**
99% Customer Satisfaction Rating
(815) 942-9190

SOLD



WILMINGTON \$218,000
Charming 3BR home w/fenced yard, deck & above-ground pool, perfect for entertaining! Cody 815-514-5733. LS406

SOLD



MORRIS \$215,000
Historic Gem on 1.76 Acres. 5BR home, built in 1856, exudes timeless elegance. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. RB5050



MORRIS \$159,900
Recently remodeled 2BR ranch home on wooded lot south of Morris w/2.5 car garage. Joan 815-341-8053. DW3435

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

Word search puzzle grid with letters and words hidden.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HENDRON CABINETS.COM
Jason Hendron Construction, LLC.
CABINETRY, GRANITE & QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS
DESIGN & SALES
JSI CABINETRY, QUARTZ, SKYLINE CABINETRY
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM: 450 DAVY LANE - WILMINGTON
Monday - Friday 9-5 & Saturday 9-12
(815) 790-1235

FARMERS INSURANCE
MELODIE J. LUCKETT
326 E. Baltimore St. Wilmington, IL 60481
Office 815-476-5242
Cell 815-671-1356
mluckett@farmersagent.com
Agent, Notary
Auto • Home Life • Commercial

SISTEK RENTALS
We SELL, REPAIR, and RENT Outdoor Power Equipment
Cub Cadet **GRASS HOPPER**
YOUR NEXT MOWER®
815-237-8298
740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

SHORKEY PAINTING
Est. 1989
(815) 546-1321
Interior/Exterior

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE
Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
Ed Bonniwer
Coal City • 634-4691

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS
from the Free Press Newspapers
Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

LIFTED
SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
CONCRETE RAISING
Spray Foam Insulation
• garages
• pole buildings
• attics
• basements
• commercial
• industrial
Wilmington • 815-200-6880
Concrete Raising
• driveways
• sidewalks
• patios
• stairs
• and more!

SHOP LOCAL!
WILMINGTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EST. 1958
616 Davy Lane Wilmington

Landscape Supply
• Driveway stone
• Pulverized topsoil
• Pool & play sand
• Hardwood mulch
• Decorative stone
• Bobcat Service
We Deliver!
www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

FULL COLOR
- Banners -
- Yard Signs -
- Post Cards -
- Brochures -
Customized to your liking.
Competitive prices.
THE FREE PRESS
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL

Mini Storage
CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington
Affordable
Clean, Secure
Monthly Rentals
No Deposit Required
815-530-0200

VIKING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CORP
Now Offering IL Public Adjuster Services
FREE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS
- Shingle/Flat Roofs
- Gutters
- Siding
- Fascia/Soffit
- Insurance Claims
Licensed Insured Bonded
IL State License # 104-002993
(815) 476-6010
www.vrcc.us

COMET SPORTS



Photo by Eric Fisher

LADY COMET Alyssa Wollenzien tips the ball over while battling at Wilmington last week.



Photo by Eric Fisher

HUSTLING TO SET the ball for a teammate is Reed-Custer setter Makenzi Thompson.

Fourth quarter dooms Comets again

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

If football was a 36 minute game, the Reed-Custer football team might be 2-0, but unfortunately it's 48 minutes and in those final 12 minutes, they have been outscored 27-0 in the first two games resulting in an 0-2 start. Leading 14-8 after three quarters against a

Harvard squad that snapped a 20-game losing streak last week, the Comets had no answers for quarterback Adam Cooke who scored all three touchdowns in a 21-14 win. "We just have a group of guys that unfortunately are not accustomed to winning on the football field right now, and Cooke was by far the best player on the field," said head coach

Gavin Johnston. "We have to start to simulate stressful situations in practice so that we can carry them over to the game. Both games were very winnable ones, but we can't let that deter us. We start conference play this week." The ball went the Comets way at the start as Kaiden Klein recovered a backwards bounce on the

opening kickoff. Brady Tyree capped the drive with a five yard touchdown run. "That gave us some nice momentum to start. We moved the ball well offensively but squandered some opportunities." Harvard answered with a quarterback sneak and a subsequent two-point conversion for an 8-7 lead early in the second. R-C quarterback Jacob Reardon broke loose for a 40 yard touchdown run with 4:32 left in the half and the score remained 14-8 Comets until the first play of the fourth quarter. R-C actually ran 15

more plays than Harvard and outgained them 299-272, but the Hornets converted two fourth downs including a huge 43 yard touchdown run in the final minute. "We got the ball to start the second half and marched down to the 10 yard line to take a two score lead, which would have been a huge momentum swing." "We ended up not pulling that off, but the effort was much better than week one." Reardon recorded 93 passing yards with his main target Collin Monroe and

had a strong rushing night as well. "We're trying to get that dual action threat going. We know he can throw the ball, and that he's a good runner. It's just about getting him the right timing and space throwing the ball," said Johnston. "Having that going forward makes teams have respect for him, Tyree, Landen Robinson or whoever is in the backfield and makes things a bit of a nightmare for defensive coordinators. We still need to be able to sustain the run a little more than we've been doing."



Photo by Angela Rose

COMET DEFENDERS Joseph Bembenek (1) and Jeremie Knutson (66) bring down a Hittin' Hornet on Friday in Harvard.



Photo by Angela Rose

SOLO TACKLE—Junior Jeremie Knutson was in on several tackles at Friday at Harvard. The Comets travel to Peotone on Friday.

FREE EVENT!

TOUCH A TRUCK



Saturday, September 14

2 pm - 4 pm



GODLEY PARK DISTRICT
500 S. KANKAKEE STREET ~ GODLEY, IL
WWW.GODLEYPARK.COM

Follow us on Facebook

Tough test awaits in Peotone

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

There are no easy games in the Illinois Central Eight conference and facing an unbeaten team on the road who has scored 97 points in the first two weeks will be a challenge to say the least. Peotone is coming off a 42-13 win over Marengo and advanced to the second round of the Class 3A playoffs last season. In their previous meeting, Reed-Custer had a 20-7 lead before the visitors rattled off 34 unanswered points mainly on the legs of Jayden Rodriguez who set the school's rushing record in that contest.

"As much confidence as they bring offensively, we should have some as well. We had them on the ropes last year and committed three turnovers," said Johnston. "We haven't committed or forced a turnover yet this year so we need to be opportunistic defensively and try to force them into mistakes. They are really good at running, will get plenty of first downs and chew the clock up." Playing on the road it's important to grab the early momentum and try to take the crowd out of the game, but for the Comets, playing four full quarters will be crucial. The defense has been stout through 36 min-

utes, allowing just 17 points total. If they hold the high-powered Blue Devils to a similar number, they have a good chance of breaking into the win column. "Building our confidence is a big part of it too. Once they get a little glimpse of success, I think they're ready to kind of turn the corner," said Johnston.

RC soccer falls to Manteno

The Comet soccer team fell to Manteno 4-1 on Thursday night. Goal was scored by Mason Vasil and assisted by Matt Kuban. Josh Conger had 12 saves in goal. The Comets fall to 0-4 overall and 0-2 in the ICE conference.

RC golfers defeat Wildcats

The Reed-Custer golf team defeated Wilmington with a score of 189. Leading the Comets was Caedon Baumgartner 44, Kyle Highland 45, Carter Slager 48 and Chandler Lowe 52. Leading the Lady Comets was Katie Lantka 53, Addi Brown 54 and Harlie Lieberman 57.