

Tomano chosen for  
Senior Spotlight

RCHS golfers prepare  
for regional golf



\$1.00  
Vol. 62, Issue 41  
1 section • 16 pages  
Not over 75% advertising  
www.braidwoodjournal.com

# BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

## Coffer dam could impact endangered mussel species

### STAFF REPORT

The Godley Public Water District has laid out its plan for the conservation of several endangered mussel species in the Kankakee River that could be impacted by the installation of a future water withdrawal structure.

In August and September 2018, EnviroScience, Inc. conducted a study in the area along the Kankakee River in Custer Park where the planned structure will be built.

The water withdrawal structure, a coffer dam, will be built about 4.5 miles upstream from the dam in Wilmington, about 260 feet from the riverbank where up to 30 million gallons of water may be drawn per day. The riverbank at this site is owned by Godley Public Water District and is within Custer Park.

The goal was to survey freshwater and mussel species in the location where this coffer dam will be built. Mussels listed were either detected at the site or have habitats within the Kankakee River. The study found 4,938 living mussels and 24 living species as well as two dead specimens.

Out of these species found, eight are considered endangered federally or by the state.

The following species may be impacted by the construction of the coffer dam: the federally and state-endangered sheepsnose mus-

sel (*Plethobassus cyphus*), the state-threatened purple wartyback mussel (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*) and the spike mussel (*Elliptio dilatata*). Also, the state-listed pallid shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*), river redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*), western sand darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*), weed shiner (*Notropis texanus*) and the mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*).

Another species, the black sandshell mussel, was detected but has since been delisted by the State of Illinois.

A Mussel Salvage Plan will be implemented to remove all mussels downstream of the work area. All fish and amphibians will also be relocated.

Godley Public Water District will be responsible for monitoring the success of this relocation work over the next 10 years.

The water district will also be contributing \$30,000 for the mussel research program at Ohio State University for the species that could be impacted by the coffer dam.

Additional information about this Conservation Plan can be found in the legal noticed published this week in the *Braidwood Journal*.

Godley Public Water District is a part of

SEE MUSSELS, PAGE 2



File Photo by Jennifer Glasscock

**A COFFER DAM that is proposed to be built on the Kankakee River in Custer Park could have an impact on mussel species living in the area. Photo taken in Wilmington.**

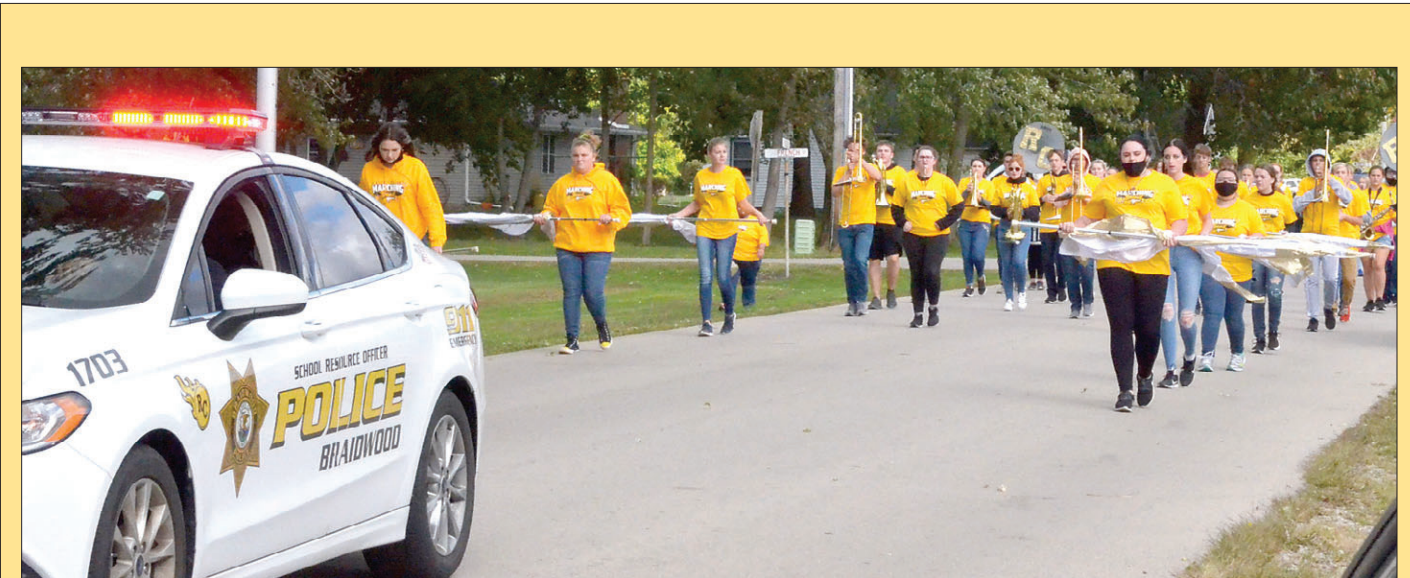


Photo by Jennifer Glasscock

**REED-CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL band marched from the school down to East Reed Street in Braidwood last week to perform for a retired band director. The typical busy marching season hasn't been as busy this school year due to COVID-19 related cancellations of parades and the football season being postponed until spring.**

## Retired band director gets front door concert

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK  
STAFF WRITER

Anticipation before a big performance is always high, as was true for retired band director of 37 years David Koehler last week.

This time, though, that anticipation wasn't for how his own band would perform, but because he was looking forward to listening to the performance from another band.

"Every day he's been asking 'is today the band is coming?'" Julie Machak, Koehler's daughter, said.

That day arrived last Wednesday after school.

The Reed-Custer High School band, led by a squad car from the Braidwood Police Department, announced their entrance with a rhythmic drum cadence as they made their way from the school down to Koehler's home on East Reed Street.

The band stopped in front of his home and performed three songs, including the upbeat, "Hey Look Ma, I Made It."

Koehler sat on the steps with family members and

friends, a safe social distance away, while listening to the music, eventually being brought to tears.

Koehler summed it up best by simply saying, "It was great."

After the performance, RCHS band director Addie Dennis thanked Koehler for his long career teaching music.

The idea for the parade came together after Addie Dennis moved in near Koehler's daughter and her husband, Greg Machak. Greg asked Dennis if it was possible for the band to perform

for his father-in-law, to which she said the band would love to.

The parade was also special for the band. At a time of year typically extremely busy for marching band, this year things are very different. The parades that the band typically competes in have been canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and football season has been postponed until spring.

The parade last week gave students a chance to show off the music they've been learning this school

SEE CONCERT PAGE 2

## Honor Flight Chicago thanks Braidwood veteran

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK  
STAFF WRITER

A Braidwood Vietnam veteran received a warm surprise last week when an Honor Flight Chicago volunteer presented him with a sign to display in his yard to thank him for his service.

Veteran Thomas Zimmer was supposed to have been flown out to Washington, D.C. this year as a part of the Honor Flight program, but due to the novel coronavirus pandemic his trip was postponed until next year.

Each year, the Honor Flight Network sends thousands of veterans all over the United States on all-expense paid, one day trips to Washington, D.C. Veterans are able to connect with others, share memories and view memorials of others who have served our country.

However, in June, Honor Flight Network announced all trips for the 2020 season were postponed. The cancellation impacted not only Zimmer, but also thousands of others across the United States.

Even though Zimmer could not attend this year, Honor Flight Chicago still



Photo by Jennifer Glasscock

**THOMAS ZIMMER, VETERAN of the Vietnam War, was surprised when a volunteer from Honor Flight Chicago showed up at his door with a sign to thank him for his service. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in June all Honor Flights were postponed for the rest of the year.**

showed their appreciation for veterans who were supposed to attend the trip this year with signs that were placed in front of their homes that salute them.

On Friday, he was presented his Honor Flight

Chicago sign by a volunteer with his daughter and son-in-law in attendance. His daughter, Lara Malito, kept the sign presentation a surprise from him. She was the one who also signed him up for Honor Flight Chicago to begin with.

Zimmer was drafted to the military during the Vietnam War in his mid-twenties.

"I thought they had missed me, but they didn't,"

SEE VETERAN PAGE 2

## City Hall closes temporarily due to positive COVID test

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK  
STAFF WRITER

One positive COVID-19 test at Braidwood City Hall led to the building's closure for several hours on Friday as the building was disinfected.

City administrator Tony Altieri reported that on Thursday, a staff member was feeling ill. To be safe, that staff member and all other employees who were in contact with the individual who was took COVID-19 tests.

On Friday, the employee feeling ill tested received a positive COVID-19 test result and all other employees tested negative.

Altieri also said that one person tested positive for COVID-19 at the Braidwood Police Department.

Last Wednesday, Minit

Mart, at 105 N. Front St., was also closed in Braidwood temporarily for cleaning after an employee tested positive for COVID-19.

According to statistics released by the Illinois Department of Public Health, as of Tuesday, there have been 94 cases in the 60408 (Braidwood) zip code out of a total of 1,731 tests.

In the neighboring 60481 zip code there have been 178 cases out of 4,073 tests.

In Illinois, there have been a total of 305,011 confirmed cases of COVID-19 out of 5.97 million tests performed. There have been 8,836 deaths.

As of the latest numbers released Oct. 2, the seven-day rolling average for test positivity in Region 7 (Will and Kankakee counties) is 5.6%.



Courtesy Photo by Forest Preserve District of Will County

**A FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT of Will County game camera photographed bobcats, possibly a mother and her kittens, walking in a small open area at Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township recently. The Forest District's game cameras have detected bobcats in only three other preserves in recent years.**

## Bobcats caught on Forest Preserve game camera

Forest Preserve District of Will County game cameras recently captured some rare and exciting photos of bobcats, possibly a mother and her kittens, walking through a small open area in Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township.

The cameras, which are triggered by motion, are used in the preserves to document animal numbers and movements. The information obtained by the cameras helps guide the Forest Preserve District's land management strategies.

Photos of bobcats in the

preserves are rare, said Becky Blankenship, the Forest Preserve's wildlife biologist. So, capturing photos of the creatures was noteworthy because it happens only every couple of years, she said.

"The cameras are set up to take a three-photo burst when they detect motion," she explained. "Then they have a 10-15 second delay before taking another burst if there is still

SEE BOBCAT, PAGE 3



8 04879 29644

# Veteran

Zimmer said.

He served in the military for two years. He was in Vietnam from 1964 to 1965 as a corporal in the 7th Artillery where he was a forward observer. While in Vietnam, he traveled to Cam Ranh Bay, Da Nang and Lang Co.

Zimmer doesn't talk much about his time in Vietnam, but he did share a couple of stories:

One was of the not-so-good food. He recalls the white canned sausage and he also remembers his sergeant making mashed potato cookies, which were as hard as rocks.

"You couldn't bite into them, I remember that," Zimmer said.

He said he was lucky because as a forward observer with a lieutenant, he was able

to eat at Naval bases or with the Marines where he was able to get better food.

One of many harrowing moments overseas that show the realities of the war happened just a week before he was set to come home. While in Da Nang, gunfire had broken out and at that time his group had already turned in their rifles. All Zimmer and fellow soldiers could do was stay down.

About two years after he returned from the war he married his first wife of 10 years. He later married his second wife, of whom he was married for 43 years before she passed away a year and a half ago. Zimmer has three children living, a daughter and a son, and one son who passed away. He has four grandchildren.

Zimmer grew up in Chicago and lived in Worth for many years. He later retired to Braidwood where he built a

home, where there are pictures of loved ones lining his wall. He enjoys collecting and working on antique cars. He also enjoys fishing. He is a big animal lover and enjoys spending time with his recently adopted puppy.

Zimmer has been a member of the American Legion in Worth 48 years and in the past served as commander and numerous other positions over the years. He is also a member of the VFW.

"I'm glad I came home. I got my fingers and hands," Zimmer said. "I may be half crazy, but I'm home."

Since 2008, Honor Flight Chicago has sent 8,728 World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans to Washington, D.C. In 2019 alone, Honor Flight Network, which comprises hubs across the United States, flew 23,045 veterans and 18,284 guardians on trips.



BRAIDWOOD RESIDENT AND veteran Thomas Zimmer stands next to his daughter, Lara Malito and son-in-law Jeff Malito, in front of the sign given to him by Honor Flight Chicago.

# Small town, big impact

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK  
STAFF WRITER

For the past year and — nearly — four months, I've had the pleasure of serving as a staff writer for the *Braidwood Journal*. But now, I'm announcing that after writing for the *Journal* for 68 editions, it's time for me to say goodbye.

Stepping back to look at it, that time has gone by quick — especially since the pandemic. But it's strange: In the beginning, it seems like those first few months lasted years.

As a first-year reporter, in those first few months I had a lot to learn about local reporting.

Some of the questions I had were: How do city government works? How do you read a budget? How do you request court documents? What is a TIF? How many times can you call city officials without getting a restraining order?

(Only kidding on that last part. Every time I've called someone from the city, police department, school or anywhere else in town, everyone has always been more than willing to talk to me.)

Finding the answers to these questions, and many more, were just some of the things I learned over my first year reporting, which I'm sure will last me a lifetime.

But honestly, it's more than just my new knowledge that will continue to remain with me; it's the experiences I've had here, the connections I've made to the people in this town.

The highs and lows and everything in between have showed me just how full of life this small town is.

I've experienced "small" things, like touring Braidwood Generating Station, learning about the Tully Monster at the Historical Society Museum, observing a pie making program at the Fossil Ridge Public Library and sat in on a square dancing class at Reed Township Hall.

In just my first few months of reporting in 2019, I had a day full of fun at Summerfest, enjoyed everything Garage Sale Days has to offer and brought out my family for Scarecrow Fest.

I also, of course, spent time learning about issues important to the community.

As a reporter, I attended

bi-monthly Braidwood City Council meetings, monthly Board of Education meetings at Reed-Custer School District and have been to several Braidwood Area Healthy Coalition meetings.

Staying up to date with goings-on in the community was quite literally my job — but, after being so deeply involved with Braidwood, and enjoying its quirks and charm, it was hard not to quickly grow to care about what's happening here.

I spent time talking about with Police Chief Todd Lyons and Sergeant Chris Altiery about robberies, fraud cases and deaths.

I've reported on the "big" things; the helicopters the Braidwood Police Department had acquired in 2019, deficits and arguments at council meetings, anonymous letters getting mailed out to people in town.

Halfway through my time at the newspaper, I witnessed the world enter a global pandemic. I definitely wasn't expecting that one during my first year of reporting.

You simply can't ignore the realities of the pandemic. It impacts all of us. People are getting sick, businesses are struggling, people can't seem to get along — all amid a divisive presidential election.

I hope that I've done a fair job of not just reporting on these difficult topics, but also showing the good news out there:

People coming together to host drive-by birthday parades, teachers working hard to ensure kids still get to learn, food pantries staying open, ordinary people sewing and donating homemade masks, ESDA performing daily check-ins for elderly folks, families growing and overcoming challenges in the best way we know how.

In this issue, I wrote a story about the Reed-Custer High School band which marched from the school to a retired band director's home to give a performance that brought him to tears. I had the joy of being there as family members of that man called out their thanks to the band.

Even though that's a small thing, it was big to them.

I think by living in a small town everyone knows that small things — and small places — can have profound impacts.

# Mussels

the Kankakee River Valley Water Planning Area Alliance (KRVWPAA), which is a group of local communities bound through intergovernmental agreements which are seeking to tap the Kankakee River as a water source.

The goal of the Alliance is to provide a new and better water source for communities in Will and Grundy counties. The group claims it is designed to "recognize, plan for and mitigate the effects of urbanization and growth on water supplies and water demand in the Alliance's region," according to the Conservation Plan.

The Alliance has a permit to construct the intake structure, but it has until Dec. 31, 2022 to build the structure or it will lose its permit to tap the river.

Brock Teichmiller, senior rural

development specialist of Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), provided an update about the progress of the Alliance after the September meeting.

RCAP is a federally-funded non-profit network that provides technical assistance and training to rural communities. It administers the Alliance's monthly meetings and acts as a facilitator. The group is currently working on collecting profit and loss statements from 2016 to the present for various communities. This will help to identify potential cost savings for communities that no longer need to run their own water treatment plant.

RCAP will begin to hold meetings with local communities toward the end of October or November to review their cost of production, potential savings and sharing the Kankakee Alliance wholesale purchase price.

Currently, it is working to put

together a pre-application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development to seek funding for the project.

In addition to the Godley Public Water District, members of the Kankakee Alliance include the city of Braidwood, village of Coal City and village of Diamond. According to the Conservation Plan, Will and Grundy counties are anticipated to join the Alliance as well.

The Conservation Plan is currently under review. Public comments are sought on the Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Authorization and should be provided to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at [DNR@ITAcordinator@illinois.gov](mailto:DNR@ITAcordinator@illinois.gov) by Nov. 20.

The full plan can be found at [www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/NaturalHeritage/Pages/Incidental-Take-Authorizations.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/NaturalHeritage/Pages/Incidental-Take-Authorizations.aspx).



RCHS BAND DIRECTOR Addie Dennis thanks retired band director David Koehler for his long career of teaching music.

# Concert

year.

Koehler is familiar with the world of both middle school and high school bands.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Olivet College, which is now Olivet Nazarene University, he moved to Indiana and started teaching music to students in K-12.

His daughter, Julie Machak, recalls how he would go from classroom to classroom playing his accordion because there wasn't a dedicated music room.

Koehler taught mostly middle school band and chorus, but when the two were split he stuck with the band.

While teaching, he also attended Ball State University where he received his Master's degree.

He was an assistant band director at both high schools in Kokomo, at separate times. He was also band director at Kokomo All City Band.

Koehler taught in Indiana for 17 years before he and his family moved to Fort Myers, Florida, in 1979 where he spent the latter half of his career.

He taught band in Florida for 20 years, and at one point his daughter, Julie, was in his band.

During his last five years of teaching, the school became a specialized school for the arts and Koheler transitioned from band to teaching handbells, piano and chorus.

He is originally from a small farming town just west of Pontiac. After living in several states throughout his life, he returned to Illinois in recent years. He moved to Braidwood about a year ago.



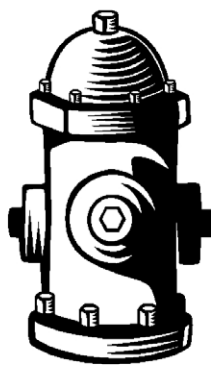
REED-CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL Band performs in front of retired band director David Koehler's home in Braidwood.

The City of Braidwood will be  
**FLUSHING HYDRANTS**  
**Monday, Oct. 12 thru**  
**Friday, Oct. 23**

We will be flushing the hydrants  
from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day.

We recommend that  
our customers avoid  
washing light-colored  
loads of laundry on  
these days because of  
possible staining of  
clothing.

For more information  
call Rob Grivetti at  
**815-458-2333**



**The Braidwood Journal**  
USPS No. 550-940  
Published weekly, 52 times a year, on  
Wednesdays by  
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,  
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481  
Periodicals postage paid at Wilmington, Illinois

**Postmaster:** Send address  
changes to:  
The Braidwood Journal, P.O. Box 327;  
Wilmington IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$40 Grundy & Will counties;  
\$48 other Illinois counties and \$54 out of state  
G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly

subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant, and an advertising shopper known as the Prairie Shopper.

**Advertising and Business Offices:**  
• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481  
(815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002  
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416  
(815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002

**Deadline for the Prairie Shopper**  
Display Advertising: Thursday, 2 p.m.  
Classified & Public Notices: Thursday 5 p.m.

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

E-mail: News & News Photos: [news@fpnusa.com](mailto:news@fpnusa.com)  
Ads & Artwork: [ads@fpnusa.com](mailto:ads@fpnusa.com)

©2019 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  
Ann Gill, editor

# The role of reading in the miner community

Our view of early Braidwood is a rough and ready town, full of saloons and fist fights. But that is perhaps only the most obvious activities that took place. Hidden away in a small room many early Braidwoodites were doing something which required peace and quiet. Tip-toe back into the past with us to look at this clandestine activity.

In April of 1876 we read the following in the *Joliet Weekly Sun*, "And now Braidwood wants a public library and reading room." Yes, those rough and ready miners wanted a library. They wanted to read, who would have thought it?

It took awhile to get things together, but for once the Braidwood City Council was in agreement. On New Year's Day, 1877 it was announced in the *Braidwood Journal*, "The Public Library was opened for the first time on New Year's Day, and was visited by many of our people."

Five months later we read, "The Braidwood Library is being well attended. The books are being taken out very fast, and considerable time is spent in reading."

The library was indeed a popular place, and also a popular charity for those with a generous personality. We read in March of 1879, "Dr. Le

Caron's salary, as a member of the Board of Health, which amounted to \$25 (about \$695 today), and was allowed at the last meeting of the council, has been donated by the Dr. to the public library."

In October of

1879 the Public Library issued its Annual Report, "The annual report of our public library for the year ending June 1st last, has just been made public. From its exhibit it appears that the total number of books drawn from the library during the year amounts to 8,964, classified as follows, to-wit: History, 166; Biography, 109; Miscellaneous, 163; Poetry 98; Science & Art, 85; Fiction, 7,170; Juveniles, 582; Travels and Adventures, 175; Religion, 85; Polygraphy ( a book containing condensed versions of popular books), 339; Law, 12. Concerning financial affairs it appears that the receipts of the year amounted to \$1,414.45 (about \$39,300 today); expenditures, \$894.63 (\$24,880 today). Added to the latter item may be - outstanding liabilities, \$200, making \$1,094.63, showing a balance on hand of \$319.82."

In 1880 we read, "The Bachelor's club, of Braidwood,



Sandy Vasko

dissolved on Saturday last after a brilliant campaign in the world of entertainment. Some \$80 in the treasury was donated to the public library, \$28.65 of which going to the purchase of Appleton's Encyclopedia, 16 volumes in full library binding. This generous act speaks well for the club and its efficient management."

We do know that the Public Library was run by a board of three trustees appointed by the Mayor, we read in 1883, "The mayor has appointed Mrs. John Broadbent, Mrs. R. R. Green and Mrs. T. B. Corey as library directors for the ensuing term." Note, that this was one place where the women of Braidwood got involved in politics.

And yes, like all things in Braidwood, the Library was a source of political wrangling. When the new City Hall was first opened up in January of 1886 we read, "The new city hall is at last occupied - at least in part. The clerk and marshal are there, snug as bugs in rugs. The public library will occupy the front, upstairs, next week." Yes, the library was right under the noses of the city fathers.

By 1886 the Public Library had a problem. We read in the *Wilmington Advocate*, "Joseph Kelly, Alex Patterson, M. H. Sitterley, and Frank Floyd have been added to the board of directors of the public library. By the way, interest in the library seems to be on the wane, and some say on account of its location. The librarian said yesterday that "on some days as few as two or three people patronize it." Perhaps the public is unaware that the Advocate is kept on file there, but it's a fact!"

A few months later, "The subject of moving the public library is being agitated."

The solution to the problem was political, appoint a whole new board, and in November of 1886 we read, "The new library board met and organized on Monday evening. Alex Patterson was elected president and Frank Floyd secretary. Little other business was transacted on account of the former secretary, Mrs. Peart, not having surrendered the books."

The all new male board did eventually come to an agreement with Mrs. Peart. All the old books would be under her control. But we read, "The public library is soon to have new books. All of the new books will then be placed in the present "smoking-room." Ah yes, a fine cigar and a book.



ABOVE IS A photo of Braidwood City Hall from 1885. On the second floor was the public library.

## Bobcat

movement in front of the camera."

Blankenship said the photos recorded what appears to be a mother and at least two kittens. Females can reach sexual maturity a year after birth, so the mother is at least a year old, and the kittens were likely born this spring, she said.

Bobcats, which are twice the size of a common house cat, have been detected in the Forest Preserve's Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, Evans-Judge Preserve, Sugar Creek Preserve and now Kankakee Sands Preserve. Blankenship said bobcats are typically only active at twilight or just before sunrise and they are well cam-

ouflaged and avoid people, so that is why they are a rare sight.

"I have only seen a wild bobcat once, and the black-and-white photos do not do them justice," she said.

According to the <<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/wildlife/Pages/Bobcat.aspx>> Illinois Department of Natural Resources habitat changes and overharvesting of bobcats caused populations to decline severely enough to be listed as threatened in Illinois from 1977-1999. Since then, bobcat populations have responded so well to protection and habitat management that a very restricted hunting and trapping season has been in place since 2016. (Hunting is not allowed in the Forest Preserve District of Will County pre-

serves.) IDNR estimates that there may be up to 5,000 bobcats in Illinois now, and their numbers are still on the rise.

The Forest Preserve District uses game cameras to observe species without needing to be present, Blankenship explained.

"The most common animals caught on camera are deer, squirrels, a variety of birds and raccoons," she said.

It's important to know what kinds of animals live in a preserve to better manage the environment to help them, she added.

"The history of the bobcat in Illinois shows us the importance of managing habitat for the species that depend on it," Blankenship said. "Knowing what species occupy our preserves helps guide our habitat management practices."

## Will County offers vote by mail technology for vision impaired

### STAFF REPORT

Will County Clerk Lauren Staley Ferry is offering visually impaired voters in Will County an option to vote by mail without assistance in the 2020 election thanks to a system that allows them to use audio instructions to navigate and mark their ballots.

The system, known as Accessible Vote By Mail (AVBM), is similar to the Illinois State Board of Elections' MOVE (Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment) process that allows overseas military personnel to receive a ballot electronically then return a marked hard copy to an election authority for voting.

"Record numbers of people are choosing Vote By Mail Ballots this year to avoid possible COVID exposure. It is especially important that visually impaired voters have the same choice to Vote By Mail without assistance," Staley Ferry said.

"The AVBM system has all the security features of regular voting by mail while adding audio navigation of

the ballot for an independent voting experience."

Users of AVBM must apply for a regular Vote By Mail Ballot and then request an accessible Vote By Mail Ballot from the County Clerk's Office by phone at (815) 740-4615, email at [votemail@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:votemail@willcountyillinois.com), online at [www.thewill-countyclerk.com](http://www.thewill-countyclerk.com), or in person at 302 N. Chicago St. in downtown Joliet.

Voters using AVBM will receive a secure return envelope from the Will County Clerk's Office but will not receive a paper ballot. Instead, they will receive a unique PIN and a link to access their ballot electronically from the Illinois State Board of Elections, which is administering the AVBM program.

After following audio directions to navigate and mark the ballot electronically, an AVBM voter prints the ballot and returns it to the election authority in the secure Vote By Mail Envelope. As with all voters casting ballots by mail, users of AVBM will receive instructions to follow their ballots as

they are delivered to the local election authority and recorded.

"Accessible Vote By Mail gives blind and visually impaired voters the same secure and COVID-free voting method that already has been chosen by more than 1.5 million voters statewide," said Jordan Homer, the Illinois State Board of Elections' Americans with Disability Act coordinator. "While visually impaired voters still can cast a regular mail ballot with assistance if they wish, AVBM technology allows them to do so independently."

Applications for Vote By Mail ballots can be submitted through Oct. 29. Voters are encouraged to apply now to allow sufficient time for delivery and return of ballots. Returned Vote By Mail Ballots must be postmarked no later than Nov. 3. Properly postmarked ballots that arrive through Nov. 17 will be counted.

Accessible Vote By Mail was developed by VotingWorks, a non-partisan non-profit developer of election systems.

## Lions' Candy Day Oct. 9

The Braidwood Lions Club will be holding its Annual Candy Day canister collection on Friday Oct. 9 from 3 to 6 p.m. on the street corners of Routes 113, 129 and 53 in Braidwood.

As a token of appreciation, all donors will receive a special roll of Lions' Candy Day candy.

All funds which are raised during the collection will assist the club in providing the much-needed sight and sound humanitarian services to those less fortunate in the Braidwood, Godley and Shadow Lakes communities.

No donation is too big or too small and all are greatly appreciated. For more information visit [www.braidwoodlionsclub.org](http://www.braidwoodlionsclub.org).

## Firefighters take part in training course

The Coal City and Braidwood Fire Protection Districts participated in a multi-company training exercise at the Braidwood Fire Station training tower on Oct. 1.

Several fire ground functions including forcible entry, hose line advancement, extinguishment, search and victim removal were covered in the training, as was ventilation, ladder placement and down firefighter rescue.

Local fire officials report mutual aid training amongst neighboring departments take place several times a year in order to teach familiarity with other department's equipment and operations so real emergency situations are handled more expeditiously.

As an additional benefit to the communities the department's serve, these sessions give fire departments credit for this type of training through the Insurance Services Office [ISO] and potentially help along with many other factors to lower the insurance rates for these communities and thus saves homeowners and businesses money on their policies.



BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION District hosted a multi-company exercise at its training tower on Thursday, Oct. 1. Among the various exercises, Braidwood firefighters tested skills in forcible entry procedures.

NEED EVENT PUBLICITY?

CONTACT US AT

[news@fpnusa.com](mailto:news@fpnusa.com) or call 815-476-7966

Godley Water Public Water District seeks public comment on Incidental Take Authorization application

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given seeking public comment on an application by the Godley Public Water District for an Incidental Take Authorization for possible impacts to the federally and state endangered sheepsnose mussel (*Plethobassus cyphus*), and the state threatened purple wartyback mussel (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*), and the spike mussel (*Elliptio dilatata*). In addition, it addresses the state-listed pallid shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*), river redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*), western sand darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*), weed shiner (*Notropis texanus*), and the mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) in the Kankakee River at Custer Park in Will County. Please note that the Conservation Plan was written to include the black sandshell mussel (*Ligumia recta*) which has since been delisted by the State of Illinois.

#### Applicant Contact Information:

Godley Public Water District  
P.O. Box 130  
Godley, Illinois 60407

Joe Cosgrove, General Manager

The applicant has filed a Conservation Plan in accordance with Illinois Administrative Code, Chapter I, Section 1080 which is available for review at the following public library:

Fossil Ridge Public Library  
386 W. Kennedy Road  
Braidwood, IL 60408

The Conservation Plan will also be available for review on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' webpage at:

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/NaturalHeritage/Pages/Incidental-Take-Authorizations.aspx> (reference #199).

#### Description of Proposed Action

The Godley Public Water District (GPWD) has proposed the construction of water withdrawal infrastructure on the bank of and within the channel of the Kankakee River to withdraw up to 30 million gallons of water per day subject to the conditions in permit NE2019007 granted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Office of Water Resources (OWR). The project is located on the Kankakee River approximately 4.5 miles upstream from the dam at Wilmington, Illinois. The proposed intake would be approximately 262 feet from the left descending riverbank.

The riverbank at this location is owned by the GPWD and is within Custer Park, Illinois. EnviroScience, Inc. conducted a survey for freshwater mussels and fish within the project area in August and September 2018 on behalf of the GPWD. Their report documented a total of 4,938 living mussels with 24 species detected. Fresh dead and weathered dead shells contributed two additional species. The state-threatened purple wartyback and formerly state-listed black sandshell were detected throughout the survey area. Fourteen live sheepsnose were found scattered in the survey area, a species that is both state and federally listed. A single state-threatened spike was collected near the right descending bank. In addition, this reach of the Kankakee River has records for or provides suitable habitat for the state-listed pallid shiner, river redhorse, western sand darter, weed shiner, and the mudpuppy. Other federally listed species known from Will County are addressed briefly in a revised Biological Assessment prepared and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A Biological Opinion addressing federally listed species and provided federal take authorization has been received for the project.

This water withdrawal infrastructure in the Kankakee River will be constructed within a 0.264-acre coffer dammed work area (in the dry). Most of the facilities will be constructed at or below the existing riverbed elevation. The only infrastructure above the existing ground elevation will be the three 42-inch diameter half-barrel screen intakes. The top of these intakes will be 27-inches above the riverbed. The intakes will be placed parallel to the channel flow, have a cross-section of 8 square feet each and up to 12 feet in length. It is anticipated that this work may cause potential impacts to listed species in the stream within and around the 0.264-acre work area. A Mussel Salvage Plan will be implemented to remove all mussels from the work area and translocate them to suitable habitat upstream of the work area within the Kankakee River. In addition, all fish and amphibians will also be captured and relocated to suitable habitat downstream of the coffer dammed work area. GPWD will be responsible for a 10-year monitoring program to document the effectiveness of this relocation work.

As mitigation for potential impacts to the purple wartyback, spike, sheepsnose mussels, pallid shiner, river redhorse, western sand darter, weed shiner, and mudpuppy a contribution of \$30,000 to the mussel research program at Ohio State University will be made for the conservation benefit of the sheepsnose and other listed mussel species. There is a desire that this work would specifically address impacts from water withdrawals to listed species such as the sheepsnose, though it is not known if any such studies are available or ongoing. Additional conservation measures are described more fully in the Conservation Plan.

#### Comments on this Conservation Plan and proposed Incidental Take Authorization should be provided to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Resource Conservation  
Incidental Take Authorization Coordinator  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL, 62702  
OR

[DNRI.TAcoordinator@illinois.gov](mailto:DNRI.TAcoordinator@illinois.gov).

The final date that comments will be accepted regarding this application will be November 20, 2020.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, October 7, 14 and 21, 2020.

# Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to Reed-Custer High School for having a Senior Night for the Golf team Tuesday night. The school didn't have to do this considering all that is going on. They held it outside, with masks and social distancing.

Parents, grandparents and friends got to recognize the three seniors for their commitment to the program for four years. Thank you to Head Coach Arndt, Athletic Directors Chuck Anderson and Nick Klein for taking time out of their schedules to even do this. I know the mothers were touched by the flower presentations. Reed-Custer schools continue to be a wonderful place to raise a family!

Mark Hunt

# Free Press Newspapers readers

# SOUND-OFF

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

## My choice

WILMINGTON—Wilmington business owners: If you do not enforce a mask wearing policy with your employees or customers, I will not patronize your business now or ever! That's my freedom of choice!

## Biden's loophole

WILMINGTON—Biden is a tax loophole hypocrite. The Wall Street Journal article reported Joe Biden and his wife exploiting tax loopholes to avoid paying \$500,000 in taxes for two years of income. This wasn't reported in the left-wing media. Joe Biden says the rich don't pay enough, and they get too many tax breaks. Now that Joe Biden has gotten his tax breaks, he wants to take them away from everyone else. Biden made \$13 million in profits in his S-Corporation and avoided paying his fair share of taxes. Biden avoided paying his fair share of taxes by paying himself a small reasonable salary, less than 6 percent of millions of profit he actually made. So if he cares about Medicare and Social Security so much, maybe he should pay-up \$500K. When Biden's money was passed through an S corporation, he didn't pay Social Security or Medicare taxes on it. Biden is using the loophole that Obama and Biden administration could have changed. Even Obama opposed this tax code. And for the all the Trump haters, it is the same legal tax code that Trump can legally use. Trump is not committing tax evasion, and it most certainly is a legal tax strategy. But Biden doesn't think Trump should use it and cheat the IRS out of taxes. Biden is the man who said that paying more in taxes was a patriotic act. I am not rich, but I can't stand politicians that tell us they are an average guy. Bidens used the S Corp to save big on taxes! Joe made over \$13 million dollars in the 2 years after he left office. To add more insult to business owners, Biden wants more IRS audits for the rest of us. Don't vote for Joe, he is a liar and has no problem avoiding paying his fair share of taxes.

## Disgusting debate

ELWOOD—I'm a kindergarten teacher and let me tell you that even my students behave better than Trump and Biden did during the debate. Time to vote in the Green party candidate.

## For town's best interest

BRAIDWOOD—Greetings. I would like to start off with acknowledging all the attention I have been getting lately, that's good you are paying attention. To fire back at some lingering questions and subject matter from the last couple weeks of Sound-offs, I am really unsure of why people keep assuming someone is leading me in the direction of the wrongdoings I have been pointing out. I saw some issues, I filed the proper paperwork by FOIA, noticed the problems, wrote a speech to point out the problems. You know, using facts, real evidence, but then again, Mark Twain did once say, "No amount of evidence would ever persuade an idiot." Next, I know it may seem completely hard to believe, but I do, in fact, pay taxes to the great city of Braidwood, therefore, I am absolutely entitled to my voice being heard. How would you feel if I told you that you too have that same ability? I know, it's shocking. So no strings attached to any of us. Crazy, just lunacy. Can we also chat about the amount of time I have been a resident of the town, though completely irrelevant, some people insist on it being a thing. I plan on being here for at least 20 more years so I want nothing more than to help better the town, that literally requires zero seniority on residency. Not only is that just a silly statement, but it is playing into that small town good ol' boy's club that needs to just go away. Eventually that club is going to die out, and I don't want to see the town die with that club, do you? On to another issue. Just because I kind of "attacked" two city commissioners, that doesn't mean I'm done holding each and every one of those commissioners, along with the mayor, accountable. Each and every one of you people complaining about me should use that energy to do what I'm doing...holding these elected officials accountable. If my issue started with water, you bet I would be after the water commissioner and all his gang. As for the people who think my speech was lengthy, well that is because it was. I was nervous and was taking way too long to spit out my words. It's not easy getting up in front of people and holding them to their job. I do apologize for my nervousness, but at least I have the guts to go in person and ask why they are not doing what they are suppose to be doing. Next subject I'd like to address: an ordinance for a three minute commentary. While this is true, there is an exception, the mayor has the final say. That is for everyone, not just me, but it is in the ordinance for everyone to verify. There has been plenty of others who were up there longer than three minutes, so if you attack me, you must attack everyone who has gone and who will go longer than me. Likewise, talking out of public comment; there is a particular man, who is known to get all feisty in the back every other meeting, out of public comment. Let me reiterate, I wasn't the first and I bet I won't be the last. Finally, I would like to restate what I have

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the news-

paper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

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

To voice your opinion, please go to

www.freepressnewspapers.com, or Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

said online and now here for all to read too, Wayne Saltzman and Fay Smith, with dissimilar grounds, should resign as commissioners. Kind Regards, Nicole Shores

## Out of respect

WILMINGTON—This is in response to the comment on Marney's opinion piece regarding masks. Sadly, we are in the middle of a public health crisis, a pandemic that has taken over 200,000 American lives and a million worldwide. To suggest that people who are wearing masks won something from whining is an absolutely horrible response. Nothing was won. Wearing a mask to keep the spread of this highly contagious virus low is the least you can do in order to be a decent human being. It is not about control, it is not about politics, it is about respecting your friends and neighbors. It reduces the number of cases and the spread, which in turn allows people to begin to go out more and patronize businesses so more businesses do not have to close, so we can recover this economy. My patience is running thin, it is running thin with people like you who act like petulant children kicking and screaming because you have to do the slightest act to help your fellow man and community in this time of crisis.

## Act now on climate change

BRAIDWOOD—Right-wingers are the ones who are careless, irresponsible and selfish especially toward generations to come. Have you noticed how Republicans claim that they are the ones behaving responsibly and they criticize other people for being careless and irresponsible such as those on food stamps? They constantly criticize others for "free stuff" when in fact the corporations like Amazon and the super wealthy are getting more of a hand-out, obvious by our \$23 trillion national debt, than anybody else by getting tax breaks. They are mortgaging tomorrow by their dirty and wasteful methods today. If we do the right thing to slow down or stop the climate crisis we would save trillions in the future and that would be smart. Being progressive and bold regarding the climate crisis would be conservative. But instead of applying science to guarantee ecosystems to thrive, right-wing world leaders such as President Trump and Brazil's President Bolsonaro care only about getting rich while the world burns and drowns.

## Making waves

BRAIDWOOD—To the young lady in Braidwood who has been stirring up so many problems lately, just remember those who start trouble in small towns stand out amongst the rest and not in a good way. You're doing a very good job at earning yourself a reputation. Keep in mind that making waves in normally calm waters will get you splashed with the muck you churn up.

## Open up Illinois

WILMINGTON—Time to open up the state! Our small businesses and unemployed workers cannot survive an extended shut down. The Democrats will destroy our state. If Biden is elected he will do a national lock down. Even Dr. Fauci is not recommending another lock down. JB has been manipulating the positive covid numbers to scare us. Our positively rate is actually really low. Each day 400 - 700 covid positive numbers is from long-term care facilities. That's anywhere to 40-50% of all covid tests in a small segment of vulnerable population. Every one living outside of nursing homes is actually really low. I email the governor's office every week asking him to open the state fully. JB is causing panic and financial hardship in this state on purpose. Mostly because he cannot stand Trump. JB needs to start listening to the economist instead of scientist that are so narrow minded and cannot agree on how disease spreads, how long it lives on surfaces, effectiveness of mask, what it means to slow the spread. We've done it all and it's just time to open up bars and restaurants, schools, businesses and offices. People need to get back to work and their lives. The CDC posted survival rates and numbers speak for themselves. It's time to stop the oppressive governor. Indiana and Florida are now fully open. No one wants to get covid so wash your hands, don't touch your face and wear a mask, stay home if you feel sick. It's what you should do during cold and flu season. That's just common sense. I would encourage everyone to go to CDC not CNN and read these numbers for yourself. The CDC is also now estimating that only 65% of those who contract the COVID-19 virus actually wind up with any symptoms. That means 30% of those who feel fine and tests positive will never have any symptoms that would cause severe illness or death. If you don't want to do the research, here are the numbers. COVID-19 SURVIVAL RATES (per CDC): Ages 0-19 - 99.997%; Ages 20-49 - 99.98%; Ages 50-69 - 99.5%; and Ages 70 - 94.6%. Please email the governor because Fauci's claim that COVID-19 is "10 times more lethal" than the flu was total junk science. Here are Fauci's own words, "The overall clinical consequences of Covid-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%". Email the governor and let's move on and open the state.

## Based on speculation

WILMINGTON—The New York Times article on Trump's taxes to a desperate attempt by left wing media that is the personal cheerleader from the Democrat party. The NY Times does not have access to Trumps tax returns. Remember, Trump has repeatedly said he will release his returns when his IRS audit is complete. There are definitely no personal tax returns for 2018 or 2019 either out in the public record. The NY Times has taken various tax data to



piece together what they believe Trump might have paid. The Times was able to verify portions of tax data available in public records. Tax data is not a legally filed tax return! The Times used portions of his 1985-1994 tax returns. Really? That's how desperate they are to get Biden elected. What they fail to print is that Trump has paid personally tens of millions of dollars in personal taxes to the Feds. Everyone that earns a paycheck pays payroll taxes, state income taxes, Social Security, Medicare and of course state and local property taxes. So lots of taxes. Take a look at your paycheck stub and look how much you pay in federal taxes. What Trump's accountants do is use the perfectly legal US tax code. If the Democrats in Congress (that included Biden who was in office for 44 years), NY Times, CNN, CNBC don't like the tax code, then they should vote people in that will change the tax code. I guess they only want the tax codes changed for Trump. Does anyone know what you owe to the IRS until your year-end taxes are complete? Then what does your accountant usually do? They ask you if you have any other potential deductions to reduce your tax liability (charities, donations, mileage that are probably bogus). We all want to use legal tax codes to send less money to IRS. Even our own governor pulled out toilets to avoid paying \$320,000 to our very broke state. Even JBP found a way to pay less taxes. All Democrats want to do is raise taxes because they can't manage the money we work hard for and send them every year. And if businesses and business owners don't pay taxes, then why does the state and local leaders want more businesses and cry when businesses decide to move out of our high tax state? That article shows how pathetically desperate the Democrat party is.

## Davy Lane billings

WILMINGTON—Thank you Nicole Kasalko for having the courage to confront Wilmington city officials regarding water usage on Davy Lane. If the city feels the billing that was provided at the City Hall meeting was accurate, then there is a serious problem. The taxpayers foot the bill for the audit to find leaks, but where is the audit for "The number of users connected to the system, including units of service" and "The number of non-metered users" per municipal code 52.03? According to the "Will County GIS Data Viewer" there are a total of 59 units on Davy Lane. Per the billing provided by the City Hall, 17 units are not being charged for the \$35.91 sewer base fee. 6 units had no billing info at all. And, 18 all had the exact same billing? Where are the fines, liens, and water on fees? Makes one wonder if all the commercial buildings in town with multiple units are getting charged accurately?

## Pure chaos

CUSTER PARK—Did we learn something from the first presidential debate? Yes, watching President Trump's behavior, we learned that kindergarten teachers are definitely underpaid. The debate was not a debate at all but pure chaos caused by the childish Trump shouting uncontrollably over the moderator. Trump neither followed the rules which his campaign agreed to nor did he look into the camera to tell the American people why he deserves a second term. For future debates, the moderator should have a kill switch on Trump's microphone to silence him because Trump's display of unhinged rage was painful to hear and an embarrassment to democracy. Included in the shameful shouting was Trump's encouragement to the racially violent Proud Boys to "stand back, stand by". Within minutes, the Proud Boys immediately adopted Trump's words as their logo thereby answering Biden's question that Trump identifies with these dangerous racist agitators. Trump is such a bully, the debate commission is changing the rules to stop him.

## Painful to watch

WILMINGTON—There are several White House staffers who recently resigned in disgust due to President Trump's callous indifference to the 200,000 Americans killed by the pandemic but also due to his inability to bring people together to accomplish good things for the country. They stated that Trump's performance at the first presidential debate is how he conducts business as president. They say the west wing of the White House is a pit of vipers with Trump setting the vicious tone similar to the bullying, the name-calling and the belligerence Americans witnessed for 90 minutes on television. Watching the debate was painful. It's difficult to imagine that people have to work in such an environment every day. Kate L.

## Thanks for nothing

WILMINGTON—In response to Kathy Kelly. Good luck expecting the city to help with your problem. I went to the city about a sump pump. My neighbor put in draining into my garage. No permit. I had the same public works man, building inspector, code enforcer officer

all said "illegally put in". About six months in a closed council meeting the vote decided it was my problem to get a lawyer. It's now going on two years and she's still being an idiot. So thanks city council for nothing. From Wilmington, Shirley, thank you.

## Proper protest attire

WILMINGTON—I have watched daily videos from Seattle and Portland of what some call "peaceful" protests. No Covid masks; instead gas masks, helmets, body armor, baseball bats, rocks, frozen water bottles, cans of tuna, and the favorite: fireworks. It's really sad. It's anarchy and tyranny by the mob. Protest for the sake of protest. This is not representative of America and I urge you to vote!

## Climate change

SHADOW LAKES—Explain this all you climate change aficionados. As the rainforests in South America are cut down, what is the mantra? Climate change, climate change! Every year the forests on the west coast burn. Did you see the pictures of the forest fighters hacking their way through the under bush to control the fires. Let's get back to the forest! Don't you think with the smoke circling the earth is healthy? I am sure that the smoke is loaded with all types of cancer causing agents, caused by the burning homes. Isn't the loss of all the forests going to have an affect on climate change? You hear nothing! Always, Margot Lane

## The debate

SHADOW LAKES—A few notes on the debate. When the question came about "The New Green Deal" Did you notice Joe mumbled "no", then he mumbled "yes." He mumbled something about a few buildings, or something, and then subject was dropped. Go online and look up the green deal. It is more than a few buildings. See what AOC plan for this is. Also go to the Joe Biden website and see what he does support. Here is a website to go to all about the wind farms, you will see what this costs you. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dugganflanakin/2020/09/25/wind-turbines-generate-mountains-of-waste-n2576862...always,MargotLane>

## Simpleton

Have you noticed how President Trump criticizes Biden for getting old? Have you noticed how Trump constantly brags about how intelligent he himself is? These are indications that Trump is self-conscious about his shortcomings by projecting them onto others. Trump had a poor record of academic achievement throughout his life and he frequently makes mistakes when speaking, like when he recently said "herd mentality" rather than "herd immunity". In fact, during the debate Trump burst into a rage about how smart he is. But most people aren't buying it, including Republican opponents who have answered him back by giving him a taste of what he deserves. The Lincoln Project produced an ad immediately after the debate showing footage of the multitude of mistakes made by Trump caught on camera throughout his presidency. I myself will never forget how Trump was such a simpleton as to believe that the ingestion of bleach was a possible solution for the coronavirus. Ralph D.

## Weather changes

WILMINGTON—First it was global warming now it's climate change and it is apparent that Irene does not know how to use a dictionary because if she did she would know the word climate means weather and the word weather means climate. If you listen to the people that want you to donate to global warming or climate change they're using your money for their benefit. If you don't believe that, take a look at Al Gore's bank book. Now you have to learn how to use a dictionary or thesaurus and then read some physics books so you can learn something instead of listening to polls that change with the wind.

## Violating their oath

COAL CITY—Under the State of Illinois Constitution, it states under Article 1, section 2, that no person should be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor be denied equal protection of the laws. There is nowhere in any law book or legal document in the entire USA that gives any government employee the legal right to refuse to utilize all means available to protect every American citizen from any type of criminal activity in the state of Illinois or the entire USA. The penalty for refusing to comply with the state and federal law is prosecution of any government employee including any politician that refuses to aid the American citizens under the laws of the USA. How long are the politicians going to allowed to violate their oath of office without being prosecuted? Could this be a form of treason against the American citizens by the politicians?

We have homegrown pumpkins!

**Jim Courant's**  
MICHIGAN  
**APPLES**

ALWAYS CALL for available apple varieties and days open. Thanks!

Route 53 and New River Rd - Wilmington, IL

10AM OPEN 6PM QUALITY

Closed Mondays **815-476-7514**

FOLLOW US ON facebook

# Asking for respect is hardly playing the victim

After my second column regarding mask wearing, we received a handful of Sound-off submissions. I was anticipating that not everyone would agree with me, but this one caught my attention:



SIMON SAYS...  
Marney Simon

"Yes, we respect your right to wear a mask. You could also put a bag over your head and we would respect your right to wear it. Our respect grows thin when you wave your pre-existing condition victim flag. Over half the country has some comorbidity pre-existing, but most don't use it as an excuse to bash their fellow citizens. Even with that, for your age group, stats show a 99 percent chance of recovery if you get sick with Covid. The mask believing group should be gracious winners, all of their whining and complaining has made the mask a state and local ordinance. They can pat themselves on the back for the 5,000 restaurants and food services that have closed in Illinois and won't be back. So give it a rest, you got your way. A truly fair newspaper would print the following info. CDC Data Sources "While coronavirus is obviously concerning and a very real threat to some people, name the elderly and immunocompromised, these data show that the risk for the rest of the population is quite low." Infection fatality rate estimates by age: 5-9 years-0.0016%, 10-19 years-0.00032%, 20-49 years-0.0092%, 50-64 years-0.14%, 65 years and over-5.6%, all ages-0.64%. Source: <https://osf.io.wdbpel/>

Much of this really does not deserve a response, particularly the appalling notion that people with preexisting conditions are playing victims. By saying that your respect "grows thin" you seem to be implying that you were on board with staying a respectful six feet away from me until I told you that I am high risk, which now makes you not want to respect my space. This is how a toddler

responds to stimuli they don't like. Since this whole thing started, the emphasis has been on protecting those who are at high risk, yet apparently, these people now annoy you and you wish to disrespect them. This selfish lack of care for others is repugnant.

Even more repugnant is the idea that I should be a gracious winner. Apparently, this is a game to you. An ongoing pandemic that has killed more than 210,000 of my fellow Americans and infected more than 7 million — including President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump — is not a win for anyone.

What I would like to focus on, however, is your ending. First, that you equate an opinion piece as regular news which should be "fair and balanced" shows you do not have a grasp of editorial writing versus journalism.

That we printed my editorial — specifically an opinion piece written in first person and clearly labeled as my own point of view — does not somehow equate to a lack of fairness. What was written was my opinion that people without masks should not approach other people. I am not certain what death rates have to do with it. I don't know why 1 million dead worldwide is viewed as insignificant.

While I am sure your death rate statistics seemed like a gotcha moment of some kind, pandemics are not pandemics because of how many people they kill. They are pandemics because of how many people they affect across the globe.

At no point did I suggest that people should wear their masks because of how deadly the virus is. I asked people to wear their masks due to how contagious the virus is.

I tried your source, and was told "site not available."

So, I instead tried Nebraska Medicine. As you may remember, some of the very first cruise ship victims of the virus were transported to

Nebraska Medicine in Omaha. Nebraska Medicine has the premiere isolation and infectious disease research facility in the country — you may recall they also took care of the handful of Ebola victims we had in the United States in 2014.

According to Nebraska Medicine:

"COVID-19 can damage organs like the lungs, brain and heart for an unknown amount of time. Recovered patients have reported "long-hauler" effects in these areas:

- Brain: headaches, fatigue, insomnia, vertigo and "brain fog"
- Lungs: lung scarring, shortness of breath, chest pain and cough
- Heart and blood: blood clots, heart arrhythmia, diabetes and hypertension

Even younger patients with COVID-19 can experience lasting effects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 5 weren't back to normal two weeks after testing positive. Since COVID-19 is a new disease, we're still learning that long-term effects are likely. With so many unknowns, it's best to stay safe and avoid catching it in the first place."

These are my bigger concerns, not death rates. But, if you want to focus on death rates, I'll turn your attention to another pandemic: Varicella. AKA the chicken pox.

Pre-vaccine, the death rate for chicken pox was .001%. It was so uncommon that it nearly always was only fatal the very old or the very ill. I myself am part of the population that contracted it at a neighborhood "chicken pox party."

As it turns out, the virus stays with you.

Decades later, chicken pox can produce shingles. Long term effects of shingles can include postherpetic neuralgia (long term pain, itching and burning), blindness, and Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, which can cause dizziness, hearing loss, and loss of ability to move parts of your face.

I am uncertain why people are so blasé about COVID-19 simply because it likely won't kill you, when we know

# Census to continue data collection

A federal judge in California has blocked the Trump administration's effort to end early the door-to-door head counting for the 2020 U.S. Census. President Donald Trump had ordered that the census count end Sept. 30, but barring any reversal of the decision by a higher court, the head count will continue through Oct. 31.

On Oct. 2, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a message went out to census takers that day informing them data collection operations would continue through the end of the month.

As of Monday, 99.8% of Illinois households had been counted. In Grundy County 76.3% of households self-responded, up from 74.7% in 2010, and 78.3% of Will County households self-responded, also an increase from 2010 that found 76.9% sending in their data.

Locally, 66.1% of Braidwood households self-responded to the 2020 Census as did 76.3% of Carbon Hill, 78.9% of Coal City, 74.6% of Diamond and 68.7% of Wilmington households.

Anyone who has not yet completed the census to do so online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov).

-Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report



Call now to schedule your free consultation.

## Trust and Estate Planning for your family's future

If the unthinkable happened, would your loved ones be left financially secure? Talk to us today about a plan that will protect your assets and ensure your tax planning is still sensible given the changes to law.



FISHER BERARDI LAW

Call 815-476-7635

207 S. Water St., Wilmington • [www.fisherberardilaw.com](https://www.fisherberardilaw.com)

## Circle jam at Godley Park Dist. set for Oct. 10

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

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy.

The free event is open to everyone includ-

ing musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are held on the second Saturday of each month from January to November, and are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more.

## Return to maximum independence with one-on-one Rehab Services

"I get to help people return to doing what they love."

- Megan Homerding  
Physical Therapy Assistant

There are all kinds of reasons to choose Morris Hospital for outpatient rehabilitation.

Our Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy services help you with:

- Pain
- Memory
- Lymphedema
- Torticollis
- Speech
- Orthopedic injury
- Daily tasks
- Using hands
- Vocal quality
- Parkinson's
- Walking, moving, falls
- Dizziness, balance
- Coughing or choking while chewing or swallowing

Rehabilitation locations in Morris, Channahon (Ridge Road), Yorkville and now at our new Diamond-Coal City Campus!



815-705-7828 | [www.morrishospital.org/rehabservices](https://www.morrishospital.org/rehabservices)



PARTNER.

We're in this together.

Ensuring peace of mind.  
Building strong communities.  
Realizing your best future.

Let's ensure your money meets its full potential.

Since we've opened our doors in 1868, Busey has built a foundation of broad financial capabilities, deep knowledge and close relationships that span generations. All with integrity as our leading guide.

Busey's right beside you.

[busey.com](https://busey.com) 630.696.4258 Member FDIC



# OBITUARIES

## Joan Meyer

WILMINGTON—Joan Meyer, 81, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020 at her home surrounded by family.

Born Sept. 21, 1939 in Joliet, IL, Joan Margaret was the daughter of Michael Peter and Margaret Susan (Berscheid) Korst. She was raised in Joliet; attended St. Mary Carmelite Grade School; graduated from St. Francis Academy with the class of 1957, and went on to attend Joliet Beauty Academy. On May 10, 1958, Joan married Bernard Meyer in St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Joliet by Bernie's uncle, Reverend Bernard E. Burns, and together they raised their family and were happily married for the following 62 1/2 years.



Joan worked as a hairdresser and owned and operated her own salon for 32 years. She was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington and enjoyed being active with the Inwood Fitness Water Aerobics for many years. Joan loved to travel with the love of her life, Bernie, and together they made many memorable trips to Florida, Shipshewana, Brown County and the Smokey Mountains to name a few places. Deeply loved by her family, Joan will be remembered as a devoted wife and a loving mother and grandmother, who cherished her family. There is no doubt that she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Survivors include her beloved husband, Bernie; three loving daughters: Natalie (Ray) Sugg, of Lockport; Corinne (Glenn) Rodighiero, of Shorewood and Tracy (Tom) Schejbal, of Limestone; dear grandchildren: Eric (Andrea)

Sugg, of Lostant; Scott (Wendy) Sugg, of Plainfield; Caitlyn Rodighiero, of Shorewood; Nicole Rodighiero, of Key West, FL; Crystal Sugg, of Temecula, CA and Lauren Schejbal, Lucas Schejbal, Lindsey Schejbal, Logan Schejbal and Landon Schejbal, all of Limestone and cherished great-grandchildren: Payton, Liam, Evie, Jameson, Laila, Serina, Olivia and Maddie, as well as her faithful companion, Lulu.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents.

The family received friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020. A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 in Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. Reverend Sebastian Gargol and Reverend Charles Wheeler concelebrated.

Following Mass, Joan was laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Joan's memory to St. Jude Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431

Family and friends may sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Joan's memorial page by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Joan-Meyer](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Joan-Meyer)

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

## Robert Shear

COAL CITY—Robert L. Shear, 84, of Coal City, went to his heavenly home on Sept. 26, 2020 at home with his family by his side.

Born April 12, 1936 in Wilmington, he was the son of John William and Anna Marie (nee Henke) Shear. Robert was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a great friend to all. He was a member of the Christian Life Assembly and was a long-time resident and business owner in Coal City.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Jean (nee Hakey) Shear, who he married Dec. 18, 1954 in Morris; one son, Robert (Elaine) Shear Jr.; three daughters: Bonnie (Dan Goodman) Ryder, Karen (Mike) Cairns and Brenda (John)



Zierman; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers, John and William Shear and one sister, Norma Reynolds.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial services for Robert will be held at the Christian Life Assembly in Diamond, Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at 7 p.m. with a visitation one hour preceding services.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log on to [www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory is entrusted with the arrangements.

## Karen M. Prombo

Karen Marie Prombo, 60, of Morris, passed away suddenly on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 at her home.

Born March 10, 1960 at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL, Karen Marie was the daughter of Harry and JoAnn (Potts) Wysocki. She was raised by her grandmother, Regina Potts and was educated in Roseland, Park Forest and Crete-Monee, where she graduated from Crete-Monee High School with the class of 1978. On Oct. 10, 1986, Karen married Edward Prombo in Matteson, IL. Karen was employed for Orthopedic Associates in Munster, IN for 20 years. She was an active member at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, where she served as a Eucharistic Minister. Karen took pleasure in planting flowers and landscaping her shrubs. In addition she enjoyed crafting, going to the zoo, and was an avid White Sox fan.

Survivors include her husband 32 years, Edward; son, Phillip Prombo, of Chicago; sister, Terri Wysocki, of Matteson; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Linda (Robert) Pogliano, of Coal City; Roseann (James) Tibbott, of Morris; Gloria (Jeff) Hodge, of New Lenox; Michael (Beth) Prombo, of Palatine; Steven Prombo, of Chicago; William (Terri Kay) Prombo, of Morris and Christopher (Robin) Prombo, of Waterloo and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as



her special Uncle Bob and Aunt Jan.

She was preceded in death by her parents and dear grandmother, Regina Potts.

Per Karen's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home in Morris from 9-11:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at 12 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris with Reverend Jason Stone presiding.

A private family inurnment will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Karen's memory to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 514 E. Jackson St., Morris, 60450.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Karen's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Karen-Prombo](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Karen-Prombo)

Cremation services and memorial arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris.

## Rita Styck-McWherter

HERSCHER—Rita Styck-McWherter, 75, of Herscher, IL, formerly of Wilmington, passed away Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020 at home.

Born Sept. 25, 1945 in Kankakee, IL to the late Clayton Clarence and Margaret Mary (nee Larkin) Ryneason. Rita retired at the age of 62 from Plant Services contracted with Exxon Mobil. She loved to bird watch and was a member of the National Bird Watchers Association. She also enjoyed horticulture and exhibited that through the many plants she grew. Rita enjoyed crafting and boating with her late husband, Mac, and most importantly loved spending time with family.

She married Henry (Wanda) Styck July 31, 1965 in Kankakee and together they had two children, Tina (Don) Fleischauer of Herscher and Henry "J.R." (the late Cindy) Styck, Jr. of Dwight, IL; seven grandchildren, Holly (Robbie) Wilke, Dustin and Cassie Fleischauer, Jason, Brandy, Brittany and Jamie Stanton; four great-grandchildren, Emma, Sofia, and Nevaeh



Stanton, and Robert Donald Wilke; one sister, Sue (the late John) Fiessinger of Kevil, KY; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death was her husband, William "Mac" McWherter (8-22-2018), whom she married September 5, 2005; brothers, James (Marcie), Kevin (the late Robyn) and Terry Ryneason; one sister, Sandra Dee Dickerson; and one sister-in-law, Kathy Ryneason.

Visitation for Rita will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Thursday, Oct. 8, from 4-7 p.m. with the funeral service beginning at 7 p.m. All attendees will be required to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing standards.

Cremation rites will be accorded following services. Inurnment will be in Custer Township Cemetery. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find us on Facebook. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336

## Sound-off, continued from page 4

### Always raising taxes

SHADOW LAKES—Calling about the sound-off in this week's paper called "A bargain" by Renee K. I don't really think she quite understands how Democrats work taxes. Democrats in my time have never lowered taxes, period. The majority of them are very wealthy, they have a very high income. So why would they want to tax themselves? You have to be blind not to see this and I hope you read the commentary on page 11 of the newspaper by Brad Weisenstein. I think he can obviously explain it better than I can, so if you have this week's paper go and read the commentary on page 11. Dan Hill.

### Avoided paying

WILMINGTON—Biden's tax platform includes getting high-income Americans to pay more in taxes and eliminating write-offs used by the rich. Biden did just that in his recent tax returns. Biden and his wife avoided paying \$500,000 in payroll taxes, Medicare and Social Security taxes. The Biden's used a tax loophole to allow them to bypass the 3.8 percent self-employment tax on \$15 million in income. If Biden is going to "talk the talk" about the rich paying their fair share and the immorality of tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy, it might be more effective if Biden also "walked the walk." Biden could help save Medicare and Social Security if he paid his fair share.

### Dam people

WILMINGTON—Great picture of the two people clearly trespassing at the dam site. Put up barricades, fencing, signs in whatever language you want. It will do no good. Bottom line is you can't fix stupid.

### Destroying the ACA

CUSTER PARK—To Jim of "Unaffordable." Do you realize you get a tax deduction proportionate to your income if you have Obamacare insurance? If still too expensive, buy private insurance. Either way the Obamacare law (ACA) forces all health insurance companies do the right thing by making them cover preexisting conditions. Also, the ACA forces insurance companies to pay your costs without limiting the lifetime dollar amount. These two features improved private insurance for consumers making the ACA revolutionary. Have you forgotten what it was like before the ACA? For people with preexisting conditions, health insurance was unaffordable and in general everyone worried about exceeding the lifetime limit of what their insurance would pay. Some people had good health insurance through their jobs but they were the lucky ones. Yes, the ACA relieved these problems of the American health insurance nightmare. But since becoming president, Trump is destroying the ACA out of spite thereby making health insurance more expensive. Trump hates Obama's legacy more than he cares about what is good for the people. Gary W.

### Job well done

WILMINGTON—To Ken Ewensen and Wilmington Public Works employees: your professional work replacing the sidewalk on Fulton Street is greatly appreciated.

### Vote no on tax

COAL CITY—Don't believe a word they say about this so called "fair tax." Voting yes for the graduated income tax change is giving JB Pritzker and Mike Madigan to okay to raise taxes anytime they want. Do you really think these two can be trusted not raise taxes on the middle class. After all the COVID spending, loss of businesses and the killing of Illinois' economy, Madigan and JB will target the middle class within the first year. The only ones who won't be affected are those on welfare. You pay more taxes, they get more free services...how fair is that?

### Layoffs coming

WILMINGTON—It's sad that massive layoffs are coming from Disney, Allstate and the airlines. But Republican Senate Leader McConnell doesn't care about economic suffering caused by layoffs and is not moved to pass legislation for helping people who are stricken by the pandemic. That's the Senate's job and that's McConnell's job but McConnell refuses to do it. Nevertheless the Senate is in such a hurry to confirm the new Supreme Court justice, someone eager to eliminate health insurance for tens of millions and remove preexisting condition coverage for half our population, it can't do it fast enough. This reveals the nature of the Republican Party. It's despicable and

you might be one of its victims. Irene D.

### The pandemic

COAL CITY—For those who still think President Trump has done a good job fighting COVID-19, consider that Japan has had a total of 1,578 deaths whereas our death toll is 210,000. This means the U.S. death toll as a percentage of total population is 50 times that of Japan's death toll as a percentage of total population. It's another statistic which verifies that our country has the worst performance in the world controlling the pandemic.

Kurt K.

### Thief strikes again

COAL CITY—I replaced my Trump sign and it was stolen again. I hope they are also stealing the Biden signs too. I bet not....so again they are trying to steal the election in one way or another. I have the right to my opinion and you have the right to yours. This is called freedom of speech which is at stake in this election as you can see from the actions going on here. Sorry to say this will not change my mind... only cement it and ignite my activism. What are you trying to prove?

### City boy

BRAIDWOOD—It's obvious that President Trump is a city boy who wasn't listening during biology class. Trump's suggestion to sweep millions of acres of forest floor is laughable. I have family out west and they are Republicans who believe that we shouldn't even fight the fires but let everything burn. Perhaps because they are evangelicals, they don't believe in getting off their duff to obey God's command of stewardship toward the earth. The bottom line is that the debris on the forest floor is beneficial to the forests. As a matter of fact, sweeping the forest floors would make matters worse by removing protective mulch that protects pine trees from the ravages of drought. Furthermore, the cost of sweeping millions of acres would be put to better use by spending the money mitigating the climate crisis which causes the forest fires in the first place. Let's face it. We must do something eventually and the sooner we start the cheaper and more effective it will be. Right now we are committing suicide. Ann S.

### Fact checking

CUSTER PARK—Checking the facts about what was said at the first presidential debate leads to the following conclusions: manufacturing jobs increased by half a million under Trump but some of the increase has been lost since the pandemic; regarding violent crime, it decreased about 16 percent under President Obama and is about the same under President Trump; prescription drug prices are increasing under Trump; the forests burning in the west are 60 percent under federal control so Trump is to blame for the problem and should not be blaming the states for bad forest management; according to epidemiologists more than 100,000 lives would have been saved from the pandemic if shutdowns in March across the states would have been a week earlier. Last but not least, Trump's childish temper tantrums show he must shout and scream because his powers of reasoning are lacking. We see this all the time with children, adolescents and adults who are desperate. A. Weidner

### Vote to survive

BRAIDWOOD—Contrary to what the fake news media says, President Trump showed tremendous leadership regarding Covid-19 pandemic. He cut off travel from China in January while the Democrats were trying to impeach him. He warned of the dangers of the coronavirus in his Feb. 4 State of the Union Address. He took swift action to supply states with medical equipment. He displayed calm and steady transparency during his daily press conferences. He was simultaneously accused of failing to use his authority and exceeding it. In a blink of the eye, church services were banned, gun shops closed, freedom of movement criminalized. At the same time, violent Antifa/ Black Lives Matter Marxists have been allowed to riot in our streets without consequence. This should serve as a dire warning of how fast our freedoms can be taken away and those freedoms will be taken away if the Democrats win in November. They will move quickly to destroy Medicare with Medicare for All, severely restrict our religious liberty and free speech, confiscate firearms from law-abiding Americans, destroy our economy with taxes and their "Green New Deal," stack the Supreme Court, punish churches and pastors who oppose same sex mar-

riage and abortion. Even more alarming they will permanently cement their hold on power by making it impossible for any conservative to ever again win the presidency by abolishing the Electoral College, allowing millions of illegal aliens to vote, and eliminating all voter ID requirements. That's why the 2020 elections are a battle for the very survival of America as we know it.

### It's everyone's right

COAL CITY—Dan Hill, of course looters and thieves should be arrested and punished. But not all protesters loot and steal. In fact there are more peaceful protesters than bad guys. And sometimes it is the White Supremacist groups who cause trouble to blacken the protesters' image. It's a Constitutional right to protest. You and others are trying to tie them all together because you don't like what they are protesting about. However as a proud vet who fought for the same Constitution the protesters are using, and curbing them would be un-Constitutional, you should defend their rights to protest. And right now the big stealers, traitors, self-serving crime guys, like Roger Stone, Manafort, Bannon, Cohen, Flynn, and others, who get off, get convicted but get short sentences for their crimes, or like Roger Stone who has so much dope on Trump he gets pardoned after admitting his guilt are the big problem. I bet the looters who are caught will get more time and never see a pardon. M

### Made my day

COAL CITY—The Sound-off letter "Unfit for Office" about President Trump's obsession with personal vanity made my day. Furthermore, General Kelly, General McMaster and Rex Tillerson have attested that Trump was never mentally fit for office in the first place. Trump has a lot of nerve criticizing Biden for what Trump himself is guilty. It's called projection and Trump does it on a regular basis.

### Joe shows compassion

BRAIDWOOD—Thank you Joe Biden for showing kindness and compassion to a man who doesn't seem to even understand those words. We join you in hoping President Trump recovers quickly and also all his minions who have also contracted the virus. Kudos for pulling negative ads. You really should just learn his quotes, but you are better than that.

### Such a shame

WILMINGTON—It's such a shame what the VFW has done to one of its members. They can't pay their bills nor attract more customers but they can bar one of their own for something allegedly what some of themselves are always doing. I have been to their queen event and many women stand there with open arms to get a hug from this person. Don't you think you should pay more attention to your business? One of your own bartenders/employee contracted Covid and you closed for one day where others have to close for 14 days and be quarantined. Sounds like you think you are above the law. This man is one of the most selfless people I have ever met. He always puts the VFW and the people/other members before himself. I have seen him at every event and every gathering for the VFW including being a part of the honor guard. And on countless other occasions I have seen him doing the yardwork for the VFW for free. He has always been a huge help during vent and also planning. He has always been good to me and my family. I know the VFW just lost me and my family ever coming into their establishment again. We will find somewhere else to go.

### God bless him

WILMINGTON—I don't understand how the VFW can ban a veteran, a gentleman vet at that, who always has respect for women of all ages from 6 months to 100 years old. I have known him for many years and I am a veteran's wife, 74 years old and cannot say enough good and kind things about this man. God bless him and all the veterans at the VFW Post 5422 except the ones at the top who did this to him.

### Disgraceful display

BRAIDWOOD—It's difficult to believe that any American could have watched our president's disgraceful display on Tuesday night and still defend him, but they do. He lies, cheats and is a bully. But some still defend him. Even his more and more prominent and thoughtful Republicans have denounced him and his behavior and have announced they are going to vote for Joe Biden.

## Twin Size

*Courage  
Under  
Fire*

# WE SALUTE OUR FIREFIGHTERS

DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 4 - 10



Courtesy Photo

**JUMPING INTO ACTION** — The Custer Fire Protection District was among multiple departments working on saving a victim at an accident scene.

## Custer Fire to pass out free smoke detectors

### STAFF REPORT

In honor of Fire Prevention Week, the Custer Fire Protection District will be driving through Custer township on Sunday, Oct. 11 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. passing out fire safety literature and fire hats for the kids.

They also have a number of free smoke detectors available. Any Custer Park resident in need of a smoke detector should call 815-458-9326 and leave a message.

"Smoke detectors are the most important thing you can have in the house," said Bob Hussey, trustee of

the Custer Fire Protection District.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 38% of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present. The risk of dying is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

Those who can't physically install their smoke detectors should let the Custer Fire Protection District know and assistance will be given.

The smoke detectors were made through a generous donation by Wilmington and Braidwood Whitmore Ace Hardware

stores.

Volunteers from the fire department approached the Wilmington Whitmore Ace Hardware to seek out a discount for smoke detectors. The store then went above and beyond and donated 36 smoke detectors to the fire department. Braidwood Whitmore Ace Hardware matched that donation.

When you hear them driving by on Sunday, come out and say hello.

Because of traffic concerns along Route 113, residents can also stop by the station and pick up a literature packet in the box next to the front door.



**FOUR MEMBERS OF the Braidwood Fire Protection District were recently promoted.** Pictured (from left) are Assistant Chief Christopher Jude, Captain Jacob Bolatto, Lieutenant Michael Tenerelli and Engineer Felicia Ehringer.

## Braidwood Fire Protection District

### Personnel

63 employees; 3 Trustees, 1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Fire Chief, 1 Assistant Fire Chief, 5 Officers (1 Chief Engineer, 1 Safety Officers, 3 Captains and 1 Lieutenant), 1 EMS Coordinator, 1 EMS Educator, 31 - Paramedics, 23 - EMTs, 55 - Certified Firefighters through the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 2 Interns, 3 Cadets and 1 Administrative Assistant

### Apparatus

Fire Engines/Pumper/ Tankers: 2411 (1996 Alexis Engine,) 2412 (2002 Alexis/Spartan Pumper Tanker), 2413 (2018

Alexis/Spartan Metrostar Chassis), 2416 (1997 E-One Heavy Rescue Squad), 2419 (2004 Smeal/Spartan Chassis)

Ambulances: 2012 Ford F-450, Advanced Life Support Ambulance, 2020 Demers/Ford F550 Ambulance,

Other: 1996 Ford/Alexis Brush Truck, 1992 Ford Road Rescue, 2020 First Responder Boat A16S and boat trailer, 2003 Ford F-350, 2011 Ford F-450, 2011 Alexis Tactical Rescue Trailer, Williams Fire & Hazard Control Foam Trailer, Chief's Buggy (2018 Chevy Tahoe), Operations Officer Buggy (2012 Ford Expedition), Command Vehicle (2015 Yukon XL)

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



*Keep items like dishtowels, bags and curtains at least three feet away from your kitchen stove.*

Wilmington 815-476-7144 Coal City 815-634-4224 Braidwood 815-458-2114

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by

**BOB'S ADVANCED  
AUTO & TIRE, INC.**

*To help prevent fires, avoid plugging several appliance cords into the same electrical socket.*

Complete Auto & Truck Repairs  
**24 HOUR TOWING**  
60 E. Chestnut, Coal City  
**815-634-0004**

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



*Institute a "no smoking" policy in the house.*

Phil Bradley

P.O. Box 62  
Essex, IL 60935  
815-405-5020 Cell  
phil@bradleyipc.com

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



**HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**

*If you live in a multi-story building, plan to use the stairs - never the elevator.*

**Call (815) 476-6615**

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



*Keep a fire extinguisher in your home, and learn how and when to use it.*

200 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington  
**(815) 476-7744**  
M-F 8 am-5 pm; Sat 8 am-noon

### SAFETY TIP brought to your by

**CLUBB  
CONSTRUCTION**

*Pull to the right for sirens and lights!*

920 Spring Hill Dr., Coal City  
**815-634-2544**

### SAFETY TIP bought to you by



*Working smoke alarms reduce the chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50 percent. They are a critical first step for staying safe.*

85 S. Broadway Street, Coal City • 815-526-4001  
[www.bankofpontiac.com](http://www.bankofpontiac.com) Member FDIC

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by

**Coal City  
Pharmacy**

*"Don't wait, check the date" Age matters when it comes to smoke alarms. Replace them every 10 years.*

175 S. Broadway, Coal City  
**815-634-2391**

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



- Your local resource for DIY & Craft Ideas -

*Check all cords and replace any that are frayed or have bare wires.*

115 N. Water St., Wilmington  
**815-926-2432**  
Visit: [THECRAFTERSGALLERY.NET](http://THECRAFTERSGALLERY.NET)

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



Dean A Shepherd, AAMS®  
Financial Advisor  
311 W Baltimore St  
Wilmington, IL 60481  
815-476-6856

*Make sure your house number is clearly visible from the road.*

Member SIPC  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) **Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



*If you cannot safely escape your home or apartment, keep smoke out of the room by covering vents and cracks around the door, and call 911 or your fire department as quickly as possible.*

1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City, IL  
**815-634-4040**

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



**FISHER BERARDI LAW**

*When water rises and covers the roadway...Don't drown, turn around.*

**Call 815-476-7635**  
207 S. Water St., Wilmington  
[www.fisherberardilaw.com](http://www.fisherberardilaw.com)

*Courage  
Under  
Fire*

# WE SALUTE OUR FIREFIGHTERS

DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 4 - 10

## Coal City Fire on the right path

The Coal City Fire Protection District is on track to log over 2,000 calls in 2020.

As of Oct. 4, the first day of Fire Prevention Week, the department had responded to 1,553 calls for service—a combination of fire and emergency medical services [EMS].

The district has experienced a steady increase in calls year-over-year and the volume of calls between 2018 and 2019 increased by 13%.

On average the department is responding to 173 calls per month, compared to 154 last year, and based on those numbers it looks like 2020 will end with a 12% increase in service calls.

The department is comprised of 46 members led by fire chief James Seerup who is assisted by deputy chief Karl Wexelberg, both were sworn in to their new positions Aug. 20.

Seerup, who joined the department in 1998, assumed full-time duties this week. He said he wants the department to be one others look to and one that the public has the utmost confidence in.

“We will continuously upgrade our equipment and continue on a path that brings us the highest level of our training,” Seerup said.

On the topic of new equipment, Lt. Nick Doerfler, who serves as the department’s EMS coordinator, reports in the past year two Lucas CPR devices were purchased and brought on-line in the front line ambulances.

“These units assist in performing perfect CPR allowing our members to focus on other life-saving measures at the time that a person’s heart stops beating,” Doerfler said.

As the department enters the final quarter of what has been a demanding year given the on-going pandemic, and the resulting protocols that came with serving the community’s health and safety needs, the department appears to be on a new path.

And, the chief says its the right path.

“We are looking forward to working together for a successful future,” Seerup said.



COAL CITY FIRE Protection District firefighters participated in a multi-company training exercise at the Braidwood Fire Protection District's training tower on Oct. 1. Firefighters participated in a number of scenarios including ladder placement and extinguishment.



Courtesy photo

THE WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION District opened up Station 2 for operations on Monday, Aug. 10. The new facility will serve the Elion Logistics center, as well as parts of the district west of I-55.

## Wilmington Fire connects with the community

BY MARNEY SIMON  
STAFF EDITOR

Fire Prevention Week looked different for the members of the Wilmington Fire Protection District this year, who normally would be in the thick of high school football games and interacting with students from Wilmington School District 209-U.

Fire Chief Tim Zlomie oversees 11 full time workers, including two full time chiefs and nine fire-medics., as well as an administrator as well as around 26 other part timers.

“We always try to be out in our community,” Zlomie said. “This year is so different [due to COVID-19].... So, that will be something our guys miss, going out doing and getting the interaction with the kids. We’ve never closed, obviously, with COVID-19, so, anytime people have questions or needs, we always want them to feel free to contact us and use our services, no matter what.”

The district has three ambulances, and is currently out to bid for a new engine, which is expected to take about a year to complete.

One new addition for the district is its

new station, as plans to open the doors to a second location finally come to fruition in 2020.

In August, the district opened the doors on its second fire house, Station 2, located at 29745 Elion Boulevard, near Lorenzo Road and I-55 inside the Elion Logistics Park.

An engine and ambulance will be assigned to Station 2 with staffing of between two and three Firefighter Paramedics and Firefighter EMTs.

Station 2 will serve the logistics center, but is also strategically placed for quick response to I-55 and the western residential neighborhoods in unincorporated Wilmington, such as O’Brien’s Subdivision, Phelan Acres and Cottage Road, as well as anywhere in town that needs to be addressed.

The district hopes to have an open house at the new site next spring.

Zlomie said that despite the pandemic, it’s business as usual for the department.

“We’re here to serve our community, no matter what that means,” Zlomie said. “Even if it’s as simple as helping someone up or down, we’ll do that. We gladly do that.”



K9 RIKKI  
Coal City Fire Protection District

### GENUINE POOL CARE, INC.

295 S. Broadway, Coal City  
1-815-634-8535  
www.genuinepools.com

Keep leashes and collars near the door. If you need to leave your home in an emergency, keep your pet gear handy and close to a safe exit. If your pets are not microchipped, be sure they have identification on their collars in case they become lost during a home evacuation.

### SAFETY TIP brought to your by



Limit distractions when cooking and don't leave a hot oven or stovetop unattended.

715 S. Broadway, Coal City  
815-634-8858

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



When buying a space heater, look for models that shut off automatically if the heater falls over.

120 S. Main St., Wilmington  
815-942-0130  
www.grundybank.com

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



Keep children and pets away from space heaters.

140 Bridge St., Wilmington  
815-476-9590

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.

110 Bridge St., Wilmington  
815-476-2200

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



Keep candles at least 1 foot away from anything that can burn, and always put them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.

700 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington  
815-476-2181  
75 N. Broadway, Coal City  
815-634-2125

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



"VINTAGE, ANTIQUES AND MUCH MORE..."

Keep smoke alarms at least 10 feet from the stove, to reduce false alarms.

603 W. Baltimore St.,  
Wilmington, IL

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



Use special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers for people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

1544 Creek Dr.  
Morris, IL 60450

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by

## SPARKLE Laundromat

Remember at train tracks to never cross while the gates are down. Trains are closer and move faster than you think.

692 E. Division St., Coal City

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



## THE FLOWER LOFT

Designate an outside meeting place a safe distance from the house where everyone should meet.

204 N. Water St., Wilmington  
(815)476-LOFT • TFOLOFT.COM

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



In the event of a fire, crawl low if you must exit through smoke. Stop, drop and roll if clothes catch fire.

Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment  
1099 S. Water St., Wilmington  
(Winchester Green Center)  
815-476-2700

### SAFETY TIP brought to you by



In the event of a fire, check doorknobs for excessive heat with the back of your hand before entering another room.

515 N. Kankakee St., Wilmington  
(815) 476-7260  
www.wilmingtondoor.com

# Solar storms and their impacts on Earth

## EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:

Are there any environmental or health risks associated with the solar storms that have been hitting the Earth recently?

— Betsy R.,  
Suwanee, GA

Solar storms have been in the news lately, but the truth is these naturally occurring solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) from the Sun happen all the time — or at least a few hundred times a year from what we can tell here on Earth. They are caused by large-scale magnetic eruptions from the Sun that send particles into the atmosphere at high speeds. But luckily for us, the only threats these solar storms pose within the Earth's atmosphere are to our technology.

According to the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA), harmful radiation from these flares can't pass through Earth's atmosphere to physically affect humans on the ground; however, when intense enough, they can disturb the atmosphere in the layer where GPS and communications signals travel. Both CMEs and solar flares, if powerful enough, have this disrupting effect.

"When a CME strikes Earth's atmosphere, it causes a temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field," reports Deborah Byrd, editor of the EarthSky.org website. "The charged particles can slam into our atmosphere, disrupt satellites in orbit and even cause



Courtesy Photo by Keith Williams, FlickrCC

**WHILE SOLAR STORMS** may be harmful to our communications technologies, they are also behind the amazing galactic light show visible from some northern latitudes in winter called the Aurora Borealis.

them to fail, and bathe high-flying airplanes with radiation."

Besides disrupting navigation and telecommunications systems, solar storms can also cause electricity blackouts down below on Earth. One example happened in Quebec on March 13, 1989. A particularly strong CME caused a power failure that stretched across Quebec and parts of the Northeastern U.S., blacking out the region for nine hours and affecting six million people in the process.

The technological effects of solar storms can be worrisome, but scientists can track and predict these storms in order to mediate their potential negative impacts on a region. Additionally, one positive result of solar storms in places that lie at higher lati-

tudes is the appearance of the radiant Aurora borealis (also known as the Northern Lights) during these phenomena.

While there have been plenty of solar storms lately, this year actually marks a low-point for such activity — a so-called Solar Minimum — in the solar cycle. The Space Weather Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the next peak of solar activity will be in July of 2025.

Amateur astronomers interested in tracking solar storms should check out SpaceWeatherLive.com, a nonprofit, all-volunteer project out of Belgium which coordinates information from several websites on a range of topics including astronomy, space, aurora and related subjects.

One of the site's cool features is a free glimpse into the last three days of solar storm activity hitting the Earth's atmosphere.

If you would like to become more involved in the process of tracking solar storms, the Solar Stormwatch II project led by University of Reading in England looks for volunteers to help record data. Volunteers can virtually aid the project by observing CME data and imagery on the project's website and recording/outlining what they see.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

## Gas dips in Illinois

Illinois gas prices have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.23/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 3.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 45.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.89/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.79/g, a difference of 90.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state Monday was \$1.89/g while the highest was \$2.79/g, a difference of 90.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.17/g Monday.

The national average is down 4.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 49.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"It's been a fairly quiet

week for gas prices yet again, but with oil tanking last week, there's a possibility motorists may see a renewed downward direction in average prices in the days or weeks ahead," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "However, according to Pay with GasBuddy data, gasoline demand inexplicably rose last week to the highest level since August, breaking with conventional wisdom that fall demand is typically weak. While we have no direct reasoning for the rebound, five of seven days last week saw much above the prior week's gasoline demand, in fact, Friday saw the highest gasoline demand since Labor Day. If demand continues to somehow defy such conventional trends, we may see an end to the possibility of future declines."

## Madigan won't testify before Investigating Committee

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

House Speaker Michael Madigan said Friday, Sept. 25, he will not voluntarily testify before the House Special Investigating Committee that is probing his role in a bribery scheme involving utility giant Commonwealth Edison.

In a two-and-a-half-page letter to the committee, Madigan called the committee "a political stunt" being orchestrated by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, and said the ongoing federal criminal investigation, "is more important than Mr. Durkin's political theatrics."

"For the record, I am not exercising my Fifth Amendment rights by not appearing before the committee," Madigan wrote. "As I have said before, I have done nothing wrong."

Madigan, a Chicago Democrat and the longest serving state legislative speaker in U.S. history, was implicated in the bribery scheme in July when officials with ComEd entered a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office in which they admitted that over a period of years, they awarded jobs and contracts to close associates of Madigan in order to curry his favor for legislation that benefited the company.

Madigan has not been charged, and the deferred prosecution agreement did

not explicitly state that he had personally requested the favors or had direct knowledge of them at the time. He is referred to only as "Public Official A," although the agreement makes clear the public official is the speaker of the Illinois House.

Republicans have filed a charge under House rules accusing him of "conduct unbecoming to a legislator or which constitutes a breach of public trust." During the committee's first meeting Sept. 10, GOP members introduced a list of witnesses they wanted to testify voluntarily. The list included Madigan along with several past and current employees of ComEd.

## TUFFY'S LOUNGE & PATIO PRESENTS



**ST. JUPITER**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**9:30 PM**

**ALT/ROCK/DANCE/POP**

**FAVORITES**

**1099 S. WATER ST., WILMINGTON**

## Unemployment claims increase 13% in a week

There were 29,390 initial unemployment claims for the week ending Sept. 26, which was an increase of 3,414, or 13%, from the week prior, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security. New claims were more than four times higher than the same period a year ago.

Nationally, there were 837,000 initial claims for the same period, a decrease of 36,000 from the week prior.

Continued claims in Illinois decreased by 6% from the week prior, to 502,314, a decrease of more than 34,000 as COVID-19 and associated economic restrictions continue to wreak havoc on the job market.

**Dr. William M. White**  
**Family Dentistry**

- New patients
- Emergency visits welcome
- Cosmetic veneers
- All forms of insurance accepted



**267 S. Broadway, Coal City**  
**Call (815) 634-8844**

**Warren's**  
**Collision Center**  
860 E.Z. St., Braidwood  
815-458-3300

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



**BIKES WELCOME**

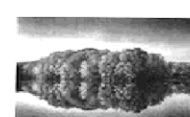


**GOOD FOOD COLD DRINKS GREAT FRIENDS**

**BAR AND GRILL**

**FALL GUYS BAND**

**Saturday, Oct. 10 • 8 pm to 11 pm**



**Live Music**

**Saturday, Oct. 17 • 4 pm to 7 pm**

**GRISTMILL NOMADS**

**113 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington • 815-476-6000**

**Put Your Feet in Our Hands**

There are a number of ways to treat foot problems

Thanks for Voting Us One of the Best!

Open with CDC restricted protocols to keep our patients safe

We specialize in treatment of all conditions of the foot and ankle!

Certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery®

**FOX FOOT AND ANKLE PODIATRY**  
H. CRAIG FOX, DPM

**CALL TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

|           |                   |              |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| OSWEGO    | 3963 Rt. 34       | 630-551-3338 |
| MINOOKA   | 2081 S. Ridge Rd. | 815-521-9347 |
| COAL CITY | 810 E. Division   | 815-634-2324 |

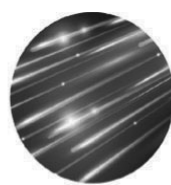
**H. Craig Fox, DPM**

Medicare Accepted • Most Insurances Accepted  
Acceptance of insurance is not guarantee of coverage

[www.fox-feet.com](http://www.fox-feet.com)

SM-CL1916328

CHNA PHCS UnitedHealthcare Blue Cross Medicare



**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](http://www.surfbroadband.com)**

## Nearly \$700 raised for local food pantries



A GOLF CART parade on Sept. 12 in Shadow Lakes raised \$690 in cash and over \$2,000 worth of non-perishable food items for local food pantries. Other golf carts were decorated with the themes of dinosaurs, Rick and Morty, an ice cream truck, American themed and more. Pictured: Greg Machak in front of his winning pirate ship themed golf cart with Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons.

Courtesy Photo

## Elks offer free children's orthopedic assessment

The Joliet Elks 296 in cooperation with the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation will sponsor a free children's orthopedic assessment clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The clinic is from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and is by appointment only.

To make an appointment call the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at 1-800-272-0074 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. There are no charges for any services at this clinic.

The Elks will hold the clinic at Hinsdale Orthopedic, 951 Essington Road in Joliet. Dr. Bradley Dworsky will be the clinician in charge.

No medical referral is necessary for the clinic but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

### PROVEN!

We offer businesses a proven way to reach audiences. With over 30,800 readers in print and digital, we get proven RESULTS  
Call 815--476-7966

- ALL vegetables are locally grown on our farm -

## PERKINS FARM

**Vegetables for Sale**  
37048 Zilm Road, Custer Park  
815-714-4913

**New-Fresh Honey, Butternut, Buttercup, Spaghetti & Acorn Squash, Bell Peppers & Corn Stalks (Corn Stalks are free)**

**We will be at Whitmore Ace Hardware Braidwood Thurs., Oct. 8 2:30-6:30**

### Morgan Stanley



**William R. Conte**  
Portfolio Management Director  
Senior Vice President  
Wealth Advisor  
1150 Essington Road, Joliet, IL 60435  
815-729-8040  
[advisor.morganstanley.com/william.conte](mailto:advisor.morganstanley.com/william.conte)  
NMLS# 1253200

© 2020 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC  
MEMBER SIPC. BC007 CRC 3207516 09/20

## Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit [www.freepressnewspapers.com](http://www.freepressnewspapers.com)

### Thursday, October 8

- 8 to 11:45 a.m., Community Care Center, 112 S. Center St., Braidwood, food pantry open on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m., Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., open Monday through Friday
- 9 a.m. to noon, Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, open every Tuesday and Thursday, one member of each family allowed, patrons must wear a face mask, social distance, answer health questionnaire, and no children allowed unless otherwise approved
- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., for questions call 815-216-3288
- 5 to 7 p.m., Will County electronics recycling, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 7 p.m., Reed Township Mosquito Abatement District meeting, 104 W. Main St., Braidwood

### Saturday, October 10

- 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Haunted Lolli Land Drive-Thru Toy Drive, First Christian Church, 455 W. Southmore Road, Morris, to benefit Grundy County Heroes & Helpers, admission: new unwrapped toys or \$20 per person, reservation required at [wendy@gchhinc.org](mailto:wendy@gchhinc.org), closed from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Area Historical Society Museum open, 111 N. Center St., each Saturday
- 5 to 8:30 p.m., Godley Circle Jam, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., Godley

### Sunday, October 11

- 6 to 7:30 p.m., NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group meeting, online on zoom, register at [www.namiwillgrundy.org/online-support-groups](http://www.namiwillgrundy.org/online-support-groups), each Sunday

### Monday, October 12

- 4:30 p.m., Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition meeting, virtual meeting on Zoom, find information on Coalition Facebook page, second Monday of each month

### Tuesday, October 13

- 5:30 p.m., Wilmington Police & ESDA Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St, second Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, 141 W. Main St., second and fourth Tuesday of each month
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Ordinance & Licensing Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., second Tuesday of each month

### Wednesday, October 14

- 7:45 A.M., TOPS 1024 meeting, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington,
- 5:30 p.m., Wilmington Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Health & Safety Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Water, Sewer, Streets & Alleys Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 7:30 p.m., Wilmington School District 209U Board of Education meeting, Wilmington High School, 209 Wildcat Court

### Thursday, October 15

- 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township Office, 120 N. Main St., Wilmington

### Friday, October 16

- 4 to 5 p.m., Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry, 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood, held on the first and third Friday of each month

### Tuesday, October 20

- 6 p.m., Wilmington Finance Administration & Land Acquisition Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., third Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.

### Wednesday, October 21

- 5 p.m., Godley Public Water District meeting, Godley Public Water District Treatment Building, 440 S. Center St., Godley
- 6 p.m., Custer Fire Protection District Board meeting, Camelot Education cafeteria, 35445 S. Washington St., Custer Park, third Wednesday of each month
- 6:30 p.m., Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting, Reed-Custer School District Administration Center, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood

## Fioritto's

Antenna & Satellite  
Sales & Service

Since 1969  
7 days a Week

- HD Antennas
- Direct TV
- Dish

Locally Owned • Veteran

(815) 474-1365

Fully Insured

## IL paying down credit card debt

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
THE CENTER SQUARE

With the economy showing signs of life despite the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinoisans were among the leaders nationally in paying down credit card debt.

According to the personal finance website WalletHub, Illinois ranked fifth in the nation in paying down debt in the second quarter of this year. Analyst Jill Gonzalez says the pandemic and the tumultuous

job market forced people to take a hard look at the finances.

"I think that job security was top of mind, so even if they did not lose their job and lucky enough to hold onto to them, I think they were spending as if they were unsure of the future," Gonzalez said.

WalletHub's quarterly credit card studies are based on analysis of the latest data on consumers' finances available from TransUnion as well as the Federal Reserve and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

According to the study, the average household in Illinois owes \$8,339 in credit card debt, following a \$491 decrease in the second quarter. Nationally, U.S. consumers paid down \$58.1 billion in credit card debt. That followed a record first-quarter pay down of \$60 billion. As a result, WalletHub now projects that U.S. consumers will end the year with a slight reduction in credit card debt for the first time since the end of the Great Recession in 2009.

Gonzalez said spending in the fourth quarter of the year will increase, but will fall far short of last year's numbers.

"I think we are already expecting about a 40 percent drop than usual," Gonzalez said. "I think we will see the spending pick up in the fourth quarter, but hopefully we see the paydown continue as well."

California, Texas and Florida ranked first, second

and third, respectively, for the most credit card debt pay-down in the country, while the bottom three were Vermont, Wyoming and North Dakota.

**Victory Lanes**

**'LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL'**

**NOW OPEN! WED. - SUN.**

**OPEN BOWL**  
Fri. - Sun.

**Wed., Thurs., Fri. 5-Close**  
**Sat., Sun. 3-Close**

**10PH Rules in Place...**  
**Masks are a Must!**

**FEEL SAFE TO BOOK YOUR PARTY!**

**SLAMMER'S GRILL** Kitchen Opens @ 5 p.m. **GREAT FOOD!**

**410 E. Mazon, Dwight • 815-584-2724**  
[victorylanesbowl.com](http://victorylanesbowl.com)

## STEAK FRY IS BACK!

Saturday, Oct. 10 from 5-8 p.m.

### - OTHER OCTOBER EVENTS -

Fri., Oct. 16

5-8 p.m.

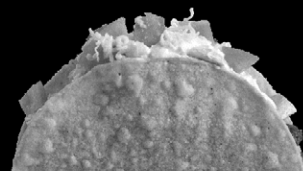
Fish Fry

Sun., Oct. 18

Noon

Moose Riders

**Carryout Orders & Limited Indoor Dining**  
**Call ahead for a table please.**  
**815-476-6472**



**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**5:00-8:00 p.m.**  
**TACOS & NACHOS**

**Come and Play Our Machines!**

*\*Members & qualified guests\**

— WI-FI Available —

## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY!

Recycle **THIS.**



**KEEP MERCURY OUT OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY SAFELY DISPOSING OF YOUR OLD MERCURY THERMOSTAT**

TO FIND A RECYCLING LOCATION, VISIT:  
[thermostat-recycle.org/zipsearch](http://thermostat-recycle.org/zipsearch)

**Thermostat Recycling CORPORATION**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

### Deadlines

**Classified Display**  
The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.  
Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.  
**Classified Word Ads**  
All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.  
Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

**Reach over 42,200 readers with a classified ad in The Free Press Newspapers**  
• The Prairie Shopper  
• The Braidwood Journal  
• The Coal City Courant  
• The Free Press Advocate

### Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)  
1 wk.- \$21; 2 wks.- \$25;  
3 wks.- \$28; 4 wks.-\$30  
\$1.20 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

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.



### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Braidwood - 2nd floor, two bedroom apartment. \$675. Tenant pays all utilities. Laundry facilities. Security check, no pets, no smoking. 815-476-2219 or 815-278-5350. cc41a-44b

Coal City, newer 2 BR, 1 BA, eat in kitchen, gas heat, CA, laundry facility, pet friendly, ample parking, close to schools and park, \$875 to \$900/mo., 815-634-4244. See pictures at www.apm4rent.com. ch 48b-tfn

### AUTOS

2014 Chevy Cruze Atlantic Blue. RS package. 1.4 Turbo motor, sunroof, remote start, tires replaced (80,000 mile, Michelin), battery replaced last year. Must see to appreciate. 41,200 miles. Under Blue book value, \$9500 OBO. Call, leave message, text Dennis at 815-341-0410. cc40a-43b

### DUPLEX FOR RENT

Small 2 bedroom duplex with basement and garage. References and security deposit. No pets. 815-634-2282. ca41a-44b

### ESTATE SALES

21407 W. County Road, Wilmington. Fri., Oct. 9th & Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-3pm. Baby items, home decor, furniture, toys, bikes, grill, yard tools, work shop misc. cc41ab

### FOR FREE

Free - 5 black/tiger striped kittens, 3 female, 2 male, 6-7 weeks old and litter trained. Call or text 815-474-7908. fr40b-42a

### GARAGE SALE

1003 N. Joliet St., Wilmington, Thurs., Oct. 8th from 9am-2pm, Fri., Oct. 9th from 9am-?, Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-?, Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-1pm. Six family sale - new born, XL men's & women's clothing, girls & boys clothes, Halloween outfits, towels and blankets. Lots of stuff. It is cheap. fr41b

155 W. Walnut, Coal City, Wed., Oct. 7th from 3pm-6:30pm, Thurs., Oct. 8th from 10am-3pm and Fri., Oct. 9th from 10am-2pm. Girl's juniors clothing, antiques & primitive decor, home & outdoor decor, Christmas, Fox racing boots & gear. Barnwood cabinet & other unique items, roll top desk, love seat, oak TV trays, go-cart frames. ck41ab

### GARAGE SALE

145 South Kenard St., Braidwood, Thurs., & Fri., Oct. 8th & 9th from 9am-4pm. You've been asking for it and now it's here! Seller works at The Buckle! Women's small through XL & maternity clothing, Under armor & Nike boys clothing, new Halloween costumes, household items new IB, toys, crib and changing table, power wheel, and lots more! cc41ab

985 Maple St., Wilmington, Sat., Oct. 10th and Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-2pm. Kids toys, TONS of girls clothes sizes 8-14/16, Women's clothing, women's plus size clothing, all seasons and in good condition-smoke free home. cc41b

180 S. Railroad St., Braidwood, Thursday through Sunday, October 15, 16, 17, & 18 from 8am-5pm. Tools, lots of misc. Too much to list. cc41a-42b

388 E. Main St., Braidwood, Fri., Oct. 9th from 9am-5pm & Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-1pm. Best junk ever! Local old bottles, geodes, crystals, primitives, tools, antiques, old fishing lures, jewelry, loveseat, crocks, fall, canopies, costumes, blankets, kitchen, everything you might need. Mask up. ca41ab

The last sale of the year! Fri., Oct. 9th, Sat., Oct. 10th & Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-2pm. Located at Bay Hill Marina, 6555 North Will Road, Wilmington. Interstate 55 to Lorenzo Rd, head west to County Line/Will Road and turn right, follow that until it ends and we're on the left. If you're coming from Rt 47 take Pine Bluff Rd to County Line/Will Rd and turn left, go to the end of the road and we're on the left! We have something for everyone. Tools, parts, furniture, girl's canopy bedroom set, generators, boats, cars, 6 table and chair sets & lots more, too much to list! cc41ab

### HELP WANTED

Dawn of a New Day Care Center in Mazon, is now hiring qualified teachers. Call now, 815-448-2530. cc38a-41b

Reliable experienced Heating and Air Conditioning Service Tech needed for residential equipment. Knowledge of mobile home ground units a plus. Wilmington and surrounding areas. Must have references and own transportation for service calls is a plus. Above average wages, mileage and gas reimbursed weekly. On-call position with the opportunity for bonuses and growth. 815-476-6615. ch41a-42b

### HELP WANTED

Friends Over Fifty has an immediate need for Caregivers for 24-hour care shifts. Our Senior Care Company helps the elderly maintain their independence by providing in-home companionship and other non-medical assistance with Activities of Daily Living. Training is provided as well as a competitive salary and employer matching IRA. Apply online today at https://fofseniorcare.er.sp.biz/employment or call 815-836-2635. cc41a-44b

Joliet Optometric Practice seeks experienced candidate. High School Diploma or equivalent; minimum 3 years optometric/optical experience. Availability to work most Saturdays and some evenings. Good attendance record is a must. Great interpersonal and customer service skills. Multi task, answer phones to schedule patients and answer general questions. Willingness and flexibility to learn and adapt in a variety of situations. Eagerly assist others to increase office efficiency. Check eligibility for vision and eye health insurances. Provide the most appropriate selections for the patient. Ability to sell premium lenses, glasses and contact lenses. Skilled to fit, adjust, dispense, and inspect glasses before dispensing. Knowledge of inventory and product availability. Desire to help promotion and growth of the business. Compensation negotiable based on skill level and experience. Excellent opportunity for challenge to build the practice, and as a result, your income. Possible advancement to management position. Competitive wages. Resumes only with email addresses. Respond: ad-forhelpwanted@yahoo.com

Experienced carpenter needed. Must have motivation and transportation. Pay based on knowledge & capability. Call 815-634-4136. cc38a-41b

Full-time, experienced Stylist wanted. Chair rental. Elwood, IL. Email inquiries/resume to Haircode@att.net. cc41b-45a

### HOMES FOR RENT

Coal City-135 Blackstone. 2 BR, stove & fridge furnished, washer/dryer hookup, no pets, no smoking, \$800/mo. + 1 month rent deposit, 815-634-8800. ca 41b-45a

### HOUSEHOLD GOOD

Selection of Cabin and Northwoods Decor. Antler ceiling fanlite, (2) antler lamps, deer, duck, moose, log cabin items, switch plates, frame, pictures, metal art, drawer pulls. Lots of items to look at. If interested in these type of items, call 815-954-4647.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Bradley Original Electric Smoker with cover. Electronic temperature setting feeds bisquettes. \$200. Wooden rustic ice chest on legs with cast iron hunting dog, rifle, horseshoe, stars, galvanized liner with drain. Sturdy decor and functional. Holds 45 cans. \$150. Hot water recirculating system, hot water at every tap \$75. 815-954-4647.

4 trio Purple Martin houses. \$45 each. Call 815-302-7600. cc41b-43a

Attention crafters/vendors. We have spaces to sell your wares. Mention this ad to get half off first month's rent. Stop in for details, Odds N Ends, 117 N. Water St., Wilmington. ch39a-42b

Dry, seasoned oak firewood \$129, cherry BBQ firewood \$169. Wood racks \$49, Camping Wood \$99. The best firewood & quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc40b-48a

### GET HELP APPLYING FOR A FOID CARD

We take color photographs for gun owners' cards (FOID) for \$10 and help you complete the application online. Illinois State Police won't answer the FOID hotline but you can complete your application with our computer. Call for an appointment most days (but Tuesdays) 9a.m. to 4p.m. Do not wear white or very pale colors. Call 815-476-7966. The Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. Please wear a mask.

**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

Large deep chest freezer. Works great. 27.5 x 47 x 35". \$100. Snow Joe Cordless Electric Snowblower. 24 inch. 80 volt. Self-propelled. Works excellent, like brand new. \$750. Taxidermy Mounts. (3) Buck whitetail deer \$200 each, full body Strutting Turkey on log \$600, full body howling Coyote on wood pedestal \$400. Gun Rack with 4 set of deer hooves. Wooden board with etched duck scene. Cabinet door storage. Great shape. \$200. Draw-tite trailer hitch for 2015-2020 Nissan Murano. \$80. Built in gas cooktop, 30 inch, 4 burner, black, \$125. 815-954-4647. cc41b-43a

Stand up walker (brand new) \$200 obo; Drexel oriental entertainment center, coffee table, end table, router table and routers, 10-inch radial arm saw; Elwood. 815-228-5710. ca40a-42b

Well seasoned oak firewood, \$100.00, face cord, 815-791-4596. ca40a-43b

## WE ARE OPEN AND SERVING OUR CLIENTS!

- WE ARE STILL SHOWING HOMES TO BUYERS.
- WE ARE STILL LISTING HOMES FOR SELLERS.
- WE ARE SELLING HOMES EVERY DAY!

21

CENTURY 21  
Coleman-Hornsby

Our office is still open seven days a week and we continue to work full time serving our clients!

815-942-9190  
1802 N. Division St. Morris

### MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

2 or 3 BR mobile homes available for rent or sale. Rent from \$799-\$899. Includes water, sewer & trash removal. Please call & talk to Eric about financing options. Call 815-237-2290 for more information. cc39a-46b

### 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

### REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA J. ALLEN A/K/A JESSICA ALLEN et al Defendant 2020CH30 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 18, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 4, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1320 W PRAIRIE ROAD, MAZON, IL 60444 Property Index No. 08-29-400-002 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGEE (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-20-04486 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2020CH30 TJSC#: 40-2248 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2020CH30 13157238. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., Oct. 7, 14, and 21, 2020.

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

### Alling Handyman Service

Over 30 yrs. exp., call Jason for all your renovations or repairs, fully insured, fast service, 815-263-6081. cc40a-43b

### Julie's Remodeling

Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, welding repairs, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., call 815-791-5731. cc28b

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

**Bohac Dirtworks**  
Excavating  
Grading  
Dozer Work  
Sand \* Gravel  
Black Dirt  
Private Ponds and Lakes  
Ditch Cleaning  
Demolition  
Office:  
815-458-2542  
Cell Phones:  
405-5981 - John  
791-0153 - John Jr.  
791-0750 - Justen

**Deb's Way Trucking**  
Gravel, dirt & sand. 6-wheeler loads only. Call or text Deb at 815-693-5870. cc36b-49a

Looking to do general housekeeping. Call 815-388-7743. cc34a-41b

**Mike Collins Roofing**, re-shingles and modified rubber and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, blown-in insulation in attics. **INSULATION.** Get a free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. cc41b-12a

**Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint**, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including drywall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc40a-51b

### 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/47b

Local Newspapers are **IMPORTANT**  
Any Way You Look At It

## FARMLAND AUCTION

INFO, REGISTER and BID ONLINE AT:  
[www.WALLACELAND.com](http://www.WALLACELAND.com)

**78 Acres Prime Farmland in Kankakee County, IL**

**Bidding Ends: October 28th 8PM**

**Jerry Wallace, Broker 217-897-1100 sold@wallaceland.com**

## LAND AUCTION - WOODFORD COUNTY



**120 Acres +/- Farmland**

1 Tract located 2 miles northwest of El Paso in Sec. 25 & 36 Greene Twp. 132 soil Pl. 5 yr. yields: Corn 221 & Beans 61 bu./ac Machine Shed & Hunting. 10 high bids will be invited to a Nov. 20th auction.

**SEALED BIDS DUE NOVEMBER 16TH**

**The C. Brad Bond Farm**

**First Mid AG SERVICES**

**DETAILS AT: [www.firstmidag.com](http://www.firstmidag.com)**

**Call Today for Information - David Klein Auctioneer Lic# 441001928 Mark Smith, Broker - 309-665-0961 or 309-665-0955**

## ESTATE SALE

170 W. Third St., Coal City  
**Saturday, Oct. 10**  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 11**  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Masks are required inside the house*  
**65 years of collectibles, treasures, and housewares**

Come both days as more will be added as space opens up on tables.



**\$500 Sign on Bonus**

REED-CUSTER School District, Braidwood, is now hiring a **permanent substitute bus driver** position that is guaranteed 4 hours a day, \$17.00 an hour and includes a **\$500 sign on bonus**. If the candidate has experience then pay rate may increase. The district is also in need of substitute drivers. Paid training is provided. All licensing and related costs are paid by the district.

Apply online at [www.rc255.net](http://www.rc255.net), click on Employment Opportunities, then **Please click here for RC255U Frontline and apply today**, then Transportation. If you have questions call 815-458-4135 and ask for Joan in transportation.



# Madigan's stronghold isn't what it used to be

It's well known that the Illinois House Republicans (along with pretty much all Illinois Republicans) are using House Speaker Michael Madigan's bad reputation to bludgeon their Democratic opponents.

Madigan has been enormously unpopular in Illinois, and it's probably worse now because he's been in the news so much during the long federal investigation into ComEd and the company's resulting deferred prosecution agreement with the US Attorney in Chicago.

A special House investigating committee has been impaneled to take testimony about the federal probe and consider whether to discipline Madigan for "conduct unbecoming a legislator," which is helping to keep him in the news.

And add the more recent news about Democratic Rep. Stephanie Kifowit's announcement last week that she will run against Madigan for speaker in January and it's been a complete media circus for the longtime pol.

Kifowit has not yet identified any allies and isn't exactly an odds-on favorite to defeat Madigan. She's votes more

conservative than many in the House Democratic caucus. She was the only House "Present" vote on the minimum wage increase bill and she hired a public relations person who is raising money for the Republican opponent of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, putting her at odds with her party, the Black Caucus and labor unions which fund the Democrats.

But the mere fact that she stood up and announced her bid is an indication of how Madigan's political strength is not what it used to be.

Anyway, the last time the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute polled Speaker Madigan's job approval rating was last year. It found 71 percent disapproved of the way Madigan did his job while only 20 percent approved - a 51-point difference.

Those results weren't all that different from the same poll's question on whether Illinoisans supported a new state tax on retirement income.



**CAPITOL FACTS**  
Rich Miller

73 percent opposed it while 23 percent supported - a 50-point margin. Normally, opposition to a retirement income tax is an easy lay-up for Illinois legislators in both parties. Just score some no-brainer points with the folks back home and move on to the next question.

But some brainiacs always want to start a "discussion," and it often blows up in their faces.

This time, it's blowing up in others' faces.

"One thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income," Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat, told the Daily Herald back in June. "And, I think that's something that's worth discussion."

Frerichs' quote has opened the door to House Republican attack mailers in numerous districts against Democrats who voted "Yes" on the graduated income tax last year and also against Democratic House candidates in general.

"Mary Edly-Allen supports the tax hike amendment," one recent GOP mailer exclaimed about the freshman Democratic state Representative from Libertyville. "Her Springfield pals admit the amendment would open the door to a brand-new tax on retirement income. That means your pension, your 401(k) plan, and your retirement plan would be taxed and sent straight to Springfield."

The mailers are being sent to other districts (Metro East and southern Illinois, for example) where the tax is also

not polling great. But, said one House Republican source of the tax issue, "We're talking about that everywhere."

The mailers have the added benefit of ginning up opposition to Gov. JB Pritzker's "Fair Tax" constitutional amendment, which House Republican Leader Jim Durkin has vowed to defeat. So, it's a twofer.

"Politician Janet Yang Rohr wants to tax your retirement income," another Republican mailer warns about Rep. Grant Wehrli's (R-Naperville) Democratic opponent.

"Yang Rohr is backing the graduated income tax. This plan would not only raise taxes on the middle class, but also on retirees. The State Treasurer has admitted this is a tax on retirees. There's no question that ordinary people will suffer. Protect your retirement. Vote 'No' on Janet Yang Rohr."

To be fair, if Treasurer Frerichs hadn't said what he said, the Republicans would've found another way to make the same argument. But Frerichs did make it easier.

And Gov. Pritzker can't really complain about taking somebody's mention of a graduated tax on retirement income and twisting it into an attack on all retirement income taxation because he did the very same thing in the 2018 Democratic primary. His top two Democratic opponents, Chris Kennedy and Daniel Biss, both tentatively supported a tax on upper-income retirees, but Pritzker distorted that into TV ads claiming the two wanted to tax all retirement income.

Karma can be problematic.

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

**INSURE CAREFULLY,  
DREAM FEARLESSLY.**

**CALL TODAY TO SEE HOW WE CAN  
HELP PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST**

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I.  
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783  
006441 - Rev. 11/15 ©2015 - 8504912

**Gerald Gresham**  
815-729-3570  
815-476-6364  
863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404  
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

**815-814-6270**  
[www.petparade.org](http://www.petparade.org)

**Pet Parade Pet Services**  
*Background check passed • Trained in pet first aid*

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Pet sitting          | • Vacation packages        |
| • Dog walking          | • Home visits              |
| • Certified pet sitter | • Licensed-Bonded-Insured  |
| • Yard pickup          | • Boarding                 |
| • Doggie Day Care      | • Locally owned & operated |

**CHAMBER  
SPOTLIGHT**

**WHITMORE ACE  
HARDWARE**

**815-476-7731**  
**1105 S. Water St., Wilmington**

The Wilmington store has been serving the community for over 120 years. From axes to zip ties, from paint to pretzels, part of the old-fashioned general store feeling remains, while showcasing "Water Street", a great place for gifts and decorations.

[www.whitmoreace.com](http://www.whitmoreace.com)

**Remember to  
SHOP LOCAL**

[www.wilmingtonilchamber.org](http://www.wilmingtonilchamber.org)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**SISTEK RENTALS**

We **SELL, REPAIR, and RENT**  
*Outdoor Power Equipment*

**CubCadet** **GRASS HOPPER**  
YOUR NEXT MOWER®

**815-237-8298**  
740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

**TIRE ZONE**

**Tires & Alignment**

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8-5; Saturday, 8-12

Shocks/Struts • Batteries • Wheel Alignments  
Tire Balancing • Oil & Lube

**24 Hour Towing - 815-353-8511**  
**85 N. 1st Ave., Coal City • 634-3000**

PROFESSIONAL **PRO** REAL ESTATE

**JUDY SUNDINE**  
BROKER

Direct: (815) 405-6758  
815-476-7916

FAX: 815-476-7566  
Email: judysundine@sbcglobal.net

506 S. WATER ST.,  
WILMINGTON, IL 60481

**PROTECT-  
YOUR-DECK  
DECK BUILDER**

Deck, fence maintenance  
& house painting  
• Ext. wood restoration  
• Power washing vinyl  
siding & concrete

**Free Estimates**  
*Insured & Bonded*  
**815-935-9949**

**Landscape  
& Supply**  
*Edward, IL*

- Driveway stone
- Pulverized topsoil
- Pool & play sand
- Hardwood mulch
- Decorative stone
- Bobcat Service

**We Deliver!**  
[www.jdlandscapesupply.com](http://www.jdlandscapesupply.com)  
**815-478-3717**  
**708-921-3535**

**SHORKEY  
PAINTING**

**(815)  
546-1321**

Interior/Exterior  
*Est. 1989*

**VIKING  
ROOFING**

Specializing in Tear Offs  
Fully Insured  
State Lic# 104002993

**10 FREE vents &  
100 sq. ft of lumber**

**815-476-6010**  
Over 40 Years Experience

**Mini Storage**

**CLEMENTINE'S  
CLOSETS**

515 Davy Lane,  
Wilmington

**Affordable  
Clean, Secure  
Monthly Rentals**

**No Deposit Required**  
**815-530-0200**

Have your  
party at the

**Mar  
Theater!**

**(815)  
530-0200**  
**Wilmington**

**MIDWEST  
BETTER BUILT  
CONSTRUCTION**

**EXTERIOR/INTERIOR REMODELS  
NEW CONSTRUCTION  
CARPENTER CONTRACTOR**

**(815) 530-0630**  
**Brandon**

**Free Estimates  
Fully Insured**

**FOR ALL YOUR CARPENTRY NEEDS**

**ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS**

from the Free Press Newspapers  
Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

**A & E SEPTIC SERVICE**

**Pumping - Repairs New Installation**  
**Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties**  
**Ed Bonniwier**  
**Coal City • 634-4691**

**JOHNKE TREE  
SERVICE**

*No Job Too Big Or Too Small!*

- Power line clearance certified
- Free Estimates
- 18 years experience

**Fully Bonded & Insured**  
**815-791-5146**

Veterans,  
Military &  
Senior  
Discount

**AJ's Promotional Products  
and Apparel**

Adidas® Koozies®  
Oakley® Bic® Pens  
Champion® Sharpie®

**815-263-5990**  
Janet Fisher-Schatz

EMAIL: [ajsprint@comcast.net](mailto:ajsprint@comcast.net)  
WEB: [ajsprint.espswebsite.com](http://ajsprint.espswebsite.com)

**FULL COLOR**

- Banners -
- Yard Signs -
- Post Cards -
- Brochures -

Customized to your liking.  
Competitive prices.

**THE FREE PRESS**  
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL

**This space  
could be  
yours!**

**Call  
815-476-7966**

**CULLEN LAWN WORKS LLC**

[www.cullenlawnworks.com](http://www.cullenlawnworks.com)  
[cullenlawnworks@gmail.com](mailto:cullenlawnworks@gmail.com)

**Residential and Commercial**

- Mowing • Bush Trimming
- Yard/Leaf Cleanup
- Snow Plowing/Salting
- Aerating/Rolling/Dethatching

**Dave: 815-278-0626 April: 815-955-0416**

## RCMS September Students of the Month



Courtesy Photo

**STUDENTS OF THE month** for September were recently named at Reed-Custer Middle School. The characteristic of the month was cooperation. Pictured left to right: Aubrie DeBoard (sixth grade), Colton Peal (eighth), Broden Alexander (sixth), Deric Lang (eighth), Dillon Homberg (seventh), Cameron Wallace (eighth), Grace Barry (sixth), Brianna Lestina (eighth), Gianna Bruno (seventh), Steven Fernschuss (sixth), and Gwen Stewart (seventh). Not pictured: Addison Kinkin (seventh).

## September ACE students stand out



**ACE STUDENTS OF September** were named at Reed-Custer Middle School. Pictured left to right: Kirsten Klein (sixth), Aaron Kempf (eighth), Ella Anderson (seventh), and Conor Kochanny (seventh). Not pictured: Katelyn Wietting (eighth).

# Leah Tomano winner of October Senior Spotlight

The Reed-Custer High School Senior Spotlight winner for the month of October is Leah Tomano.

Leah is the daughter of Michael and Denise Tomano. During her high school career, Tomano was involved in madrigals, speech, cheerleading, NHS, FCCLA, fall play, spring musical, solo and ensemble, concert choir, thespians, Broadway Dance Studio Company dancer and a Starlight Dance Academy dancer. She was also an ACE winner, a Student of the Month, on the prom commit-

tee, and on the honor roll.

Her future plans are to attend Illinois State University to get a master's degree in either speech-language pathology or in special needs education.

Here are a few thoughts from Tomano's teachers.

Mr. Swanson believes that Tomano is "smart, talented, sincere, and caring. I can always count on her to have an interesting idea or insightful comment; she's just a really great person."

Mr. Welsh says that Tomano is "a great person,



Courtesy Photo

**SENIOR STUDENT AT Reed-Custer High School, Leah Tomano, has been named as the winner of Senior Spotlight for the month of October.**

always willing to lend a hand, perpetually upbeat, and a truly caring person."

Mrs. Arseneau thinks that Tomano is "such an amazing human. I can still remember the first day that she walked into my foods class! I remember calling her sunshine because she had on a yellow shirt and she just exuded positive energy. I have loved getting to teach her in so many differ-

ent FACS classes over her high school career. She is smart, talented, and so very hardworking. All of these attributes set her up for success in everything that she pursues. She is willing to help outside of class and get involved in everything that she can. I appreciated that she was the one student of 2 classes that I could count on during our remote learning back in April. Most students

stopped showing up for preschool Zoom calls, but Leah always was there to Zoom with us! She was ready to read, sing, play games, etc. She is a rare student, and I am so grateful for her! I look forward to all that Leah will continue to accomplish in her senior year and beyond high school."

Mrs. Leveille is thrilled "to see Tomano in the 'Spotlight'!! I remember her enthusiasm and energy that she brought into the classroom. She was cooperative and was willing to help out others in our class. She had a great positive attitude and contributed well in class discussions. She is an all-around nice person!"

Ms. Askew believes that Tomano is "WONDERFUL in so many ways! She is caring, sweet, and bright! Leah always has a smile on her face and will be the first one to say hi to anyone she encounters. Her positive attitude is refreshing and contagious. Leah is an extremely hard worker, and I know that she will continue to do great things!"

Mrs. Dennis acknowl-

edges that Tomano "is a hard-working, mature, and kind student. She is a great role model for her peers."

Mrs. Rankin is thankful that Tomano is "an enthusiastic learner and a great leader in the classroom. She is simply a pleasure to have in class."

Mr. Wolf says that Tomano is "a terrific young lady who represents the best of RCHS. Hard-working, honest, and caring... a true model to look up to."

Mrs. Patton is thankful that Tomano is "trustworthy, a hard worker and a great role model to others in class."

Mrs. Bugg appreciates that Tomano is "one of the most caring and considerate students we have. She is a very talented actress and exhibits a hard work ethic in and outside of school. I would trust her to drive my car, go to the bank for me and stay at my house! Her character is flawless."

Mr. Carrescia believes that Tomano is "a hard working young woman who shows maturity in how she interacts both with her peers as well as her teachers. She sets a great example both in and out of school as to what it should look like to be not only a great student but a great person in general."

Mr. Mangan thinks that Tomano "is a true leader. She is extremely reliable and shows enthusiasm in all she does. She steps it up constantly and aims to help out those around her. She puts in extra effort on a regular basis and shows that she really cares."

As a final thought, Tomano's advice to younger students is, "Put yourself forward and try anything you're interested in, no matter if you're nervous. The worst that's going to happen is that it's not for you, and you can move on knowing that you tried and followed through."

The teachers and staff at RCHS would like to congratulate Leah Tomano as their October winner of the Senior Spotlight.

## TOTAL MARKET COVERAGE in better newspapers bring RESULTS.

The Braidwood Journal, a paid newspaper, combines with The Free Press Advocate, The Coal City Courant and the free Prairie Shopper to give Total Market Coverage with the best readership in the best products for **RESULTS**.

We offer door-to-door delivery to 14 communities for **TARGETED RESULTS** for advertising dollars, at attractive rates in these publications. Phone (815) 476-7966.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| The Free Press Advocate (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....   | 1,929         |
| The Braidwood Journal (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....   | 1,166         |
| The Coal City Courant (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....   | 1,904         |
| The Prairie Shopper (by mail to these communities: Braidwood, Custer Park, Coal City, Carbon Hill, Diamond, Elwood, Essex, Mazon, Morris rural routes (Goose Lake), Ritchie, Symerton & Wilmington)..... | 14,504        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>19,503</b> |

## Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation

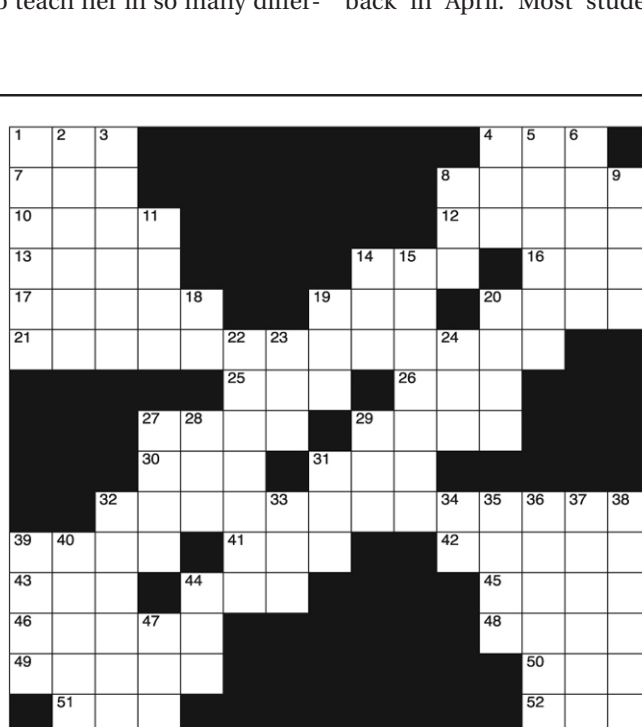
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

**Title of Publication**.....The Braidwood Journal  
**Publication Number**.....0550-940  
**Date of Filing**.....Sept. 30, 2020  
**Frequency of Issue**.....Weekly  
**No. of Issues Published Annually**.....52  
**Annual Subscription Price**.....\$40, \$48, \$54  
**Location of known office of publication:**  
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, Will County, IL 60481-1373  
**Location of headquarters of general business offices of the publishers:**  
P.O. Box 327, Wilmington, IL 60481-0327  
**Names and complete address of publisher, editor and managing editor:**  
Publisher: Eric D. Fisher, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481-1373;  
Editor: Ann Gill, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481-1373;  
Managing Editor: Eric D. Fisher, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481  
**Owner: G-W Communications, Inc.,** P.O. Box 327, Wilmington, IL 60481  
Eric D. Fisher, P.O. Box 327, Wilmington, IL 60481  
Janet M. Fisher, P.O. Box 327, Wilmington, IL 60481  
Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other security: None.  
**Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Sept. 30, 2020**

| Extent and Nature of Circulation:  | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months | Actual Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date |
|--|--|---|
| A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run).....   | 900  | 900   |
| B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation   |  |   |
| 1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies)..... | 68   | 66  |
| 2. Paid In-County Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof/Exchange Copies).....  | 246  | 248   |
| 3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS Paid Distribution.....                  | 500  | 512   |
| 4. Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS.....  | 0  | 0   |
| C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) (2) (3) (4)).....  | 814  | 826   |
| D. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary and Other Free)   |  |   |
| 1. Outside-County.....   | 0  | 0   |
| 2. In-County.....  | 2  | 2   |
| 3. Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS.....   | 0  | 0   |
| 4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means).....   | 15   | 15  |
| E. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e).....   | 17   | 17  |
| F. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f).....  | 831  | 843   |
| G. Copies Not Distributed.....   | 69   | 57  |
| H. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h).....   | 900  | 900   |
| I. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c/15g x 100).....  | 98%  | 98%   |
| PS Form 3526 Worksheet:  |  |   |
| A. Paid Electronic Copies.....   | 319  | 323   |
| B. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15C) + Paid Electronic Copies.....  | 1133   | 1149  |
| C. Total Print Distribution (Line 15F) + Paid Electronic Copies.....   | 1150   | 1166  |
| D. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies).....  | 98%  | 99%   |

Eric D. Fisher, Publisher. Date: Sept. 30, 2020

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

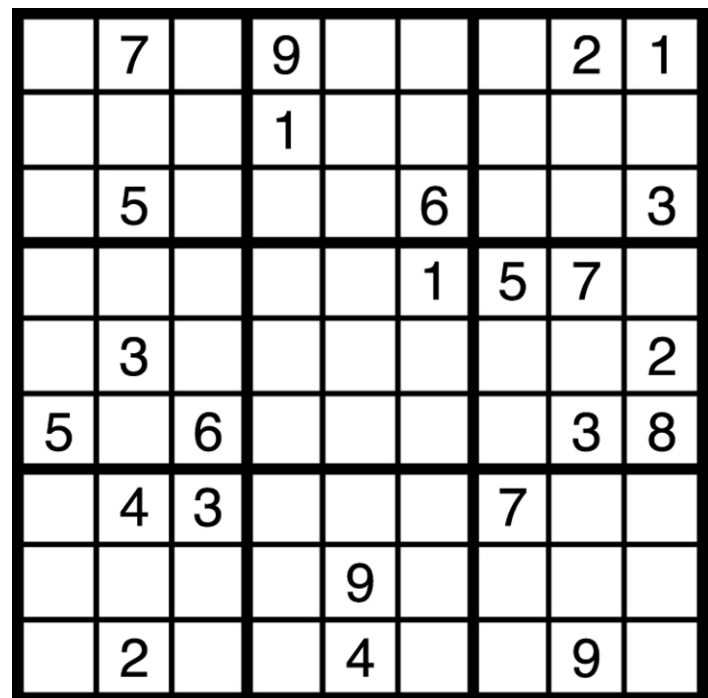


### CLUES ACROSS

- They look out for kids
- Play
- Water (French)
- Prayer leader
- Small constellation
- Carta: influential royal charter
- Pressure unit
- Extrasensory perception
- A symbol of "Aloha"
- Portion of the small intestine
- Psychedelic amphetamine
- Very long period of time
- British overseas territory
- Cereal grain
- Car mechanics group
- Wish harm upon
- At a specific prior time
- Peyton's younger brother
- UK firefighters' union
- Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
- Popular show honoring musicians
- Basics
- Honk
- Trent Reznor's band
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Long-legged wading bird
- Specialized biological grouping
- A coin goes in it
- Of the wind
- One-time measure of length
- A very large body of water
- River in NE Scotland

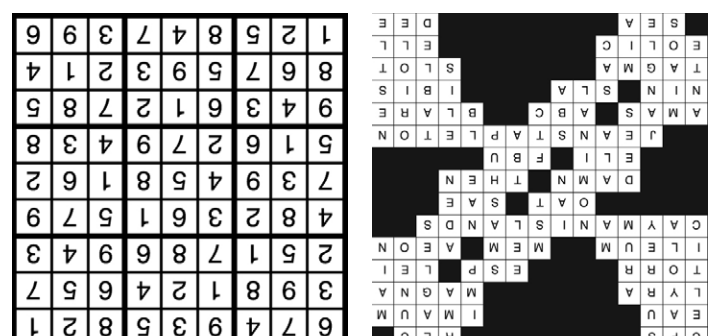
### CLUES DOWN

- Boston hoopster
- A type of bribe
- SE England county
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Italian province
- Mischievous child
- Popular street name
- Boxing promoter Bob
- Snakelike fish
- Break into pieces
- The Bay State
- Time zone
- Port city in Yemen
- In name only
- 007's creator
- No (Scottish)
- Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
- Pie mode
- Don't know when yet
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Make a ringing metallic sound
- Helps little firms
- Pound
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Put on the back burner
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Poker stake
- Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- Pouch
- Not around



**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.

### This week's puzzle answers





THE REED-CUSTER FOOTBALL team makes their way onto the field during a home game introduction in 2018. The For the Record series by the Braidwood Journal has developed into Dream Team nominations of Reed-Custer football players.

# The keepers of school records

BY SHAWN LONG  
STAFF WRITER

Records are not only hard to achieve, they can be hard to find

Fifteen weeks ago, the Free Press Newspapers published the first “For The Record” story which turned into a series reporting on record holders among athletes at Wilmington, Reed-Custer and Coal City high schools.

We quickly gained an appreciation for coaches and athletic directors who have kept these records current.

You can't just do a Google search for say “Reed-Custer high school records” and have them at your fingertips. Same, for example, for Wilmington High School soccer or Coal City volleyball.

Oftentimes it took a lot of digging.

We credit the Wilmington Catbackers Football Club for keeping football stats up-to-date, at least for the past 28 years. We also thank the Coal City football program for keeping individual stats current and available.

The Reed-Custer football records is where we ran into a problem. There have been five different coaches over the past 10 years and somewhere along the line the record books were lost.

“Those were kept by the head coaches and passed along,” said Reed-Custer Athletic Director Chuck Anderson. But there came a coaching change at some point when that didn't happen.

“What I've been trying to do since I've been here each season is have the coaches keep track of them and if there are any changes, let me know so I can keep track of them,” Anderson said.

While the coaches gather the stats throughout the season, in the end it's the athletic directors who become the keepers of the records.

“There wasn't like a set file I could go to gather the information. I did some digging and gathering when I came here and tried to contact former coaches, and see what they had.”

He said the school has benefited in other sports when there were tenured coaches.

“With baseball, for instance, when Jerry Cougill was here, it was continuity so he had all that stuff,” Anderson commented. “It's different than other situations when you have seven or eight coaches in one sport. Usually when somebody leaves the district, trying to get that information is hard. That was one of the first things I did when I took over was try to find some of that stuff.”

He learned how valuable it is to keep good records too. Like in 2015 when they were inputting information on the Illinois High School Association's website to see if

| Write in your RCHS football Dream Team players |            |             |                    |            |             |
|--|------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|  | First pick | Second pick |                    | First pick | Second pick |
| Quarterback                                    | _____      | _____       | Defensive End      | _____      | _____       |
| Running back                                   | _____      | _____       | Defensive End      | _____      | _____       |
| Fullback                                       | _____      | _____       | Defensive Tackle   | _____      | _____       |
| Wide Receiver                                  | _____      | _____       | Defensive Tackle   | _____      | _____       |
| Wide Receiver                                  | _____      | _____       | Nose Tackle        | _____      | _____       |
| Tight End                                      | _____      | _____       | Middle Linebacker  | _____      | _____       |
| Tight End                                      | _____      | _____       | Outside Linebacker | _____      | _____       |
| Center   | _____      | _____       | Outside Linebacker | _____      | _____       |
| Guard  | _____      | _____       | Cornerback         | _____      | _____       |
| Tackle   | _____      | _____       | Cornerback         | _____      | _____       |
| Tackle   | _____      | _____       | Free Safety        | _____      | _____       |
| Guard  | _____      | _____       | Strong Safety      | _____      | _____       |
| Kick Returner                                  | _____      | _____       | Kicker             | _____      | _____       |
| Coach  | _____      | _____       | Punter             | _____      | _____       |

Once complete email to [sports@fpnusa.com](mailto:sports@fpnusa.com) or mail to 111 S. Water St, Wilmington, IL 60481 or 271 S. Broadway St., Coal City, IL 60416

the boys basketball team set a record for three-point shots.

“I usually update the records on IHSA,” said Anderson. “When we booked a barrage for national three point makes back in the mid 2015s, we had to do a lot of digging and the coaches brought that to me and said, ‘hey, I think we broke a record here’ so we had to dig, contact the National Federation and then when I found out we were stacked with IHSA, I sent it to the IHSA.”

Coal City Athletic Director Dan Hutchings deals with the similar problems with keeping records but the Coalers do it the same way. They check with the coaches at the end of the season.

“It can be challenging to keep the records,” said Hutchings. “But it should be up to each and every coach and they can pass it onto the coach that succeeds them.”

With coaches using different technology for stat taking, it can be hard to keep track of the records. “It's hard to do that because every coach has a different platform and it's not like we have the time to go back and do those stats from 1980s. We kind of have an idea who is like an 1,000- point scorer in basketball. Those are nice things to have but it's hard to do.”

At Wilmington, Wilmington AD Brian Goff tries to keep up with records but sometimes the turnover of coaches in some sports presents challenges.

“We try to get the numbers

right with the coaches but with the changes of coaches, that becomes an issue,” said Goff. “Some of these coaches kept it on pen and paper, and others on floppy discs so those were hard to find.”

For overall season records the IHSA.org website is a great source. Team information on the site is updated by athletic directors and coaches. It includes season records broken down for each team, play-off appearances, placings for each season and more. With the exception of state record holders, individual school record holders are not available.

Strides in digitizing individual stats have been made with web-based sports sites like Gamechanger, Max Preps and Illinois Matmen. They tally up player stats from game results but again, the problem is not all coaches utilize these services.

Another problem for athletic directors is records aren't always inclusive of the early years. For example Wilmington football dates back 73 seasons, Coal City 42 and Reed-Cuser 41, so there are some gaps. The question becomes do you post what you have?

One thing learned is that fans have a strong interest in current records. The feedback we got from publishing the series was terrific with comments from past players, teachers and parents.

When we came up short on RCHS football stats it was encouraging to know a couple of moms in the Touchdown

Club were combing through back copies of the Braidwood Journal hoping to gather stats from games dating back to 1980. The task is a big undertaking.

To pull together the most recent years for Comet football we relied upon Maxpreps

which has the seasons from 2016-17 to current. IHSA got us team records but we wanted more so we went the old-fashioned route, past newspapers.

We went through the last 17 years of football stories in our archives, pulling passing stats, rushing stats, receiving

stats and sometimes even defensive stats when they were accurate.

After compiling every game from every year, we focused on the five best rushers, the five best passers, the five best receivers and some return men. We even compiled all-purpose yards which used a mention of all four of those components of the game (rushing, receiving, passing, return yards).

It took us countless hours and 15 weeks to complete the For the Record series and it was worth it during a time when real sports was sidelined during the coronavirus.

Now, we need a new project.

In the spirit of the NFL football season and fantasy football, we got to thinking it would be great if there was a fantasy football team or “dream team” for each high school sports teams.

The first sport up is football.

Below you will find a chart with offensive and defensive positions with lines to fill in the blanks. Complete it, cut it out and send it back into us at 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

The responses will be utilized for a final summary of dream teams.

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

Geo's PIZZA

Proud to be serving the community for the past 34 years!

Greater Grundy County Readers' Choice Awards 2015

34<sup>TH</sup> 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 \$27.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 10/31/20.

Gift Certificates Available

Order online at [www.geospizza.net](http://www.geospizza.net)

634-8858

715 S. Broadway • Coal City

# COMET SPORTS

## Comets shoot around with Coalers before regionals



Photos by Shawn Long

**FOLLOWING THROUGH**—Reed-Custer's Charlie Boyd watches his ball after hitting it during a match with Coal City at High Point Golf Course in Essex.



Photos by Shawn Long

**SHORT PUTT**—Reed-Custer senior Clayton Newborough watches his putt go in the hole.



Photos by Shawn Long

**TEEING OFF** for the Reed-Custer Comet golf team is Victor Poulos.



### NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.

**6** out of **10** newspaper readers who read a **home services ad** took action after seeing the ad.\*

#### THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>

- >>> Gather more information regarding service/product
- >>> Save the ad for future reference
- >>> Visit advertiser's website \*

**ALL TOGETHER NOW** As our nation looks to reopen, rebound and resurge, our advertising representatives are here to help your business. Hire us to help get your customers back and your employees ready. Nobody cares more about your success than we do.

Nobody delivers a more engaged audience than we do. Our growth online, combined with print, is impressive as more readers turn to us for local news.

**Newspapers are your best investment.**  
We care about local.



### NEWSPAPER POWER.

Print, Digital & Social Solutions for our advertisers.



Photos by Shawn Long

**COAL CITY'S MAKAYLA WILKINS** watches her ball after teeing off on Thursday against Reed-Custer.

## Reed-Custer, Wilmington, Coal City vie in golf regionals

**BY SHAWN LONG**  
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington and Reed-Custer golf teams competed the same regional yesterday while Coal City was paired up against bigger schools as the Illinois High School Association adjusted the golf playoffs due to the coronavirus.

Only the top four individuals and top two teams advance to the sectional this year. Under normal conditions the top three teams and the top 10 golfers advance.

The Wildcats and Comets compete Tuesday in the Grant Park Regional with Beecher, Crete (Illinois Lutheran), Donovan, Grant Park, Momence, Ottawa (Marquette), Peotone, Seneca and St. Anne.

The Coalers traveled to Lisle (Benet Academy) against Darien (Hinsdale South), Joliet Catholic Academy, Lemont, Lisle Benet, Manteno and New Lenox (Providence Catholic).

Results from both meets were unavailable as of press time.