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A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

BAHCC looks to expand community garden for 2021

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

With its first year near completion as the last harvest nears, the Braidwood Area Health Community Coalition (BAHCC) is already looking forward to an even better time digging in the dirt in 2021.

The BAHCC developed its inaugural garden over the summer, constructing two raised garden beds housing fresh vegetables and herbs.

The garden sits at the BAHCC office on East Reed Street in Braidwood. The coalition expects one last harvest to take place before the first frost of the fall.

The vegetables and herbs grown in the garden over the summer were donated to the Community Care Food Pantry in Braidwood. As of this week, the coalition had delivered more than 68 pounds of food to the pantry.

"We're really proud of that," said

BAHCC project coordinator Pete Dell'Aquila during the coalition's monthly meeting, held on Oct. 12 via Zoom.

This year's plantings included tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, squash, beans, radishes, basil, cilantro, oregano, parsley and more.

The coalition's goal is to expand the garden and incorporate more community involvement in the future. The hope is that as the garden expands, neighbors in town who may not have space for their own gardens will be able to participate and experience the benefits of growing food.

This year's garden was built with help from the community. Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood and Coal City donated topsoil, compost, hoses and nozzles.

The coalition also reached out to the master gardener at the University of Illinois Extension for help and tips on

starting the garden.

Dell'Aquila said for 2021, the BAHCC hopes to develop the garden into more of a true community area with ideas to beautify the area, adding in creative ideas and perhaps even a pathway to encourage the community to take part.

"It's not much of a community garden if we only have two community members working on it," he said. "But, we have big hopes for it."

The coalition said they already have a donation of seed packets for 2021 to help get things started next spring.

Coalition members will spend this winter planning and mapping out next spring's garden, and will seek funding and sponsorships locally for assistance in building, layout, design, planting, and caring for the garden.



Courtesy photo

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN, planted and maintained by the members of the BAHCC, produced more than 68 pounds of fresh vegetables and herbs for the Community Care Food Pantry in Braidwood. Parsley, onions, peppers, oregano, and dill were just some of this year's haul.



File photo

STUDENTS SET UP FOR THE BOX City of Hope outside Reed-Custer High School in October 2018. This year's event will take place with special precautions in place due to the pandemic. FCCLA students are currently collecting funds and canned goods, which will be donated to the food pantry in Braidwood.

Students prepare for Box City of Hope

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Reed-Custer High School students have spent the past several years promoting awareness of homelessness.

This year's FCCLA members are getting set to once again bring the issue to the foreground while also raising funds for the Community Cares food pantry in Braidwood.

Box City of Hope will take place on Friday, Oct. 30.

During the overnight event, students set up their own tents or boxes and experience a night in the elements, to raise money and awareness for homelessness and hunger.

The goal is for the students to step outside of their own comfort zones and experience what it might be like to be homeless.

RCHS Family and Consumer Science educator

"EVEN AFTER JUST ONE EVENING, STUDENTS LEARN TO BE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE SMALL THINGS THAT THEY HAVE AT THEIR FINGERTIPS THAT SO MANY DO NOT. EVEN SO MANY FAMILIES AND STUDENTS IN OUR OWN DISTRICT. HEAT, ELECTRICITY FOR THEIR CELL PHONES, A REFRIGERATOR FULL OF FOOD FOR ONE NIGHT THIS IS ALL TAKEN AWAY. I THINK THE EXPERIENCE OF CAMPING ITSELF TEACHES THEM SO MUCH."

KATELIN ARSENEAU
RCHS FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE TEACHER

and FCCLA co-sponsor Katelin Arsenau is the faculty organizer for this year's Box City of Hope.

"The camping in a tent or a box is to simulate the harsh living conditions that 552,830 Americans are facing this year," Arsenau said.

"We will be collecting

canned goods over the month of October and the evening of the event to help raise goods for our local food pantry. While we do allow the students to bring in snacks, many struggle with not having the luxury of a refrigerator or a microwave at their disposal."

Participating students

will raise a minimum \$10 "rent" fee. Students are currently working on raising money and collecting canned goods by explaining the cause and asking for donations from family and friends.

Arseneau also noted that the students learn that the definition of homelessness simply means not having a home.

"You don't have to be living on the street to be homeless," she said. "Even if you have a roof over your head you can still be without a home. This may be because you don't have any rights to stay where you live or your home is unsuitable for you."

Arseneau said the event, in addition to raising awareness, also helps to ground students in the realities of being homeless.

SEE BOX CITY, PAGE 2

Braidwood Police employee accused of identity theft

STAFF REPORT

A Braidwood woman employed as clerk with the Braidwood Police Department has been charged with two counts of felony theft in Will County.

Lynda Miner, 47, is accused of illegally obtaining and using a credit card belonging to someone not herself between 2014 and 2019. Miner is also accused of identity theft against that same person.

According to court documents, Miner, whose name is spelled as Lynda Minor on the circuit court website, is charged with felony charges on two alleged incidents, one

from 2014 and the other from 2017.

According to court documents, the first charge is identity theft in the amount of \$300 to \$2,000, dating to Feb. 14, 2014.

The second is a theft charge for \$500 to \$10,000, dating to Jan. 21, 2017.

A warrant was issued for her arrest on Sept. 21, and Miner posted \$5,000 bond on Sept. 27.

The Will County Sheriff's Department was in charge of the investigation.

Miner has been a clerk with the BPD since 2016, according to public records.

She is due back in Will County court on Dec. 8.

Braidwood, Wilmington coalitions join forces for drug take back day

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is just around the corner.

Take Back Day, set for Oct. 24, addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue across the country.

According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, as many as 9.9 million Americans misuse controlled prescription drugs.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), that study also revealed that a majority of those abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

Take Back Day, which is held bi-annually in April and October, helps to provide an opportunity for Americans to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths.

This year, the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC) and the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community will partner up for the event.

BAHCC project coordinator Pete Dell'Aquila said due to the pandemic, and the fact that many of the coalition's regular volunteers for the take back event are often elderly and therefore fall into the high risk category for COVID-19, the coalition has decided to hold off on holding its own event with the Braidwood police department, and will instead promote and help out in Wilmington.

Dell'Aquila said events

SEE TAKE BACK, PAGE 2



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Box City

"Even after just one evening, students learn to be grateful for all the small things that they have at their fingertips that so many do not," Arseneau said. "Even so many families and students in our own district. Heat, electricity for their cell phones, a refrigerator full of food for one night this is all taken away. I think the experience of camping itself teaches them so much."

"They often tell me how sluggish they were the next day attempting to move forward with their normal routines and activities," she continued. "Some have even caught the sniffles! I also think it teaches them the value of community service. They learn how rewarding it is to raising money and food donations for others. They experience giving up their free Friday night, and hauling boxes of cans into our school to give back to others."

This year's event faces some restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students will not be able to share tents unless they are siblings.

The event normally takes place during a Friday night football game, and fans are encouraged to bring donations to that game.

This year, the students are hoping that community members will drop off donations of toiletries and canned goods at the high school between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Those bringing donations are reminded to please wear a mask.

Those donations will be brought to the pantry the following week.

Reed-Custer school resource officer Vern Reed and the BPD will also monitor the Box City of Hope overnight event as needed, including hourly drive bys of the school.

"We all may know many families who have silently struggled with homelessness or putting meals on the table for their family," Arseneau said. "Please support this cause that will directly benefit the members of our community."

The RCHS Box City of Hope also has a GoFundMe page, which can be found at www.gf.me/u/y3tdby.

Take Back

like Take Back Day help the coalition carry out its mission to bring realistic changes to the community.

The coalition's mission is "working with our neighbors to ensure a promising tomorrow by preventing youth substance abuse and providing opportunities that promote healthy life choices today."

The coalition provides what are known as "deliverables," essentially a product or achievement, to fulfill that mission.

"It's one of my favorite prevention deliverables we offer, getting extra drugs out of medicine cabinets," he said of the Take Back Day event. "It's not one of those things you really think about, but it's easy to hold on to your [prescription medications]."

The coalition noted that they get a good response from the community each year, and hope to do so again with the Wilmington event. Dell'Aquila said the coalition hopes to bring the event back to Braidwood in the spring.

In October of 2019, a total of 4,896 law enforcement agencies nationwide participated in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, including, 177 agencies at 175 locations in Illinois including Braidwood and Wilmington.

The October 2019 Take Back Day brought in 882,919 pounds — almost 442 tons — of unused or expired prescription medication and vape devices.

Since the event's inception in 2010, agencies participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day have collected nearly 12.7 million pounds of prescription drugs.

Outside of take back events, folks are encouraged to keep track of their medicine, rethink how and where those medicines are stored, and make a plan to safely dispose of any unused medications.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will take place at CVS in Wilmington, 1101 S. Water St., on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. until noon.

The event is coordinated with the Wilmington Police Department.

Young enthusiasm takes ownership of Belletini Foods in Wilmington

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

You have to admire the entrepreneurial spirit of Maria and Kevin Valle.

The siblings, at age 21 and 18 years, respectively, along with their aunt Ana Sarmiento, are the new owners of Belletini Foods in Wilmington.

Valle's Produce Market Corporation purchased the Wilmington grocery Oct. 1, determined to give the area an improved shopping experience.



THE NEW OWNERS of Belletini Foods in Wilmington are from Valle's Produce Market Corporation which includes (from left) aunt Anna Sarmiento and brother/sister Kevin Valle and Maria Valle. They took off their masks for a quick photo last week inside the expanded produce section.

Photo by Eric Fisher

"We're really excited to become the owners of Belletini Foods. We intend to keep the same name and same employees, and look forward to expanding the produce section and bring in more items," Maria commented.

Valle's Produce Market originated in Berwyn, IL. Jesus Valle, their father and Michael Valle, their uncle, opened the first store 10 years ago.

"They always wanted to own a small business and they were offered the opportunity so they said let's do it," Maria said. "Right away our family got involved, focusing on buying top quality produce and quality meat and our customers recognized that."

Soon they added a second location in Berwyn including a taqueria featuring authentic Mexican cooking, and two years ago, opened a third store on West Jefferson Street in Joliet.

In late May the Joliet store suffered extensive damage during a night of street violence. But the neighborhood showed its support with a GoFundMe campaign that raised nearly \$30,000. Family and friends rebuilt the store and it quickly reopened.

Their Wilmington store will be their fourth and largest location.

"We will have some buying power with four stores. We'll hand-pick the produce from the Chicago Market as

we've done the past 10 years. And over time we intend to improve the meat selection while offering better prices," Maria said.

Belletini Foods will still carry national brand items as well as the cheaper "Essentials" line-up supplied by the Kirby Foods warehouse. There will be opportunity to add more imported products too.

"Over time subtle changes will be made," Maria commented. "One thing that won't change is that we'll be a family-owned store just like before."

Previous owner Kirk Belletini said he is grateful for the employees and customers who patronized the store the past 33 years.

The Belletini family purchased what was Baron's Foods

in 1987, and at one time operated four Belletini Foods stores — the first was located in Coal City. Kirk was a third-generation independent grocer who wound up the owner of the Seneca and Wilmington stores after his father retired.

He sold the Seneca store in 2011 to focus on Wilmington as one of the last independent operations in the region.

"I'm proud we gave Wilmington a second independent store all these years. That's almost a rarity any more, two supermarkets in a town this size. But good employees, competitive prices and loyal customers made that happen. Our philosophy always was we're here to help the community any way we can and I think people appreciated that."

"But the time was right for me to retire and the Valle family has proven themselves with their other stores so I wish them the best of luck and patronage we had."

Maria and Kevin know it will take long hours and hard work to be successful. They've been logging 14-hours days since becoming owners.

"It's been frightening while at the same time exciting," Maria admitted. "The employees have been great with helping us and we just feel we can do this right with their help and from family."

Like all eager business owners, they have ideas they want to implement. The future may include the serving of more hot foods including recipes from a chef who is popular at their Berwyn location.

Mayor responds to criticism over online video

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

WILMINGTON — Mayor Roy Strong found himself on the receiving end of criticism after a video surfaced on YouTube, showing him using foul language at a group of people along the bridge over the Mill Race.

After the video made its way around social media, the mayor decided to address the issue head on during the Oct. 6 meeting of the full City Council.

The undated video was posted to social media in September. In it, a group who calls themselves "Outdoors Weekly" are seen magnet fishing off of the bridge on Baltimore Street, over the Mill Race. Magnet fishing involves dropping a heavy magnet into the water to pull out junk or litter.

The group of three to four men, hailing from North Carolina, travel across the country on magnet fishing adventures, finding everything from guns to motorcycles in their efforts to, as they claim on the videos, "just clean up some trash" from waterways.

In the video, Mayor Strong approaches the group, who were all wearing video cameras, identifies himself, and questions them about what they are doing during an expletive-laced exchange.

"I'm the mayor of Wilmington, who the [expletive] are you," he asks. "You want me to call the [expletive] cops?"

The group continues to record, stating that there are no signs indicating that they shouldn't be on the bridge.

"You know you [expletive] people are filming in [expletive] this river, and we've got

three lawsuits because of guys like you," Strong continues. "I don't want you standing up on that [expletive] bridge... It's kind of common sense, you don't stand on top of a [expletive] bridge. Are you that dumb?"

Shortly after the mayor drives away, an officer from the Wilmington Police Department responds to the scene, noting that she was just checking on the welfare of the magnet fishermen. The fishermen were not held and left Wilmington shortly after the incident.

Last week, the mayor addressed the issue, noting that while his language may have been a little salty, he was justifiably angry due to multiple drownings in the river over the years that have left the city fighting lawsuits.

"The bad part about that bridge, they probably should have come to the city and said, 'we're going to be doing this,' you know, they didn't get a permit that they were going to be over on the bridge doing something like that," Strong said, adding that he spotted the fishermen while driving and stopped to confront them.

Strong also noted some important context that was not fully seen in the video — the fishermen were standing on top of the concrete railing of the bridge itself.

"They don't show those guys standing up on the bridge," Strong said. "I'm thinking, we're going to have a lawsuit, they're going to fall off... The guy said, there should be a sign. Well... if that [concrete railing] was meant to walk on, there would be a railing on it. I think it's under-

stood, don't walk on the wall." A brief pan of the camera shows the shadows of two of the magnet fishermen standing on the railing of the Mill Race bridge.

Strong said when it comes to the river, problems the city faces tend to come from folks who aren't from Wilmington.

The mayor also addressed his language and anger as seen on the video.

"You've got to understand, no one has walked in my shoes... I had four years in the Marine Corps, and it affected me, it still affects me, of course," Strong said, noting that his reaction and foul language were ultimately a throw-back to his time in the military.

Braidwood to have Trick-or-Treating

STAFF REPORT

The city of Braidwood is confirming that trick-or-treating will be permitted this year on Halloween.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, children will still be able to participate this year, but the city is asking everyone to be mindful of safety guidelines when going door to door.

The following safety guidelines should be followed:

- Face coverings should be worn — they may be costume

masks

- No homemade treats. Prepackaged treats only.
- Do not enter homes to retrieve treats.
- Young children should be accompanied by an adult
- Older trick-or-treaters should stay in groups
- Turn on your porch light if you are welcoming trick-or-treaters

The hours for trick-or-treating this year are from 2 to 5 p.m. Halloween falls on a Saturday this Oct. 31.

Drive thru trick-or-treating at Old Smokey planned

Come and trick-or-treat, social distance style, at a drive-thru style event in Old Smokey City Park in Braidwood on Halloween, Oct. 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The event is being hosted by the Braidwood Lions Club, Knights of Columbus 1574 and the Braidwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

The event is for children ages 2 to 16. They must be in the vehicle — no exceptions will be made. No infants only.

Enter the park through the Third Street entrance and turn right onto the walk path and follow the directions of those directing traffic.

Once at the starting point, roll your windows down. Proceed only after being directed to do so. Follow the walk path, stopping at each volunteer stationed along the route who will place a couple of pieces of candy in the children's bags or buckets. Do not proceed to the next volunteer until the vehicle in front of you has moved on.

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WORKERS COMPENSATION

Braidwood's theater scene in the 19th century

Braidwood's 19th century social scene was not exactly what you would call "high class." But nonetheless, Braidwood did have some other recreation than drinking in a saloon. There was the Music Hall, originally built as place for traveling vaudeville troupes. Put on your bustle and dust off your top hat, we're going to the theater.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

heart was portrayed in a manner that brought tears to the eyes of all. The terrible agony of the mother's heart bathed the audience in tears. Anon, low and tender, again bitter and reproachful, and again wild and heart-rendering, Lucille Western carried her audience with her. The support she received was excellent, and

Western in the drama "East Lynne."

The reviewer in the Joliet Weekly Sun said of the performance, "Lucille Western stands out peerless and alone as a great emotional actress. All the fire, the bitterness, the love of a woman's

the entire play was highly satisfactory to all."

Finally in August of 1880 local entrepreneurs "cashed in on the act" and built the Music Hall on Main Street as a venue for traveling actors. But unfortunately it never attracted the first rate actors, only the lesser known vaudevillian type groups.

On October 15, 1880 the following appeared in the Wilmington Advocate, "Horace Herbert's Dramatic Club is to open the new Music Hall in Braidwood on the night of November 1st. The opening will be a grand affair, upon which the managers are to be congratulated."

As to Horace Herbert's performance, no record exists.

By November the Music Hall had instigated more

growth for Braidwood in the prospering local economy. We read, "The keystone in the arch of Braidwood's prosperity is about to be realized - in a new hotel. The company that built Music Hall have the matter in hand and will hurry it through at once. The new hotel is to be located upon, or immediately adjoining the site of the old Broadbent house destroyed by fire some twenty months ago. The Caledonian is a good hotel, but it seems to be though unequal to the demand, especially so when a theatre company swoops down upon the city and to stay a week."

The next group to appear was announced at the end of October, "The Clara Wildman Comic Opera and Comedy Company is to appear in 'Fanchon and Our Boarding House', at the Music Hall, Braidwood, on Tuesday and Wednesday evening's next. Admission 35 cents and 50 cents."

And the following month, "Jay Rial's Humpty Dumpty troupe is to play a Music Hall, Braidwood, on Tuesday evening next."

Jay Rial is the only actor that appeared in early Braidwood that I could find anything at all about. And the only thing I know about him was that his acting troupe was known for their version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

1882 saw the Music Hall hosting a string of vaudeville troupes. The Wilmington Advocate announced, "Donavin's Tennesseans sing in Braidwood tonight." And, "John Whiteley's dramatic company has been doing a very fair business in Joliet all of this week. It is said to be well worthy of attending. On



A PHOTO of Lucille Western, who died a year after visiting Joliet.

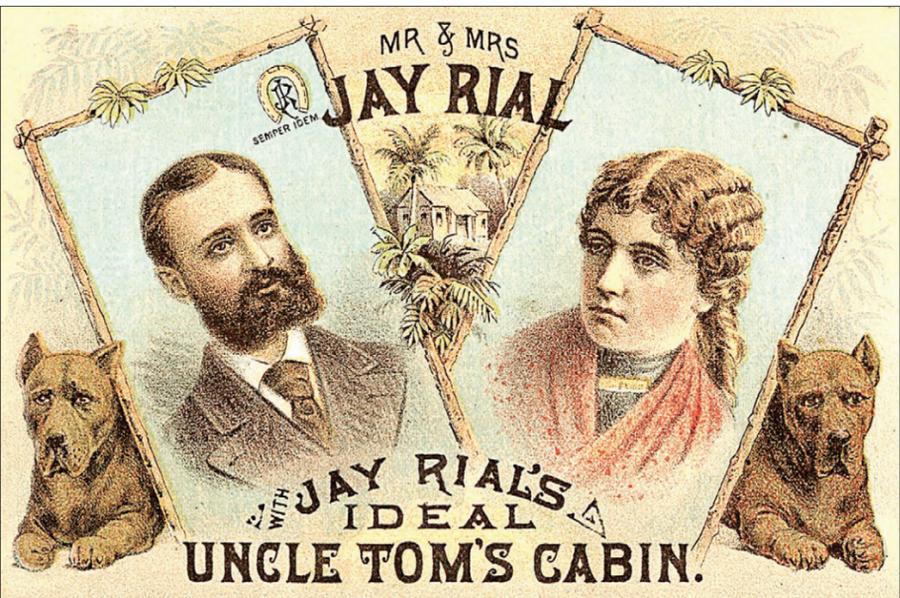
Monday night next it begins a season of three nights at Music Hall, Braidwood."

But either there were no troupes willing to play Braidwood, or the managers decided against paid entertainment, because by the mid 1880's Music Hall was only being used by social organizations like the Odd Fellows, the local churches, and for things like the Fireman's Ball.

Then in 1897 there was a

resurgence of live entertainment such as this ad shows, "Music hall tonight, the Owens Comedy company in "The Bells." Prices 10, 20, 30 cents." Interestingly the cost of the ticket from the 1880 shows had gone way down.

That is where my history of Music Hall ends as far as live entertainment goes. The building itself went on to have many other uses, but that is a story for another day.



A POSTER that was displayed in Braidwood of the Jay Rial's troupe.

Two paths to travel as Coal City Schools look to future

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

COAL CITY - As superintendent of schools, Dr. Kent Bugg is working with local leaders who have joined together with a common goal: Protecting the community from the unexpected closure of Dresden Nuclear Generating Station.

Exelon Nuclear announced late in August its intent to close the generating station in November 2021, one of two plants they say will shut down next year absent wide-ranging energy legislation.

Despite being among the most efficient and reliable units in Exelon's nuclear fleet, the company reports the two generating stations — the other the Byron Nuclear Station in Ogle County — face revenue shortfalls resulting from declining energy prices and rules that allow fossil fuel plants to underbid clean energy resources in the capacity auction.

Dresden's closure would result in a \$16 million hit to the school district's budget, \$24 million overall that is distributed to the seven taxing bodies receiving revenues from the plan, and that's just the loss of property tax.

A plant closure here would have rippling effects, as it will in Byron. It is further exasperated by the company's position that the Braidwood and LaSalle stations are also at risk of early closure.

Exelon employs 804 people at Dresden, and every 100 jobs supports another 107 jobs in other industries including maintenance and construction, real estate, retail and healthcare to name a few.

In a study prepared by Northern Illinois University's Center for Government Studies, it notes the station's direct contribution to the Grundy County economy to be over \$286 million or 9.2% of the total GDP.

For every \$1 million in compensation paid to Dresden employee, that supports an additional \$331,000 in compensation to employees in related business sectors, the report states.

Additionally, the station and its employees contribute to community events and organizations such as United Way.

additional impacts to the retail, service and healthcare industries.

Along with the direct impacts of Dresden being shut down, Bugg and his counterparts see a much larger problem on the horizon should the nuclear fleet fail.

As Bugg told the Unit 1 Board of Education when the announcement came in August, there are parallel paths the district and board need to move down.

"One of those paths is doing everything we can to keep the plant open and the other path is how do we prepare for life after Dresden, and what does that look like. I think its important we travel those paths at the same time, because right now we don't know what's going to happen," Bugg said.

Let's start with what is happening to keep the plant open.

Over the past week and a half, Bugg said he's received some pretty good news in terms of making this more a statewide issue.

Organized labor is now involved and established an initiative it's calling Climate Jobs Illinois.

The initiative is being driven by the AFL-CIO and IBEW, and local leaders working through FAIRCUM — a group of government entities dedicated to fair and equitable assessments and taxation of generating stations across the state — have been in contact with those heading up the drive for the labor groups.

"We believe there is not light between what we are trying to accomplish and what they are trying to accomplish. They're focused on maintaining nuclear jobs and promoting wind and solar and we want to maintain those nuclear jobs, so we think we are going to be able to foster a statewide coalition kind of under that umbrella of Climate Jobs Illinois," Bugg explained.

Among the steps is to rally support from various statewide associations and with the assistance of Diamond Mayor Terry Kernc, who serves as a vice president on the Illinois Municipal League [IML] Board, the group already has a letter for support from the IML.

"We are looking to get the support of other organizations in the state to make this coalition as large as possible," Bugg shared with the Board of Education last week.

On a local level, Bugg is working closely with the Grundy Economic Development Council and Grundy Chamber of Commerce, as well as Grundy County Board and officials from the various taxing dis-

tricts. Again, the common goal is to keep the plant open.

There has been significant discussion in the past regarding legislation, and as of yet nothing has been written. The veto session is slated to get underway on Nov.17.

Bugg reports the belief is that something will be drafted, however it's not clear where that will come from, be it the Governor's Office or from the chairman of the Senate Energy Committee or from someone else.

As he's noted previously, it's a matter of timing and if nothing has happened on a legislative front by March, that could be the point of no return.

For the time being the focus is on the promotion of Climate Jobs Illinois and working down the path to keep the plants open.

On the other path is life after Dresden.

While the school district and others works to ensure this isn't the path taken, Bugg knows it's not something that can be pushed aside.

"We can't wait until March and find out that Dresden is going to close and not have a plan. I think we need to begin talking about that," Bugg told an agreeing board of education.

If the plant shuts down, the school district stands to lose up to \$16 million a year in revenue.

Through a negotiated and court approved agreement the power generator pays \$24 million annually in property taxes that are distributed by percentages to the Coal City school,

Braidwood hearing to set minimum size for new homes

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD PLANNING & ZONING MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL OF BRAIDWOOD, 141 W. MAIN STREET, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS 60408.

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CITY CLERK
CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
Published in the Braidwood Journal, Oct. 14 and 21, 2020.

fire and library districts, Grundy County, Joliet Junior College and Goose Lake Township and Goose Lake Township Roads.

A coalition involving representative from those districts has been talking with Exelon officials with regard to an agreement that would soften the blow of the closure.

Bugg would like to see a multi-year tax ramp down agreement.

"I remind people all the time there are only six school districts in the state with a nuclear power station, every other school district runs without one, so a school district can be run without a nuclear power station, you just need time for that transition to take place. So, we need to work very hard to negotiate that," the superintendent said.

Through Bugg's leadership the group is also talking about redevelopment agreements, decommissioning and what's going to happen to that site should the gates be closed.

"I think is very important for the board to understand the time line if the plant closes," he said.

Based on a November 2021 closure, the taxing district would receive a full tax payment for tax year 2020, payable in 2021, and the variable comes with the 2021 taxes payable in 2022 to fund the 2022-2023 school year. It's anticipated that the district would receive 11/12 of the payment resulting in a cut of about \$1.5 million.

The district will start to see the reductions in revenue beginning with tax year 2023, payable in 2024.

With all this in mind, Bugg said it's time for the district to begin planning for changes in its financial position.

"There is work to do and work to do rather quickly, a majority of the planning needs to happen this year," Bugg said, and he recommended a the district develop a post Dresden plan and get people engaged in that process.

The board plans to reconvene some of its financial committees and the superintendent said the district's Learning Leadership Team has also indicated it would like to assist in developing a plan.

Bugg would further like to establish a Community Finance Committee that brings community members into the discussion, he also wants to hold focus group discussion so the community and district taxpayers understand the impacts a plant closure will have on the district and is programming.

"This is going to have us severely tightening our belt and increasing revenues, you can't just cut \$16 million," Bugg said.

Both paths, Bugg said, serve to protect the community from Dresden's premature closure.

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 (*Hypobopsis 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 1, 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/sustainability/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 relocate 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

DNR.ITACoordinator@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.

Free Press Newspapers readers

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www.freepressnewspapers.com, 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.

Pritzker's tax

ELWOOD—It's a disheartening to think that Governor J.B. Pritzker best solution for solving Illinois' budget problems is to switch to a graduated tax. Instead of cutting spending and pursuing pension reform, Pritzker and the Democrats say they'll go after the rich with more taxes. Remember before you vote for or against the Constitution change, the question is should the lawmakers in Springfield be given more ability to raise taxes across all income levels. To make it sound good now, they're targeting high income taxpayers. But once the law is changed, they'll be able to go after the income of retirees, middle income workers and even low wage earners. Can Springfield be trusted? Who do you think got us into the terrible mess we're in now? Vote no for the Constitutional change and let's force them to come up with more meaningful reform.

Science was wrong

SHADOW LAKES—I'm calling about global warming or as they now call it, climate change. I don't know why they changed the name, I'm sure they had a reason. During the 80s if any of you can remember scientists for all of you that believe what they all say called for another ice age for close to 10 years. I and many people increased their home insulation, 3M came out with V-Seal to seal doors and windows. Everyone was very concerned because the weather was getting colder and colder and we had a lot of snow more than I can remember since then. Yet the scientists were wrong. Science is not perfect, so I would not be so quick to claim that we are having climate change due to a lot of our emissions. Our climate on earth has been totally tropical, total ice, total water long before man had anything to do with it. But I guess those who are with the green new deal refuse to admit it. Maybe you'd like to see this country go down while other countries increase their emissions.

Dan Hill

Can't afford reparations

WILMINGTON— Before the American Revolution there were people brought here as indentured servants that were also called bond servants which were all white and not black. They were owned and kept in servitude until the time came when they paid off their debts which took years. Bond servants were treated in an inhumane manor so reparations must also be given to their ancestors. But not one member of congress will recognize these facts that there were white bond servants before black slaves that were treated in the same manor as the black slaves. To go further back, take a look at Egypt where all people were slaves to the Egyptians building the pyramids. Will their ancestors in USA receive reparations? There have been slaves in every country throughout time and there is not enough money to pay for all the reparations that are demanded.

Wear a mask

WILMINGTON—Chew on this for a bit. The right-to-lifers want to remove choice because life is sacred. And yet these are some of the same right-wingers who say a mask is their choice when that could mean the difference between life and death for innocent people who work with them, serve them as customers or merely pass within 6 feet of them. Their personal choice could inflict harm, even death, upon others, but suddenly the sanctity of life is no longer an issue for them. Let's keep this in mind during the judicial hearing for Amy Coney Barrett.

Tara D.

Something's wrong

WILMINGTON—Many sound-off letters complain about people getting free stuff and handouts from the government and describe undocumented workers as the scourge of the earth. But in general, undocumented workers pay more taxes than President Trump. When Trump paid only \$750 federal income taxes for two years and for 10 years paid nothing at all and yet gets the best medical care possible while many taxpayers get no medical attention whatsoever, something's wrong. Does the word freeloader apply here? It's more than freeloader, because it's a criminal case which will be prosecuted by the Manhattan District Attorney. And because Eric Trump just pleaded the Fifth Amendment, things look bad for the Trumps. Stay tuned.

Kate L.

So important

COAL CITY—It is good to be in a country of freedom with a Constitution that protects our ability to choose our path through life. This freedom is everyone's natural right. God gives our right to be free and make us responsible for our choices. Lincoln said that the USA was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that we were all created equal and he said that strength came from being right. For not much formal education the guy knew a lot. Good and bad choices bring good or bad long term results. Are we mostly right or mostly wrong? Most of us fall between both extremes. Right choices are reasonable, work well for all, and must be affordable. Wrong choices fail this test every time. To be successful we must choose right most of the time. It is usually what we know that keeps us on the right path. To detour from the right path is looking for the easy way out and is always a dead end. We can escape this wrong way with one wise choice that puts us back on track. We usually make mostly good choices while avoiding the bad ones. Honesty is right. Lies are evil and wrong. Addictive drugs, smoking, or drinking are wrong detours that cheat us out of a better life. Good paths require knowledge of what works. What does not work can sometimes cost us our life. Choosing the hard way instead of the easy way is almost always right. Being for law and order is usually better than trusting to good luck, especially in the long run. What is best for the long run is most important. It must be reasonable, affordable and be what works as intended. We will soon choose one of two very different paths as we vote. In 50 to 75 years most of us will be gone. How will the grown up kids and grandkids feel about what we must soon decide? Will they be able to even have the legal right to choose how they think? We must choose the freedom to remain a great place as

history will show the truth of our choice. Don't forget to vote as it has never been so important to care for the country. USA, USA, USA.

Pelosi holding out

SHADOW LAKES— Once again the speaker of the house Nancy Pelosi has stopped the taxpayers from receiving a stimulus check because she won't take \$600 billion off her stimulus bill proposal. So I was wondering why a millionaire would stop the taxpayers from receiving money that belongs to them when the speaker of the house lives off the taxpayers funds. So if any millionaire government employee doesn't want to help the American citizens, no one has the right to question the millionaires that leach off the taxpayers. There is one millionaire woman that seems to be power hungry and is only concerned about her mansion and her \$12 a pint ice cream, not the lives of American citizens. Vote Democrat and your lives will become waste product just like the citizens of California while the speaker of the house has her mansion.

People should know

BRAIDWOOD—When running for president in 2016 Donald Trump said "Only I can fix it" when he criticized our nation's trade deficit. But recently, in the month of August, our monthly trade deficit was the largest it has been in 14 years. And it's not just because of the pandemic. The annual deficit was also high at \$579.9 billion in 2018 and in 2019 slightly lower at \$576.9 billion. But throughout the Obama years, the deficit was consistently lower at \$400 to \$500 billion. People have a right and responsibility to know this.

Ann S.

Numbers and words

SHADOW LAKES—Let's play the numbers game. Every day they release the numbers relating to the coronavirus in the state of Illinois. Do you really believe for a moment if all the numbers were zero, the state would open up and the lock down would end? I think not. All you need is one infected person to start the process all over again. That is when the fear and terror kick in again. My favorite word used by politicians is "I have a plan." Let's look at the usage of the word phrase. The mayor of Chicago, stated in her election campaign, "I have a plan to stop the violence." Since that time she has had two or three more plans. Has the violence stopped? I think not. Why doesn't she just say it's gang warfare and we don't know what to do? Now we have Joe Biden who states, "I have a plan to handle the pandemic." What is that plan? Is he going to come to my home and hold my hand if I become infected? If you listen to the media they change the narrative every day. It seems like the country is close to the development of a vaccine for the virus. What was Senator Harris's reply? "If President Trump says its OK, I am not taking it!" Aha yes, the narrative from the left, fear and terror. Next we will have to talk about my next word, free. Gosh I love that word.

M a r g o t Lane

Typical Millennial

BRAIDWOOD— In response to "For town's best interest," the author is obviously a typical millennial with feelings of self entitlement. This person feels it's their responsibility to be the pot stirrer for the betterment of a community. Sounds like someone needs to get a hobby, a job or maybe a couple of both because they seem to have way too much free time on their hands.

Tax loopholes

COAL CITY—Responding to "Based on speculation" and "Biden's Loophole," Mary Trump, the niece of President Trump, has provided authorities with information from the Trump estate to build the case against President Trump. She and her brother's family were shut out of the family's will so she released incriminating documents. Regarding Biden's tax loophole, it's nothing new and has been discussed for years because Newt Gingrich, John Edwards and Trump used it also. The loophole is a law which should be changed. President Obama tried to change the law but was met with opposition by the Republican Party. The difference between Biden and Trump is that if Trump is convicted of the massive tax fraud which investigations have uncovered, Trump would go to jail. And that is why Trump is unhinged. Winning the presidency put him under scrutiny which uncovered his decades of illegal activity and once he steps out of the White House he is no longer free from immunity.

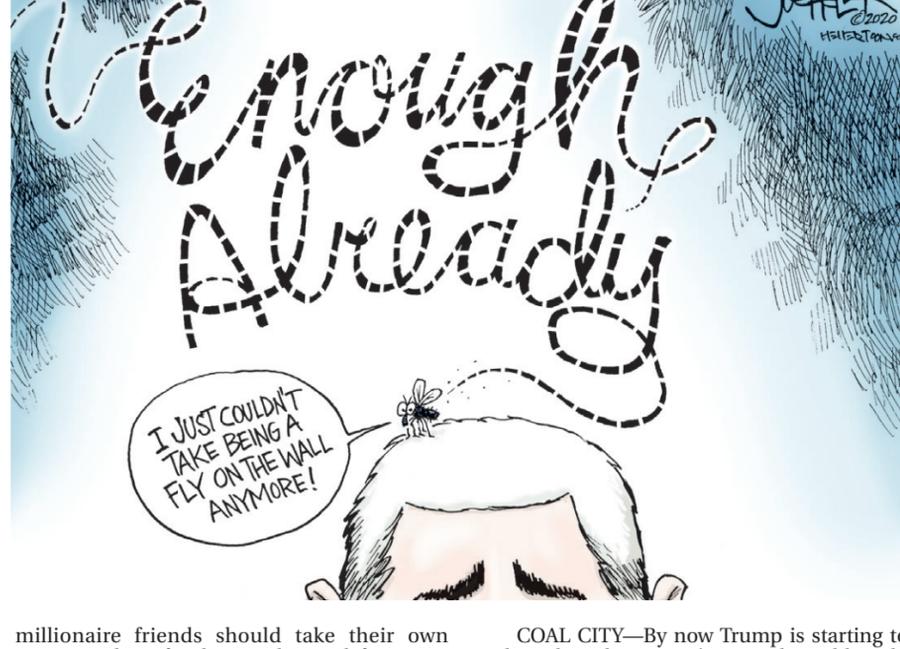
Danni R.

The buck stops here

BRAIDWOOD—In response to "Deserves more credit" and "Vote to survive," President Trump was impeached Dec. 18 so House Dems didn't interfere with Trump's COVID-19 response whatsoever. The Senate shouldn't be blamed because they acquitted Trump Feb. 5. Trump's China travel ban mistakenly accepted 8,000 Chinese from Hong Kong and Macao and failed to trace 1,600 Americans coming from China. When the virus spiked, test kit shortages prevented testing for front-line medical staff who were also forced to reuse personal protective equipment for months because Trump refused to activate the Defense Production Act. It's true Trump urged retail CEOs to offer testing but only 4 percent of retail sites actually responded. Trump's press conferences belittled respected world immunologist, Dr. Fauci, who Trump continues to contradict today. Army Lt. General Honore, who famously rescued Katrina victims, says Trump failed a unified response for states and localities. Recent reports indicate the world renowned CDC is corrupted by Trump's political interference. Truman famously said "the buck stops here" but Trump said on March 13 "I don't take responsibility at all."

A \$300 million waste

COAL CITY— If the state of Illinois is so deep in debt then how is our governor going to get the \$300 million to pay for his Covid-19 task force? Is the governor going to waste more taxpayers' money to help his friends' bank accounts instead of doing his job protecting the American citizens? So if he is going to waste the taxpayers' money then it should be used to help the taxpayers or maybe him and all his



millionaire friends should take their own money and pay for the Covid-19 task force. But don't hold your breath waiting for that to happen. Maybe we should call the governor's office and find out if he's going to raise taxes to pay for the task force that isn't needed. But what is needed is the money to be used to stop the violence in the state but don't wait for the governor or the general assembly in Springfield to do anything for the citizens in Illinois. They live off the taxpayers so their money is really the taxpayers' money that they collect and do nothing for the citizens of Illinois. Someone should explain how the Democrats help the American citizens.

Influenced by TV

SHADOW LAKES—To all of you people that enjoy bashing President Trump, if you believe that you could do a better job than he is doing why don't you run for president and see how many mistakes you make. But none of you seem to have any respect for whoever is the president. But yet you will sit on your couch watching your TV and complain about everything when none of you know exactly what is going on. But you're all experts in everything in the world. I guess you people are a jack of all trades and master of none and your intelligence level has risen quickly from thunderhead to insanity. Try reading books instead of watching polls or listening to people that have less knowledge then you have that get their information from some crackpot.

Scare tactic

WILMINGTON—Senator Harris said Trump falsely stated that if Trump wins reelection, he'll gut Social Security and Medicare. Trump did not make that statement, and his payroll tax deferral plan was not going to affect the funding for your Medicare. This statement by Biden and Harris is a lie. Biden and Harris will affect everyone's health care if elected. Politifact states that Senator Harris's statement is false. Trump is not taking away your Medicare or Social Security. The Democrats and the left wing media are scaring senior citizens into believing Trump will take away benefits.

Taking control

SHADOW LAKES—About the Covid-19. I'm not suggesting the virus is a hoax, it is real. Within four months state governments convinced citizens to stay inside and not leave their homes. Businesses went bankrupt, homes went into default and people fought forever diminishing resources from food to toilet paper. We were told violent protests with hundreds of people participating was OK. But going to church, a family funeral or sporting event was not. Six people could ride in a car to a lake but could not get into a boat together. We were warned not to wear masks then warned if you didn't it would kill people. Cash was banned and no one could give change. But using a credit card was acceptable. Good way to keep track of everything you do by the government. Several states tried to stop gun sales but the public reaction stopped it in most states. We were also told to regard those burning police vehicles, looting stores, physically beating and in some cases killing conservatives who got in their way were peaceful protesters. So tell me is this a big political game even though the virus is real and of course out of the countries that I have seen listed in print with the worse cases, worse amount of people dying, United States is third from the bottom out of 12. So I think this country did a pretty damn good job.

Dan Hill

Lifestyle changes

WILMINGTON—On Oct. 6 the CDC just added being overweight and obesity as underlying health condition for adults of any age that are at increased risk for severe illness from the Covid-19 virus. People may not realize this, but obesity alone is now a risk factor for being hospitalized or placed in the ICU as a result of COVID-19. A BMI of 30 you are at higher risk. If your BMI is 40 or over your risk of severe illness doubles and a severe can be much harder to recover from. Please protect yourself and take a walk when the weather is still nice.

Trouble in town

BRAIDWOOD— Braidwood seems to have a couple of new troublemakers in town who obviously haven't been here long enough to have a clue about what's going on in this town or the people who live here. After attending a couple of town hall meetings it's obvious that these individuals have created a personal vendetta and hatred for certain elected officials in the very short amount of time that they have lived here. These people might be taxpayers, but as taxpayers, there's the proper way to act in public and there's the improper way to act. The improper way has been displayed in abundance by these individuals.

Trump unhinged

COAL CITY—By now Trump is starting to realize that there aren't enough crabby old racists left to get him re-elected. As he becomes increasingly unhinged and his presidency descends into irrelevance the question is what will he do now? Will he send troops into the large cities to prevent people from voting? Will he order his postmaster puppet to shut down the post office so citizens can't vote by mail? Will his buddy Putin start an international incident to try to solve Trump's chances in the election? Will he order the wing nut militia to kidnap prominent Democrats? When he loses will he build a wall in the oval office to protect himself and his tax returns? Next year at this time will he be on Dancing with the Stars? Or will he get a job on Fox or just go golfing all the time? It doesn't break my heart that Trump will leave the Republican party in shambles but it's very sad that he has done the same thing to our beloved country. Mr. Putin spent millions of dollars on social media four years ago to help Trump get elected. Looking at the chaos we've all seen in the last four years he sure got his money's worth.

Keep it up

BRAIDWOOD—Don't know much about what is being said by the "newcomer" about city hall but I have to say to the person good for you. Sometimes it takes a newcomer's view to call out the good old boys. Sure, they won't like it and people will counter-attack. I know because years ago I used to go to council meetings and speak and they'll make you feel like an outcast. But stand your ground, be civil, because that will only improve the town.

Vote in person

WILMINGTON—Everyone needs to vote in person and watch their vote get counted. The Covid-19 pandemic should not keep us citizens from going to the polls to vote. The World Health Organization has finally confirmed what many experts and studies have been saying for months. The coronavirus is no more deadly or dangerous than seasonal flu. WHO confirms that the virus is nothing like as deadly as everyone predicted back in March. So mask-up, since it's the law and go vote.

Health care nightmare

CUSTER PARK—During the debate did you notice that Vice President Pence changed the subject faster than Road Runner escaping from Wile E Coyote? The moderator asked Pence about President Trump's plan for preexisting conditions. Pence refused to answer. Trump has been promising to cover preexisting conditions, but the Trumpcare health bill he produced shortly after becoming president was rejected because people lined the halls of Congress in protest. Many in wheelchairs were dragged away and arrested because they refused to give up Obamacare. Since then Trump continues to promise the coverage of preexisting conditions but has never introduced anything in black and white and never has described concrete details of any such plan. Throughout his presidency Trump continues to say over and over again that the specifics will be coming two weeks later, but two weeks later nothing ever happens. If Trump's lawsuit strikes down Obamacare in the Supreme Court, a health care nightmare will truly begin in the middle of a pandemic with all its fury.

Gloria W.

Get used to it

BRAIDWOOD—After reading numerous sound-offs regarding this allegedly "newer" resident in Braidwood who supposedly enjoys causing trouble and then reading the sound-off submitted by a person who feels that all these sound-offs are geared towards her, there's only one thing that anyone can say. If you believe the shoe fits, wear it. Maybe all of these sound-offs over the past several weeks have some validity to them. People who live in a small town are oftentimes the judge and the jury so you might as well get used to it.

College isn't free

WILMINGTON—Illinois cannot afford Joe Biden's free college tuition plan. It's another reason we need to vote for Trump. Biden's plan is a federal and state plan that will cost Illinois taxpayers \$23 billion dollars each year because the federal government is not picking up all costs of the program. Illinois is broke and when budgets are tight, public universities will cap the number of students because they cannot afford free tuition for all that want free tuition. Many countries around the world got rid of free college. Finland has free college but they ration the number of students each year. In Finland 33 percent of college applicants are rejected each year for all universities. Elite universities have that kind of selectivity rate. Plus participation in this plan would be optional. JB bulked at Trumps extra \$100 in unemployment because the state couldn't afford it. Illinois was one of the last state to approve extending extra

FAMILY

Kerulis, Schmucker united in marriage



Mr. and Mrs. John Schmucker

Amy M. Kerullis and John P. Schmucker, of Estero, FL were united in marriage on Oct. 3, 2020. Parents of the bride are John F. and Mary A. Kerulis, of Wilmington. Parents of the groom are J. Patrick and Kathleen E. Schmucker, of Wilmington.

The ceremony was held at 1 p.m. in Saint Rose Church. Organist/vocalist was Tom Labanauskas. The bride wore a ballgown satin dress with a lace top designed by Justin Alexander from Wolsfelt's Bridal. Her bouquet was created by Donna Figora, of Shorewood.

Maid of honor was Jackie Goulding and matron of honor was Mallory Vancura. Bridesmaids were Kali Nordeen, Megan Kerulis, Madison Lathum, Mary Gallagher, Tara Spell, Kelly Holem, Yana Gavalick, Karleigh Cherveney and Leanne Torte. They wore burnt orange floor-length chiffon dresses with eucalyptus and white rose bouquets. Flower girl was Maggie May Schmucker, bride and groom's Cockapoo; she was wearing a white and eucalyptus flower collar.

Best men were Ryan Ruzich and Neil Ruzich. Groomsmen and usher were David Wallen, John Kerulis, Joe Kerulis, Richard Heintz, Jason Wilhelmi, Doug Lopez, Stan Czajkowski, Alex Hoffer, Matt Talley and Nick Gavalick. Ring bearer was Tam Kerulis, bride and groom's Cocker Spaniel, He was wearing a burnt orange bow-tie collar.

A reception was held at the home of John Kerulis, brother of the bride. A large wedding tent and accessories were rented from Castle Party Rental in Saint Charles, IL.

Amy has her PhD in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from Hofstra University in Long Island, NY. She currently is the director of an Industrial-Organizational Master's program at Touro College in New York, NY.

John obtained his B.S. in Political Science from Illinois State University. He is currently enrolled in a M.S. in Secondary Education program at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, FL.

The couple are on their first honeymoon to Key West, FL and then in 2021 they will travel to Turks and Caicos.

FALL OPEN HOUSE
October 17 & 18th, 2020
 9am-5pm 11am-4pm

In Store Savings on Fall & Halloween Decor and More!

REGISTER TO WIN A GIFT BASKET VALUED AT \$125

Pop Up Market on Saturday ONLY 9am-2pm

Specialty Food Vendors
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CDC guidelines will be followed. No Pets.

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countrysidevillagegifts.com

Facebook and Instagram icons.

Mobile food pantry to be held Oct. 19

On Monday, Oct. 19 at 4 p.m., Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Road in South Wilmington, in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

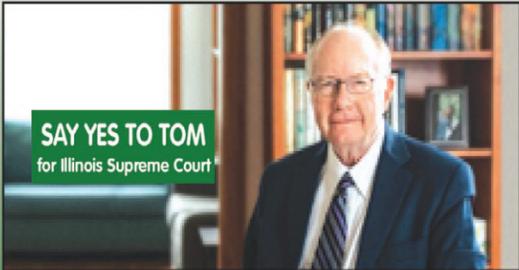
Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver nutritious food, meat, produce and nonperishable items, to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You do not have to be Catholic to participate.

Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Please join me in supporting Justice Tom Kilbride for retention to the Illinois Supreme Court. Tom is a fair judge, a kind man, independent and a leader on the Supreme Court!



SAY YES TO TOM for Illinois Supreme Court

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY GRUNDY COUNTY JUDGE, SHELDON SOBOL

Paid for by Judge Sheldon Sobol

Scheduling your mammogram is just as **important** as EVER.



One thing the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't stopped or postponed is cancer.

That's why you can't stop getting routine cancer screenings, including mammography.

For women at average risk of breast cancer, the American College of Radiology recommends an annual mammogram beginning at age 40.

Mammography really does save lives.

We are pleased to offer three-dimensional mammography (digital breast tomosynthesis) in Channahon, Diamond-Coal City, and Morris!

Call 815-942-4105 to schedule your appointment.

Self-referral without a physician's order is accepted.



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*Must pay at least one bill online each month to qualify for free bill pay. Inactive accounts will be charged \$4.95 per month.

New Will County Courthouse up and running

Will County officials on Friday, Oct. 9 cut the ribbon on the new state-of-the-art courthouse and justice center, which replaces the smaller and outdated facility on Jefferson Street in Joliet. The courthouse will be open to the public starting in early November.

"With this courthouse, we have invested in the future of Will County," said Will County Board Speaker Mimi Cowan. "This LEED certified building will give visitors, employees, and jurors a safer, more efficient path to justice and public

safety. With 38 courtrooms, in 10 stories, our courthouse provides space into which our growing county can expand."

In August 2013 the Will County Board first approved a comprehensive plan for major capital improvement projects throughout the county. This plan included the construction of the new courthouse following the new Public Safety Complex, which was completed earlier this year.

"We began planning for this courthouse years ago and now we see the results of those

plans," said Capital Improvements Committee Vice Chair Ray Tuminello. "It's our job as county board members to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure a stable future for the next generation. I'm confident that we've done that with this building."

The new justice center was built on the former First Midwest Bank site, on the southwest corner of Ottawa and Jefferson streets in downtown Joliet. The county purchased the property in 2014. In October 2018, the county held a topping off ceremony when the final piece of steel was placed atop the building.

"Every detail was gone over during planning to ensure that future generations will continue to be served well by this courthouse," said Capital Improvements Committee Chair Herb Brooks Jr. "In addition to being on time and on budget, I'd also like to thank all of the men and women who built this building with no injuries or accidents."

The new 370,000 sq. ft. building cost \$215 million and was designed by architecture firm Wight & Co and is a LEED certified building. In addition to the courtrooms, the courthouse will house offices for the state's attorney, the circuit clerk, and more.

"This new courthouse is part of the county's largest capital campaign in our history," said Will County Executive Denise Winfrey. "In recent years, we've opened our new Public Safety Complex, Animal



Photo by Marney Simon

THE NEW WILL COUNTY Courthouse will house 38 courtrooms on 10 floors. The \$215 million courthouse took three years to complete. The late Larry Walsh, who served as Will County Executive throughout most of the construction, said the building was part of "the rebirth" of downtown Joliet.

Control Center, Emergency Management Center, and just this year, a new state-of-the-art Health Department."

"This new courthouse will serve the people of Will County very well for decades to come. It will ensure that justice matters are handled smoothly and efficiently inside state-of-the-art facilities," Chief Judge Richard Schoenstedt said.

Circuit Court Clerk Andrea Lynn Chasteen added, "As the primary recorder of all legal proceedings and court filings

in Will County, my office handles and extraordinary amount of information which will now be streamlined and more easily created and maintained thanks to our new courthouse."

As they enter the building, jurors will be greeted by a two-story lobby filled with natural light from large windows. The first floor will also have a larger jury commission room to accommodate residents called to perform their civic duty. Lower level floors will contain

offices and courtrooms for high-volume courts, such as criminal misdemeanor, civil small claims, and adult probation courts.

The fourth and fifth floor will hold criminal felony courts, the public defender's office, and a small cafe. Floors six and seven include high-volume family courts, the eighth and ninth floors include additional courts, and the tenth floor will hold a grand jury.

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Sound-off, continued from page 4

unemployment benefits. Would he extend free tuition if there's no money in the budget to pay for it? Plus the cost of room, board and fees is not free. On average that costs is \$15,000 per year. Plus, colleges have no problem raising those fees every year. This is just another "feel good" campaign promise for a government program we cannot afford unless governor raises taxes. It will kill all of our wonderful private colleges in the state. For a student that wants a small college experience, want to stay close to home, or dreams of playing a college sport, you don't get the free money. Trade-offs are a fact of life, and higher education is no exception. Illinois cannot afford free tuition, we need a better grant program to help students achieve higher degrees.

A few facts

BRAIDWOOD—Responding to Margot's "Weather changes." Weather varies daily and climate refers to overall weather during an extended time period. But climate is changing faster than earth's ecosystems can adapt making earth barely habitable for humans and symbiotic life forms. The term global warming was used initially because increasing warmth throughout the earth caught the attention of experts, but now scientists see more complexity. Global warming causes weakening of the Gulf Stream which makes some areas colder, examples of which are the polar vortex winters we experienced several years ago. Right now the weatherman reminds us about the record-breaking number of tropical storms we've had in recent years due to ocean warming. We're literally cooking in a stew of acidic waters that kill the fish we eat. But these few facts merely scratch the surface. Sadly, young people worry about climate change whereas the elderly scoff because they'll be dead when catastrophe hits. Please, if you care about future generations, the denials of climate change aren't appreciated.

FOIAs cost time, money

BRAIDWOOD—To the newer Braidwood resident who has been filing FOIA request, after FOIA request. How much are your requests costing the taxpayers? The city administrator has been very vocal about how much money and time it has cost the city to fulfill the FOIA requests submitted by the former city clerk. How about he do the same with everyone else? Why do we, the taxpayers, have to foot the bill for this lady's desire for information to quench her troublemaking thirst?

Another insult

WILMINGTON—The men and women who serve our country have been insulted and used as scapegoats by President Trump over and over again. Trump calls the military "scoundrels" and "losers" and has refused to address the bounties on the heads of American soldiers. Now Trump claims Gold Star families infected him at a special ceremony at the White House. Another insult and another day in America.

Ralph D.

Kidnapping plot

WILMINGTON—Many sound-off letters complain about law and order violations by blaming the left. But armed right-wing militias threaten civil war throughout the country and 13 men in the Wolverine Watchmen of Michigan were recently apprehended with six arrested and seven arraigned for conspiracy to kidnap Michigan Governor Whitmer, a Democrat. President Trump's tweets, including "Liberate Michigan" encouraged these vigilantes by criticizing Whitmer. Some of these men are the same who threatened the safety of Michigan state legislators in the state capitol in May to such an extent that government business was shut down. The Wolverine Watchmen has ties to the same militia group advocating white power, anti-government sentiments which resulted in the Oklahoma City tragedy in 1995 where 168 died at the hands of Timothy McVeigh. The past several years include an extreme level of nationwide violent white nationalist activity which could be attributable to Trump's words, including "stand back, stand by" which the Proud Boys consider to be an endorsement.

Irene D.

Success

WILMINGTON—Responding to "Open up Illinois." You have some valid points. You seem to be saying that the elderly are the only ones at risk (5.4 percent death rate) and we don't mind losing them. But you are forgetting that many middle-age people have serious health problems such as my husband whose survival would be questionable. Should we go the way of Sweden? But their GDP fell 8.6 percent in the second quarter, more sharply than their neighboring countries which imposed restrictions. You can argue this until the cows come home. But then you look at New Zealand or Japan or South Korea who've had great results fighting the pandemic and realize that success depends on hard work, efficiency and good leadership.

What we need

BRAIDWOOD—When we hear news that the Navy is planning to increase its force to 500 ships, the people ask the question, can we, the people, have good health care, please, instead of more big ships? We already have the greatest military force in the world and our Navy currently has 293 ships. Do we really need 500? We definitely need a better health care system as other countries already have throughout the world. Twenty million Americans will lose their health insurance if the Supreme Court strikes down Obamacare and approximately half the country, over 100 million people, will lose preexisting condition coverage through their private insurance as well. And then we'll be back to where we were 10 years ago when we stood in line for hours for medical service through charity.

Renee K.

The cure

COAL CITY—Pro-life advocates have said no to stem cell research throughout the years despite the pleas from those struggling to stay alive who would benefit. Since entering politics President Trump has strangely adopted whatever evangelicals think and repeats whatever they say. Lo and behold. Suddenly evangelicals don't mind that Trump's recovery is based on Regeneration which was developed from cells used in abortion. I'm Christian but not of 'evangelical' denomination because evangelical leaders have traded their conscience for political power derived from their association with Trump. And now the hypocrisy of evangelical leaders has revealed itself once more by their acceptance of Trump's use of Regeneration. Power corrupts.

Stuck with the bill

BRAIDWOOD—In response to the theory that Democrats raise taxes. I'm happy to have taxes raised on the wealthy so they pay their fair share, Joe Biden included, who didn't do right using that tax loophole. If I admit to Biden's mistake, will you, Dan Hill, admit to President Trump's tax mistakes and massive tax fraud, his 20,000 lies, the pandemic debacle, his abuse of our military and the admission by Senate Republicans that Trump is guilty about impeachment charges but preferring to forgive him? Of course not. Even before the pandemic, our national debt was at \$23 trillion due to President Trump's tax cuts for the benefit of the wealthy and for the benefit of corporations who pay no taxes at all. Somebody has to foot the bill and when the wealthy don't pay the middle class gets stuck with the bill.

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Exact measurements required for The Fog Cutter

There are a few cocktails by which every tiki bar or Polynesian restaurant is measured, and three of them were created by "Trader" Vic Bergeron in the 1940s. His most famous creation was the Mai Tai, followed by the Scorpion, and don't forget the curiously strong and complex Fog Cutter.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

The flavor of the Fog Cutter is unlike anything else in the realm of Polynesian drinks. It is a large volume drink served in an oversized tiki mug, and is meant to be sipped slowly. Think of the Fog Cutter as the "Long Island Iced Tea" of the tiki bar. A little bit of everything into a large, high octane drink. How strong is the Fog Cutter? The Fog Cutter is so strong that Trader Vic enforced a strict two drink limit per customer.

About 10 years into service of the Fog Cutter, Trader Vic took pity on his customers and developed a lighter version of the cocktail which he called the Samoan Fog Cutter. The "Samoan" version was less potent, and was also more approachable due to the dilution that came from blending with crushed ice.

The Fog Cutter concept spread throughout the Polynesian bar scene, and by the 1970s most of the established tiki bars were serving their own version of the Fog Cutter. Perhaps the most popular variant of the original was the Fog Cutter from iconic New Orleans tiki bar, Bali Hai at the Beach. Bali Hai added an extra "g" to the name to differentiate the drink from the Trader Vic original.

What is the difference between the Bali Hai version and the original Fog Cutter? For starters, both the original Fog Cutter and the Samoan Fog Cutter were topped with a float of cream sherry, a dessert wine that declined in popularity after the end of the 1950s. Also, the crucial almond notes in the Bali Hai version are from almond extract whereas the almond in the WWII-era version uses an almond-based orgeat syrup.

The Fog Cutter is an 8-ingredient cocktail (not counting the ice). Be sure to use exact proportions when preparing this drink to maintain balance and complexity. You may "eyeball" your Gin and Tonic portions, but you will want more exact measurement when small amounts of some of the ingredients are used.

Speaking of small amounts, even if the recipe below is halved you will still have a delightful drink in the glass.

Despite the blending of four types of spirits, the drink comes together quite well. The fact the drink has been served in one form or another for nearly 80 years is a testament to

its reputation as a tiki bar standard.

Let's fire up the blender and make our very own Fog Cutter.

Some cocktails benefit from expensive, top shelf spirits. This is not one of those cocktails. Do not break the bank on spirits for this one, there is so much going on in this drink that shelling out extra money for higher quality spirits will not produce a better drink.

The Fog Cutter calls for two types of rum: light Puerto Rican rum and dark Jamaican rum. For the light rum, Bacardi, Cruzan, or Flor de Cana will get the job done. When it comes to dark Jamaican rum, stick with Myer's, Appleton 12, or Coruba.

Use your favorite gin, and if you don't have a favorite gin, use Beefeater.

You should keep a bottle of brandy in your home bar, even if you only use it as a mixer. Korbels is always a popular choice as it is also used in the Brandy Old Fashioned, but standard Christian Brothers and E&J will also perform well as mixers.

The almond extract used in the Fog Cutter is the same stuff that you will find in the cooking section of your local grocery store. Be careful with almond extract, this is some strong stuff! A little goes a long way, you will literally need only a few drops if you are cutting the recipe below in half.

The simple syrup used in the Fog Cutter is the standard 1:1 cane sugar/water simple syrup, but if you prefer your drinks on the sweet side you can certainly make your sugar syrup a bit richer.

Always use crushed ice in your blended drinks. It's easier on your blender and the end result will be a smooth drink, free of large chunks of ice.

This is a short blend, five seconds at most.

If you happen to have a bottle of cream sherry laying around and would like to taste something closer to the original version, pour a 1/2 to 1-ounce float on top of the drink after you pour the blended drink into the glass.

By the way, a "fog cutter" is a type of dive knife used in scuba applications. I am not sure exactly how that ties in to the name of the drink, we can only hope that the nobody was handling sharp objects when this drink was created.

The New Orleans Fog Cutter is built in a blender and served in a Fog Cutter mug or tall glass.

- Combine in blender:
- 2 oz. orange juice
 - 1 1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
 - 1 1/2 oz simple syrup
 - 1 oz. light Puerto Rican rum
 - 1 oz. dark Jamaican Rum
 - 1 oz. brandy
 - 1 oz. gin
 - 1/2 tsp. almond extract
 - 8 oz. (1 cup) crushed ice
- Blend for 5 seconds
Pour unstrained into a Fog Cutter mug or tall glass, garnish with mint sprig
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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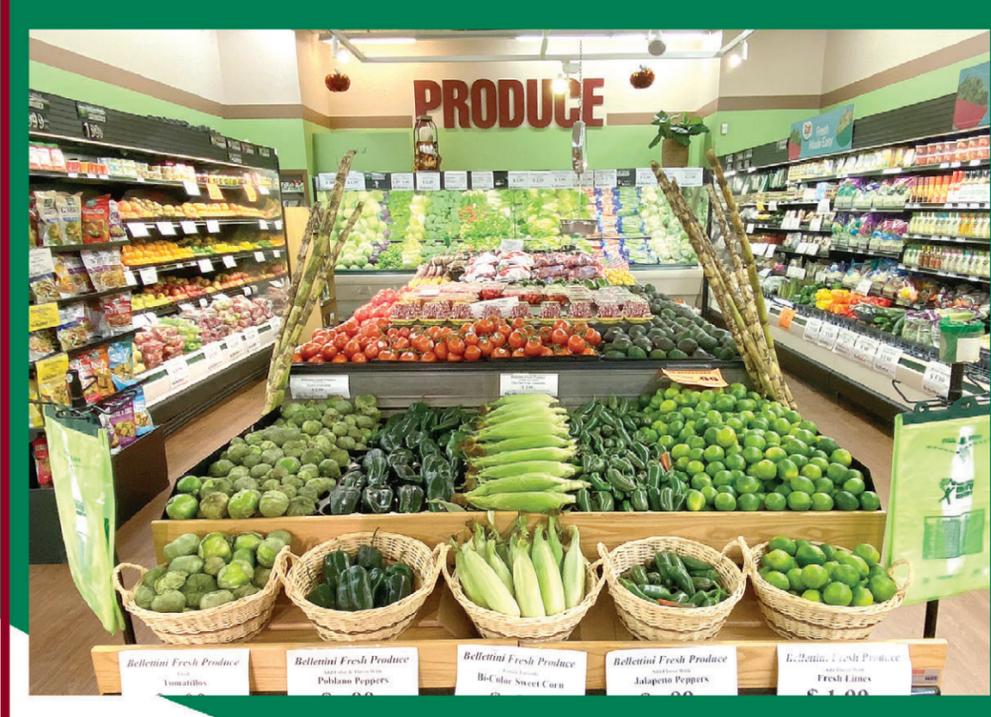
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OBITUARIES

Bruce Boward

WILMINGTON—Bruce Boward, 59, of Wilmington (Ritchey), passed away Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 at Landmark of Richton Park.

Born June 13, 1961 in Kankakee, Bruce Farley was a son of Theodore "Ted" and Janalyn (nee Farley) Boward. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1980. Bruce held employment for several area establishments as a bouncer. He was a member of the Kankakee Jaycees, the Lions Club, and was a volunteer with the Kempton Fire Department. He took pleasure in fishing and racing, but was especially fond of stock car racing. Bruce enjoyed swimming, wolves, pool, football and was an avid Chicago Bears fan. He will be remembered for his annual Santa Claus impersonation.

Survivors include his mother, Janalyn "Jan" of Wilmington; daughter, Lacinda White; grandson, Owen Boward; sisters, Elizabeth (Paul) Rossi and Thea (Brian) Coplea, both of Wilmington; half-siblings, Renee Torres, of Bourbonnais and Chad (Marla) Greene, of St. Anne; step-siblings: Ted (Renee) Boward, of Dover, DE; Rusty Boward and Raymond Boward, both of Lincoln, IL and Karen (Gail) Liesman, of Atlanta, IL; nieces and nephews: Shane Rossi, of Wilmington; Sarah Rossi, of Mercer, WI; Erica (Jacob) Bolatto, of Braidwood and Haiden and Ava Coplea, both of Wilmington; six great-nieces and nephews, and several cousins, as well as the mother of his children, Teresa Boward.



Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Ted on Dec. 23, 2008; children, Bruce Jr. "BJ" and Angel Boward and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. Face masks requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order, and the funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

A private family service will be held Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home. Those wishing to participate in Bruce's services are invited to watch the live stream on Friday morning starting at 11 a.m. by logging onto his memorial page.

Burial will be in Wesley Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bruce's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Bruce's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Bruce-Boward

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

Virginia Hill

COAL CITY—Virginia Hill, 91, and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020.

Born May 28, 1929 in Coal City, Virginia was a daughter of Jasper Gus and Cecelia (Gervase) Vitale. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1947. On Sept. 5, 1948, Virginia married Robert "Buster" Hill in Assumption Catholic Church and together they made their home and raised their family in Coal City.

Virginia worked in various secretarial positions and throughout the years held employment with Coal City Elementary School, UniRoyal and Stepan Chemical, from where she retired. She was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City, was a founding member of the Coal City Junior Women's Club, which originated the kindergarten program in the community. In addition, Virginia and Buster were long time members of the Coal City Area Club.

Virginia loved to dance, and was active with the County Line Kickers. She enjoyed playing cards and in years past bowled on a team. Being on the pontoon at the area club was a favorite pastime, and together Virginia and Buster took pleasure traveling and visiting relatives in Sicily. She loved her grandkids, and truly enjoyed being a grandma.

Survivors include two children, Greg (Kathy) Hill, of Morris and Claudia (Tom) Powell, of Coal City; five grandchildren: Lisa Hill, Burgundy (Chuck) Lander and Lyndsay (Jeff) Mills, all of Morris; Mona (Paul) Thurston, of Chicago and Eric Powell, of Coal City; great-grandchildren: Andrew Glastetter (fiancé, Sabrina Bergeson), Nick Glastetter (fiancé,



Sadey Brewer), Madison Lander, Cameron Lander, Avery Powell, Jayda Mills, Logan Mills, Ava Mills, Abigail Mills, Thomas Thurston and Ella Thurston; two great-great-grandchildren: Keagin Lowe and Maverick Glastetter, with another expected; brother-in-law, John (Pat) Hill, of Coal City and sister-in-law, Pat (the late Ralph) Hill, of Arkansas, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as cousins.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Buster; granddaughter, Erika Bauermeister and three sisters: Bernice (Don) Lowery, Catherine (Roy) Wills and Sarah (Edward Sr.) Vitko.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City.

Burial followed in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Virginia was laid to rest with her late husband, Buster.

Pallbearers were: Eric Powell, Chuck Lander, Paul Thurston, Cameron Lander, Drew Glastetter and Nick Glastetter.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Virginia's memory to the Assumption Catholic Church Building Campaign, 195 S. Kankakee St., Coal City, IL 60416 or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Virginia's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Virginia-Hill

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

John J. Dzuris

COAL CITY—John J. Dzuris, 95, of Coal City, passed away Oct. 7, 2020.

Born Feb. 20, 1925 in Streator, IL, John Jacob was a son of John and Susan (Kolesar) Dzuris. He was raised in the Streator area, educated in the country school, and graduated from Streator High School with the class of 1942. Following graduation, John was drafted into the US Army, and honorably served during World War II with the Army Corps of Engineers linking the Ledo Road with the Burma Road to China. Following 32 months in the service, he returned home to enroll at Illinois State Normal University in the fall of 1946 under the G.I. Bill. He earned his bachelors of science in education in 1949, and later attained his master's in education from the University of Illinois. John was an excellent athlete his entire life; played baseball all through his school years, including four years of Redbird Baseball, and even tried out for the Chicago Cubs.

On June 11, 1949, John married Freda Thomas in the First United Methodist Church in Maroa, IL, and together they made their home, raised their family and made their careers in Coal City. In 1950, John was hired at Coal City High School as a business teacher, instructing typing and bookkeeping. For the following 37 years he coached baseball 25 years; basketball 20 years and sponsored Scholastic Bowl. In 1964, John took the position of head guidance counselor and retired from the Coal City School District in 1987. He was an active member of the Coal City Lions Club, as well as the Coal City United Methodist Church, where he was involved on many committees, and served as treasurer for 20 years.



In his free time, John enjoyed golf, tennis and bike riding. He was an avid reader, took pleasure in gardening, and enjoyed many memorable travels with his dear wife, Freda.

Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Freda; two daughters, Lauri Dzuris (Alan Long), of Aurora and Carol (Rick) Swearingen, of Mahomet; grandchildren: Fana Dzuris Long, of Aurora; Matthew Swearingen, of Peoria and Kate (Andy) Nelson, of Champaign and two great-grandchildren, Madilyn Swearingen and Ivy Nelson.

John was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, George and three sisters: Lena, Catherine and Ann.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 in the Coal City United Methodist Church with Reverend Brad Shumaker officiating. Burial followed in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in John's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church Building Fund, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416; the Coal City Firemen's Association, 35 S. DeWitt Place, Coal City, IL 60416 or to Unit #1 Educational Foundation (for a scholarship which will be established in John's memory) P.O. Box 177, Coal City, IL 60416.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share John's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/John-Dzuris

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Judith K. O'Bert

COAL CITY—Judith K. O'Bert, 74 and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, October 06, 2020 at Amita St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born September 26, 1946 in Joliet, Judith Kay was a daughter of Anton and Theresa (Vercellotti) O'Bert. She was raised and educated in Coal City, graduated from Coal City High School, and went on to attend Joliet Junior College. Judith worked as a secretary for an engineering firm; was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City, and in her free time enjoyed crafts and working crossword puzzles.

Survivors include her brother Thomas (the late Virginia) O'Bert of Shorewood; sister, Debbie (Dan) Altiery of Braidwood; nieces: Stephanie O'Bert of Shorewood and Catie (Jake)



Furgason of Joliet, and nephew, Michael (Trish) Ellsworth of Seattle WA.

Judith was preceded in death by her parents, and sister-in-law, Virginia.

The family received friends for a visitation on Saturday, October 10, 2020 until the time of funeral service at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 North Broadway (one block north of Illinois Route 113) in Coal City.

Burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Judith's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Judith-Obert Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Anthony Plese

WILMINGTON—Anthony L. "Tony" Plese passed away at his home in Wilmington on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020 after a courageous two-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Tony was born the fifth of Dean and Judy Plese's six children on Aug. 15, 1967 and grew up in the family home on Widows Road while attending Wilmington area schools and later in Upstate New York after moving there with his family in the mid-80's. During his high school years, Tony played football, was a member of the (NY) national honor society and he developed an interest in the Beatles and their music, remaining a fan for the rest of his life. He was even fortunate enough to fulfill a personal dream by going to see Paul McCartney in concert with a few of his brothers a few years back, something that he reflected on happily.

Tony obtained a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and worked as a graphic designer in New York, Chicago and San Diego before returning to Illinois in 2003 to pursue a new career path in healthcare. After obtaining a degree in nursing from Loyola University in Chicago, Tony spent the remainder of his working years in the Chicago area hospital community serving the needs of others before his own illness made it impossible for him to continue in early 2019. A loving and devoted son, Tony's sole regret was that he did not get to use the degree and experience he'd gained for the initial purpose for which he intended, to care for his parents later in life when he anticipated they would need it.

A born artist, Tony began doing sketches of homes in the Wilmington area whose unusual architectural details caught his eye as a young boy. Elma O. Barnes of the Wilmington Advocate immediately noticed Tony's natural talent and made his artwork a feature in her regular column about Wilmington's historical landmarks when he was still in elementary school.

Along his life's journey, Tony traveled the U.S. and later France, he bought a home, got married and continued to feed his artistic nature by creating a prolific body of illustration work and watercolors. His art did not go unnoticed as he consistently sold pieces, showed competitively and he received a treasured letter of encouragement when he needed it most, just after his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, from a personal hero, the artist Jasper Johns. Tony also developed his own original characters, collectively known as Chachkees, which he marketed right up until the week before his passing.



Anyone who knew Tony would have no doubt that he began working on his next masterpiece as soon as he crossed heaven's threshold.

An excellent conversationalist, Tony's intelligence, modest nature and sly sense of humor endeared him to all who were lucky enough to know him. The friends he made along the way, he kept and he maintained those relationships no matter the passing time or distance involved. Despite the many serious health challenges Tony faced starting in 1989 with a diagnosis of chronic leukemia, Tony met the challenges that life gave him with his head up and a great sense of hope and dignity. He kept going, he kept achieving, he kept trying, he kept living. He was an inspiration to his beloved family and friends all the days of his life. Tony will be terribly missed by all who knew and loved him; the world is now a little darker and a little colder without his sweet light in it. Our loss is truly heaven's gain.

Tony is survived by his life partner and caregiver, Gabriel Rodriguez; his devoted mother, Judith Benson Plese; his siblings: Dean (Stacy), David (Angela), Martin (Maureen), Maria, and Eric (Christine); many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends with whom he greatly enjoyed spending time, and by his beloved dogs, Chico and Sally, who were his constant companions.

He was preceded in death by his beloved father, Dean E. Plese in June of this year and by his grandparents, James and Ellen Benson and John and Margaret Plese.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A private visitation will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington. Those wishing to participate in Tony's services are invited to watch the live stream on Wednesday morning, starting at 11 a.m. by logging onto his memorial page.

In lieu of flowers, Tony's family asks that donations be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Tony's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Anthony-Plese

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

John Heck

JOLIET—John Richard Heck, 78, of Joliet, passed away Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 at Amita Health Saint Joseph Medical Center.

John was raised and educated in Wilmington and later proudly served in the United States Navy as a Sea Bee. After his time in the service he made a home in Joliet and worked as a union carpenter for Local #174 until retiring after 35 years of dedication. John didn't stay retired for long. He worked at different places just to make sure he always stayed busy. His final place of employment was with Best Hybrid.

John was a man of faith and always put his love for God first. He was a long time parishioner of Joliet First Assembly. In his free time, John enjoyed traveling with his wife, Sandy. They would go on cruises together and John would go on motorcycle trips when he could. His favorite time was always spent with his grandchildren. John will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sandy (Benco) Heck, of Joliet; son, Donald (Genevieve) Heck, of Georgia; daughter, Julie Pehlke; five grandchildren: Denise Heck,



Diandra Heck, Jack Pehlke, Cole Pehlke and Grace Pehlke; four sisters: Mary Ruth Bullock, Dora (Dan) Wilson, Marlene Akins and Jodi (Glen) Schwartz and two brothers, Art (Carol) Heck and Larry Heck.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Alpha Heck, and one sister, Anna Ward.

A note from his wife Sandy: "I miss you John, but I know that you are with our Lord and are happy. A place you have wanted to be for years. Rest in peace. I've loved you dearly for 37 years."

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

The family will receive relatives and friends for a memorial visitation on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 from 2 p.m. until time of memorial service at 4 p.m. at Tezak Funeral Home, 1211 Plainfield Rd. in Joliet. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, masks and social distancing practices are required inside the funeral home and a capacity of 50 guests will be allowed in at a time. Guests are encouraged to visit, but be brief in their stay to allow for more attendees.

Tezak Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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Daniel Welter Jr.

CABERY, IL—Daniel David Welter Jr., "Danny Boy," 66, of Cabery, IL, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 at his home.

Born Sept. 22, 1954 in Joliet, Danny was a son of Daniel Sr., and Lorraine (nee Schultz) Welter. He was raised and educated in Joliet and worked as an auto mechanic for most of his life. Danny took great pride in working on cars and loved any fast car or motorcycle.



Survivors include two children, Daniel D. Welter III (Hope Ames) and Iris Welter; numerous grandchildren, as well as two brothers and one sister: Raymond (Catherine) Walls, Christine Cravens, and Matthew (Kerri) Welter.

Danny was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Robert Walls and two sisters: Jacqueline Stewart and Sherrill Mueller.

Per Danny's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and there are no services planned at this time.

Family and friends may sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Danny's memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

OBITUARIES

Charles J. Butcher

WILMINGTON—Charles J. Butcher, 69, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly and alongside his canine companion, Sammy, as the result of a motor vehicle accident on Oct. 12, 2020.

Born Oct. 28, 1950 in Joliet, Charles James was a son of James and Thelma (Plager) Butcher. He was raised and educated in Wilmington, and went on to honorably serve in the United States Navy. On June 12, 1982, Charles married Catherine "Cathy" Hooper, and together they made their family and raised their three daughters in Wilmington.

Charlie was employed with ComEd, and worked as a Troublemaker out of the Joliet and Bradley facilities before retiring after 30 years of service. He loved to power parachute, and took pleasure in the outdoors, animals of all kinds, and spending time at the family Circle B Farm. Charlie enjoyed traveling, especially to Arizona, and will be remembered for his love of family, his children, and not to forget his eclectic style.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy; three daughters: Desiree (Matthew) Burris, of Batavia;

Jessie Butcher (fiance' Colin Shepley), of Bourbonnais and Olivia (Chad) Bumpous, of Wilmington; six grandchildren: Huntley and Monte Burris, Castiel Lemke, Landyn Shepley and Parker and Brayden Bumpous; one brother, Harry (Eyvonne) Butcher, of Wilmington and one sister, Susan (Louis) Matusiak, of Arizona.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents.

A private family visitation and funeral will be held. Charlie will be laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Charlie's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Charles memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Charles-Butcher

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



Garden Club to meet Oct. 21

The Wilmington Garden Club's next meeting is planned for Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Park District 315 N. Water Street. Special guest speaker will be Nancy Kuhajda, Will County director of Master Gardening, and Master Naturalist.

New members are always welcome. For more information call Carol at 815-476-2469, or Judy at 815-476-1875.

Dispose of prescription drugs safely

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Wilmington Police Department will offer free safe disposal of prescription drugs from 10 a.m. to noon in the CVS parking lot at 1101 S. Water St. Wilmington

Items to be accepted include outdated and/or left-over prescription drugs.

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Robert Rader

WILMINGTON—Robert "Bob" Rader, 65, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family.

Born Oct. 12, 1955 in Joliet, Robert Delanee was the son of Robert and Deloris (nee Fridde) Rader. He was raised and educated in Wilmington. Bob was a former volunteer and a trustee at the Wilmington Fire Department and was an active member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge. On July 28, 1979 Bob married Elizabeth Boyd in the Ritchey United Methodist Church. Bob was always extraordinarily proud of his children and grandchildren. He will be remembered for his love of motorcycles, Elvis Presley, and old country music.

Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Beth; three children: Nicholas (Kathleen) Rader and Jacqueline (Craig) Mark, all of Wilmington and Candace (Russell) Toler, of Braidwood; 10 grandchildren: Jacob Rader, Ashlei Rader, Austin Rader, Jordan Rader, Braydon Mark, Landon Mark, Adrianna Mark, Taylor Toler, Morgan Toler, and Ryland Toler; brothers, Donald (Debbie) Shewmake and Richard Shewmake; sister, Judith (Red) Hall; numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his canine companion, Sassy.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents,



brother, James Shewmake and sisters: Delores Shewmake, Patricia Welter and Dorsalee Miley.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington from 1 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 3 p.m. At the family's request, face masks requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order, and the funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bob's name to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431, Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates Ltd., 2614 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60435, or to the Wilmington Fire Protection District, 501 N. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Bob's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Robert-Bob-Rader

Memorial services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Prison movie night

The Rialto Square Theatre and Joliet Area Historical Museum are teaming up for a supernaturally spectacular outdoor movie night fundraiser, Fall Flicks in the Yard featuring two spooky classics from the 1980s. Beetlejuice (1988) will be shown on Friday, Oct. 23, followed by Ghostbusters (1984) on Saturday, Oct. 24. Films will be shown on large outdoor screen inside the walls of the museum's Old Joliet Prison historic site.

The event will include opportunities for self-guided tours throughout the prison, local food vendors, special merchandise, beverage bar, and photo ops and more. In adherence with Phase Four Guidelines of the State's Restore Illinois Plan, event seating is a numbered, demarcated circle in the grass. Each circle comes with two admissions, and up to 4 additional tickets per circle may be purchased. Circles will be spaced at a minimum of eight-foot intervals to provide for social distancing.

Admission is \$50 for a two-person, 8 foot circle. Additional admissions are \$20 per person with a max of four additional admissions per circle. Masks are required and must be worn at all times when outside of your circle. To register go to www.joliet-prison.org or www.jolietmuseum.org or call 312- 978-1282

Patricia A. Schmetter

WISCONSIN—Patricia A. Schmetter, 84, of Elkhorn, WI, and formerly of Wilmington passed away Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 at Ridgestone Gardens of Elkhorn, WI.

Patricia was born on May 28, 1936, daughter of Francis and Rita (Kennedy) Bell. She married Dr. Roger Louis Schmetter on Oct. 15, 1960. He has since past in 1985.

Patricia worked at many different places in her younger years, where for a time she was a dental hygienist for her husband and also a bookkeeper. She was an amateur interior designer, and was skilled with the ability of taking on home projects, such as drywalling her entire garage by herself. She also took joy in participating for many years with the Lakeland

Players.

Patricia is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Eric (Michelle) Schmetter, of Elkhorn, WI, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, parents and step-mother, Frances.

A private memorial service will take place to honor Patricia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Patricia's name to a charity of the donor's choice.

Haase-Lockwood & Associates Funeral Home and Crematory of Elkhorn is assisting the family. An online guest registry can be found at www.haaselockwoodffhs.com.

Grace Lutheran offers three ways to worship

Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington is now offering three ways to worship each Sunday at 9 a.m.

Inside the Sanctuary: The church has put together careful protocols that must be followed, which include: wearing masks at all times when in the building; taking temperatures as people enter; entering and exiting through certain doors and sitting in specific places as directed by the ushers, and others.

A special disinfectant machine has been purchased for cleaning the sanctuary between services. One issue might be available seating: this will be very limited because of

the need to sit at least six feet apart (spots are marked, please follow them). Please do not choose this worshipping option if you are part of a high-risk population.

In cars: Simply park in the church parking lot, and tune your FM radio to 91.7. You can then listen to the whole service. This worship option would be good for those who cannot watch online because they do not have internet access, but are also in a high-risk group and cannot risk worshipping inside (or, if we have overflow from limited seating inside).

Communion will be taken out to each car, and ushers will collect offerings if you turn

your hazard lights on!

Live online: If you are unable to attend worship inperson, you can still view and participate in the service live online. Remember that everything you need for Sunday worship is on the front page of the church's website, including a link to find the video ("Worship with us!") and a link to the worship bulletin for you to download and print beforehand ("Bulletin PDF").

Grace Lutheran Church's website is www.gracellm.org. Be sure to have a little bread and wine/grape juice ready.

IL State Police involved in fatal shooting

An investigation is ongoing into the shooting of a Harvey man who pulled a gun during a traffic stop by Illinois State Police on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at approximately 12:28 a.m.

An Illinois State Police (ISP) District 15 Trooper conducted a traffic stop at 147th Street and Halsted Avenue in Harvey, IL for an ILCS equipment violation, no headlights.

At the request of the trooper, the female driver, 21, of Chicago, stepped out of the vehicle for further investigation. A second trooper who was also on scene was positioned on the passenger side door of the vehicle. At this time, the front seat male passenger, Darren Green Jr, 30, of Harvey, IL moved into the driver's seat.

The Trooper, who was located near the driver's side

door of the vehicle, announced that he observed a firearm and a brief struggle ensued to gain control over the firearm. As the trooper was attempting to secure the firearm, Green began driving the vehicle. Two additional rear female passengers, a 29-year-old of Dolton, IL and an 8-year-old juvenile of Matteson, IL, were able to exit the vehicle.

The vehicle was driven forward by Green while dragging both troopers before striking a bus shelter and coming to a stop. During this time, the firearm discharged, and Green was struck. Neither trooper was struck by gun fire nor did any trooper discharge their duty weapon. The other passengers were not injured. Both troopers were transported to a local area hospital where they were treated and released. Green was transport-

ed to another local area hospital and was pronounced deceased at approximately 4:25 a.m.

Green did not have a valid Firearm Owners Identification Card (FOID) or Conceal Carry License (CCL).

The trooper on the driver's side of the vehicle has been employed with the Illinois State Police for 11 years. The trooper on the passenger side of the vehicle has been employed with the Illinois State Police for 11 months.

In accordance with the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (50 ILCS 727) and the Department of State Police Law (20 ILCS 2605), Special Agents of the Division of Internal Investigation are investigating these events.

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Forest preserve board takes action leading to dam removal

Action taken Thursday, Oct. 8, by the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Board of Commissioners will lead to the removal of the Hammel Woods Dam in Shorewood.

Semper Fi Land Services Inc. was hired to remove the dam, WBK Engineering LLC will oversee the work and the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition has agreed to pay for the removal.

The removal process cannot begin until permits for the work have been approved by all necessary regulatory agencies.

The work will take place in two stages with half the river water at the project site being drained during each phase using water storage cofferdams, said Andrew Hawkins, the Forest Preserve District's director of planning.

If the permits are in place this fall, the work could take around a month because water levels are lower, Hawkins said. If the permits are delayed and work begins in the spring, the project could take longer due to higher water levels, he explained. Other factors also could affect the timeline.

The portion of the stone dam that rises above the river bottom will be removed, but the stone footings below the river bottom will remain. After the dam is taken out of the river, natural river rocks will be added near the banks to create "riffles" that will oxygenate the water. In spring 2021, native vegetation will be planted to stabilize the riverbank.

The work will return the river to a more natural, healthier state, and it will make the river safer for paddlers because they will no longer have to portage around the dam, Hawkins said. While there were objections in the past to removal of the dam for



THE LOWHEAD DAM at Hammel Woods will be removed under safety concerns by the Will County Forest Preserve.

sentimental reasons, that no longer is the case, he explained.

"Now people seem to recognize the environmental, health and safety benefits of removing the dam," he said.

While the dam is being removed, a new canoe/kayak launch will be built downstream of the current launch on the DuPage River. The old launch will then be removed.

The Hammel Woods Dam was built in the 1930s by Civilian Conservation Corps workers. The 4-foot-high concrete and limestone dam was built to create a pool of water for recreational purposes during a time when the DuPage River had a much lower volume of water than it does now.

In 2003, The Conservation Foundation studied five dams along the river, including the Hammel Woods Dam, looking

for ways to improve the ecology of the river. The study concluded that removal of the Hammel Woods Dam would allow aquatic species to move upstream and improve safety. In 2011, the foundation completed a two-year watershed-based plan for the DuPage River, which led to the creation of The Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition in 2012.

The coalition's goal is to preserve and enhance water quality in the river and its tributaries. The coalition also looks for ways to help communities along the river comply with more stringent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements related to wastewater treatment plants discharging into the river. The Forest Preserve District joined the coalition, which is made up mostly of municipalities that discharge into the river,

ranging from Bolingbrook in the north to Channahon in the south.

In 2017, the coalition paid for a study of the pros and cons of either modifying or removing the Hammel Woods Dam. Dam removal was recommended, but the amount of funding needed was not yet available to move forward with the plan.

In February 2019, the city of Naperville received a new wastewater discharge permit from the EPA and as part of that process, it had to pay fees to the coalition for river-related enhancements. That money was earmarked for the Hammel Woods Dam removal and the planning process began in spring 2019.

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

Learn about the essential role of snakes on Oct. 22

How are snakes involved in the world's food chain and in restoring prairie? Find out on Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 to 8 p.m. during a virtual interpretive program that will be presented by Grace Wu, biological science technician at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Wu is in her final year in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Master's program in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. For two years, she collected data for her thesis, which focused on tallgrass prairie restoration effects on snake communities. On Oct. 22, she will talk about the differences in snake communities in Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie restoration areas. She will tell about prairie restoration effects on those communities.

"I wrote my thesis hoping to shed some fascinating and surprising light on snakes, which don't always so readily get the credit that they deserve," Wu said. "What a lot of people don't know is that

snakes are special and vital animals in the food chain. They are a mid-level predator, meaning they eat prey, but also can become prey. This special role means they could be good indicators of land health and may be able to shed light on prairie restoration success."

At Midewin NTP, Wu is involved in a variety of restoration activities, including prescribed burning, which is an essential restorative tool.

For two weeks this past summer Wu was on a wildfire assignment in Colorado. She was part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources-sponsored inter-agency wildland fire crew that helped fight the Pine Gulch Fire in Grand Junction, Colorado. The team included other USDA Forest Service employees and staff with The Nature Conservancy and IDNR.

To register for Grace Wu's virtual presentation on Oct. 22, email: SM.FS.Midewin_RSVP@usda.gov or call: (815) 423-6370.



Courtesy Photo by Nick Budde

USDA FOREST SERVICE'S Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Biological Science Technician holds a fox snake on the west side of Midewin NTP. Wu will talk about the importance of snakes to the world's food supply and to prairie restoration in a virtual program on Oct. 22, 7 to 8 p.m.

Donate blood to help those fighting breast cancer

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to band together to provide hope and healing to patients fighting cancer by giving blood or platelets.

In appreciation, those who come to give Oct. 15-Nov. 11 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Suburban Propane.

Donors are asked to make appointments by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Donors of all blood types are urged to help ensure a stable supply for cancer patients and others this fall. To thank those who come to give in October, the Red Cross is also offering a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card to five lucky winners.

Blood donations play a crucial role in

cancer treatment. Cancer patients undergoing surgery and chemotherapy may require red blood cell or platelet transfusions. In fact, patients fighting cancer need more blood than those with any other disease, using nearly one-quarter of the nation's blood supply.

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions.

Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions - including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff - have been implemented. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include:

Bourbonnais
Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5, noon - 6 p.m. at the Annex, 1690 Newtowne Dr.

Oct. 30, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Bourbonnais Fire Department, 1080 Armour Rd.

Oct. 16, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Riverside Medical Center, 350 N. Wall

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-733-2767.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

When: **October 24th from 10 A.M. to NOON**

Where: **CVS Parking Lot, 1101 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL**

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Thank you to WPD & CVS for partnering with WCHC for Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Come take a seat



The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce believes it's the little things that can make a difference. That's why we recently completed a campaign to bring benches to the downtown shopping district. It's an investment we believe will make for a more friendly shopping experience, especially for those poor husbands with aching feet waiting for their spouse to come out of a store.

Look for our benches and take a seat. We're proud of the project and want you to know there is more beautification to come.



P.O. Box 724, Wilmington • 815.476.5991

Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit www.freepressnewspapers.com

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

Saturday, October 17

• noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Historical Society Museum open to the public, 111 N Center St., Braidwood.

Monday, October 19

• 4 p.m. Mobile food pantry distributing food to those in need, St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington.
 • 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Vincent's Table offering carryout meals to anyone in need at Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. 1st St., Braidwood

Tuesday, October 20

• 10:30 a.m., Crafts and Conversation at Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington. Open to public, wear a mask.
 • 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.
 • 7 p.m., Coal City Park Board meeting at the Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway.

Wednesday, October 21

• 1 p.m., Wilmington Garden Club meeting at the Wilmington Park District 315 N. Water Street. Special guest speaker will be Nancy Kuhajda, Will County director of Master Gardening, and Master Naturalist.
 • 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

Thursday, October 22

• noon to 1 p.m., Grace Wu talk on snakes, virtual presentation, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Register by email to sm.fs.midewin_RSVP@usda.gov or call 815-423-6370

7 p.m., Wilmington Island Park District board meeting, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Friday, October 23

6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Godley Ghost Ride, ages 2-12, enter south entrance off Smith Road for drive through Halloween event.
 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Saturday, October 24

• 10 a.m. to noon, Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Wilmington Police Department will offer free safe disposal of prescription drugs in the CVS parking lot at 1101 S. Water St.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Sunday, October 25

• 7 a.m. to noon, Essex Lions Club breakfast, Essex Community Hall, 217 Paris St., Essex

Tuesday, October 27

7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, city hall, 141 W. Main St.,

Wednesday, October 28

6 p.m., Coal City School Board study session at the administration center.

6 p.m., Wilmington Area Historical Society meeting, updates in museum, 114 N. Main St.

7 p.m., Coal City Village Board meeting, Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway.

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Utilities extend shutoff moratorium to winter 2021

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Several state-regulated utilities have voluntarily extended a moratorium on disconnections into next year after requests from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

The ICC announced that Nicor Gas and Liberty Utilities have agreed to halt shutoffs due to missed or late payments for all residential customers until March 31, 2021.

Ameren Illinois, Aqua Illinois, Illinois American Water, Commonwealth Edison, Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas and Utility Services of Illinois have agreed to delay disconnections to the same date for residential customers who qualify for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and those financially

impacted by COVID-19.

MidAmerican has extended its moratorium on shutoffs for LIHEAP-qualified residential customers until March 31, 2021 as well, and is considering other options, according to ICC.

To qualify for LIHEAP, residential customers' combined household income for the 30 days prior to submitting an application must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for their family size. A spokesperson for the ICC said it is strongly encouraging all residential customers of the participating utilities to call their utility to check their eligibility. The LIHEAP application period runs from July of this year to June 30, 2021, or until funding set aside for the program is exhausted.

According to the ICC release, residential customers

who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic and cannot pay their utility bill do not need to fill out any forms or provide paperwork to qualify for the moratorium. They just need to "make the phone call and verbalize" their situation to receive a delay on shutoffs if their state-regulated utility is participating in COVID-19 related moratoriums.

"This action will ensure a continuation of utility service. Deferred payment arrangements are also available for both residential and small business customers needing help managing their utility bill obligation during these difficult times," according to the release.

On June 18, the ICC approved a COVID-19 utility agreement with state-regulated utilities that included the

first moratorium on shutoffs that some utilities have since voluntarily extended. The agreement also included consumer protections aimed at protecting utility customers during the coronavirus pandemic, such as deferred payment agreements, temporary waivers for reconnection fees and new deposit requirements.

"Illinois citizens are facing extraordinary challenges due to the pandemic. Low income families and those impacted by COVID-19 should not have to fear losing basic services like electricity, heat, or fresh water," Carrie Zalewski, ICC Chairman, said in a news release. "The voluntary actions by these utilities will provide our most vulnerable citizens with some peace of mind, especially as cold weather approaches."

In Loving Memory

Jennifer M. Cowie
 10-06-81 - 12-25-19

We miss you and think of you every day.

Love, Mom and Dad



Crafts and Conversation at the church

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Wilmington invites the public to join in Tuesday morning Crafts and Conversation. From left, Diane Creed, Pastor Kyle Johnson, Cindy Filas, and Margaret Bungo talk over how to make a tied fleece throw. If you want to get out to a safe place to chat and work on your craft, stop in at Grace any Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM. Coffee's on!

Deadline Wednesday, Oct. 28

Saluting Our Veterans

and those currently serving!

We need your photos of Veterans and Soldiers

We invite you to share a photo and name of local Veterans and Soldiers in honor of Veteran's Day!

We will be remembering the brave men and women from this area who have fought to protect our country's freedoms at home and overseas. We will be featuring soldiers past and present including those on active duty.

Please note:
 If you have submitted a photo and name in previous years you do not need to submit it again unless something has changed.

Published on Wednesday, November 11th
Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 28

If your veteran or soldier was included last year, you do not need to re-submit the photo. Those featured last year will be automatically included.

Your Name _____
 Your Phone _____
 Veterans Name _____
 Years Served _____
 Branch of Service _____
 *Town _____

Send photo and form by email to the following:
news@fpnusa.com
 or deliver to:
 Coal City Courant
 271 S. Broadway
 Coal City, IL 60416
 Free Press Newspapers
 111 S. Water Street
 Wilmington, IL 60481

*Not required.

For more info call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315

Wilmington Moose Family Center

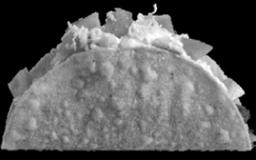
32050 S. West River Rd • 815-476-6472

- 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 —

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 Courier
- 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

2nd floor 1 BR apt. for rent. 725 S. Broadway, Coal City. Same floor washer & dryer, \$660/mo. plus \$700 security. Price includes utilities. If interested call 815-685-2919 and leave a message. ca 42b-46a

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. 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

FOR FREE

Free for the hauling, horse manure, Wilmington area, call 815-931-0098. fr11a-tfn

GARAGE SALE

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

185 S. Primrose Dr. (Meadow Estates), Coal City, Fri., Oct. 16, Sat., Oct. 17 & Sun., Oct. 18 from 8am-5pm and Fri., Oct. 23 & Sat., Oct. 24 from 8am-5pm. Tools, Christmas items, household items and much more. cc42a-43b

\$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, 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.



REED-CUSTER EXCELLENCE IN K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

GARAGE SALE

2445 Amber Ln., Diamond, Saturday, Oct. 17th from 8am-4pm. Large amount of new women's clothing (dresses/tops/leggings and more), thirty-one items, home goods, and more. Priced to sell. cc42ab

248 E. Cermak, Braidwood, Fri. & Sat., Oct. 23rd & 24th starting at 7:30am. Remodeled! Not large sale, but exceptional quality Pottery Barn furniture. Perfect condition ivory recliner, new king organic latex mattress with topper, Weather Tech, brand new Bali cellular sliding door and kitchen shades, & more.

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.com> or call 815-836-2635. cc41a-44b

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

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: adforhelpwanted@yahoo.com

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

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Selection of Cabin/Northwoods Decor. Antler ceiling fan lite, (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. cc41b-43a

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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.

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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.

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

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

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 Bakery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

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 MORTGAGOR (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.

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 791-0153 - John Jr.
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 Coal City
 Mandy Eaton
 815-791-2913

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

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

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re-shingles and modified rubber and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, blown-in insulation in attics. 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

21 CENTURY 21
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 3 BR, 2 BA ranch near school, park & beach club. Small town living at its best! Call/Text Sheri 815-955-0482. LC465

DIAMOND \$339,500
 Like new 3 BR, 2.2 BA, lrg. 4-A lge, 4100+sq. ft., 2015 roofs, sliding windows, 4.5 car garage, finished basement. Rod Baundring 815-674-2583. LB775

MORRIS \$225,000
 4 BR, 3 full BAs ranch home in Goose Lake. Fenced yard, 2 decks. 2 sheds. Jim Maskel 693-0180. CC3440

MAZON \$190,000
 Well built 3 BR ranch home with large rooms on a country lot. 7 minutes south of Morris. Text Tom 815-474-6670. RG1960

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-1, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST AS TRUSTEE Plaintiff, -v- DAVID BZDILL, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, ALLEN REYNOLDS, ERIC BEAZLEY, LUKE BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 2019 CH 33 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 7, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 18, 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 3770 WILL COURT, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 05-16-226-016 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$212,795.48. 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 pur-

chaser 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 MORTGAGOR (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. JOHNBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 19-6979, 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. JOHNBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710 E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. 19-6979 Case Number: 2019 CH 33 TJSC#: 40-2212 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 # 2019 CH 33 13157931 Published in the Free Press Newspapers, Wed., Oct. 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

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BRUCE FLATNESS.....343-2847	KELLY PINA.....823-6147	TAMI FERGUSON.....325-0550
CHRISTY SCHMAEKE.....693-5757	KIM GARRETSON.....545-5723	TERRI KIEF.....474-1575
CINDIE HUNT.....712-7034	LORRIE TOLER.....715-5959	THERESA LAMB.....735-8494
CODY KRUG.....514-5733	MARYANN SPIEWAK.....708-289-4983	TOM WAWCZAK.....735-2868
DELLA COUGHLIN.....258-6667	RODNEY BAUDINO.....674-2583	WALTER CASTELLUCCIO.....791-7991
GREG SPIEWAK.....278-2772	SCOTT HUNT.....584-6930	ZACHARY HORNSBY.....474-4410

Madigan created this environment, yet refuses to cooperate

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin is a former prosecutor, and that outlook on life has never really left him.

He's not big on a lot of criminal justice reforms, even standing up to his party's president to oppose the early prison release of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich. He was staunchly opposed to legalizing cannabis. I'm sure that House Speaker Michael Madigan's highly public legal troubles grate on Durkin to no end, as they would on almost any former prosecutor.

So, even though Durkin's petition which triggered the creation of the House Special Investigating Committee to look into the allegations against Madigan is steeped in the politics of the moment (for the obvious campaign reasons, but also to satisfy the demands of some of his members and some major GOP campaign donors who want him to get much tougher on Madigan, Gov. Pritzker and other Democrats), I would argue that his main thrust is legitimate from his own perspective.

Even if Madigan didn't directly engage in "conduct unbecoming a legislator," as

the petition alleges, people under his control most certainly did say and do some things that, if not all illegal, are certainly distasteful and disreputable. Madigan created this environment and yet says he cannot and should not be held responsible for those acting within the confines of that environment; and refuses to cooperate with a committee that is enshrined in the very same rules that Madigan insists must be approved by his members every two years.

Leader Durkin held a press conference last week to express his outrage that the investigatory committee's chairman, Rep. Chris Welch (D-Hillside), had delayed all future hearings until after the November election.

"Citizens of Illinois must know what the single most powerful person in the state's role is in this scandal, this ever-growing scandal," Durkin said.

"Illinois residents deserve so



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

much better and they deserve the truth."

"He needs to stand up and answer those questions," Durkin quoted Gov. JB Pritzker as saying about fellow Democrat Madigan, then called on Pritzker to "immediately demand those answers he has been requesting from Speaker Madigan or demand that he resign immediately."

But Durkin's answer to the press conference's very first question demonstrated how the demand for Madigan's testimony is far more about putting Madigan in a bad spot than it is about an actual investigation.

Durkin was asked: "What would the speaker say that he has not already said in writing?" a question which referred to Madigan's long, single-spaced letter denying all allegations and explaining why he would not cooperate with the committee, which he said was nothing more than a political

stunt. "Well, based on what I know," Durkin replied, "I think the speaker at this point, the only thing you can say is that 'I take the Fifth Amendment.'" "This isn't politics," Durkin insisted later. But the Leader's answer gave up the ghost. He essentially admitted that this demand for testimony is about political advantage and not a search for truth. Yes, I know, it's all so very shocking. Politics in a legislative committee during an election year? My goodness, that's simply unprecedented.

"Remember," Durkin told reporters, "the committee's name is the Special Investigative Committee. The committee has a duty and an obligation to investigate."

OK, but forcing a televised spectacle where almost everyone including Durkin himself believe that Speaker Madigan will take the Fifth would be more akin to a show trial than an actual investigative hearing. Yes, such a thing would undoubtedly be immensely satisfying for everyone who despises Madigan (and that's a very long list), but that's about it. Durkin is doing a good job of

keeping Madigan's name out there and putting the Democrats on defense, but don't hose down my shoes and tell me it's raining.

The committee's Republicans have requested documents from ComEd specifically related to testimony by the company's compliance officer during its last hearing. Fulfilling that request should be simple and relatively quick.

Chairman Welch, on the other hand, has requested what could be thousands of documents containing correspondence between the company and just about everybody

under the Illinois political sun going back years. That's the ostensible reason for the hearing's delay, along with the claim that Republicans are playing politics. Welch says it shouldn't take long to fulfill his request, but I still have my doubts.

Hopefully, the Republican request can be fulfilled and the ComEd documents released soon. Maybe we can get some actual substance out of this process going forward.

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

Illinois gas prices falling

Illinois gas prices have fallen 2.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.20/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations.

Gas prices in Illinois are 1.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 49.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.81/g today while the most expensive is \$2.89/g, a difference of \$1.08/g. The lowest

price in the state Monday is \$1.81/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of \$1.08/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.16/g. The national average is down 1.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 47.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Peoria- \$2.33/g, down 0.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.34/g. St. Louis- \$1.95/g,

down 1.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.96/g, Champaign- \$2.17/g, down 1.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.18/g.

"Average gasoline prices largely remain rangebound as the tug of war between market forces continues to keep prices confined near current levels," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"On one side, the coronavirus situation would be pulling prices down as year-to-date gasoline demand stands

some 13% lower than last year, but on the positive side is the possibility of economic stimulus that could boost households ahead of the election if the two parties can manage to agree. For now, with little action on either issue, oil markets are seeing a good amount of speculation and seesawing, and that will continue until we have a clear answer on whether Washington will deliver more economic aid to hard hit Americans."

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Fire prevention talk with 'Tankzilla' in Custer Township



Courtesy photos
THE CUSTER FIRE Protection District observed Fire Prevention Week on Sunday by driving through the neighborhoods to pass out fire safety literature, smoke detectors and fire hats and candy for kids. The weather cooperated and the turnout was positive for the District as residents came out to see 'Tankzilla', its neon green fire-fighting truck. Youngsters got to touch the truck and climb up in the cab for a driver's seat view.

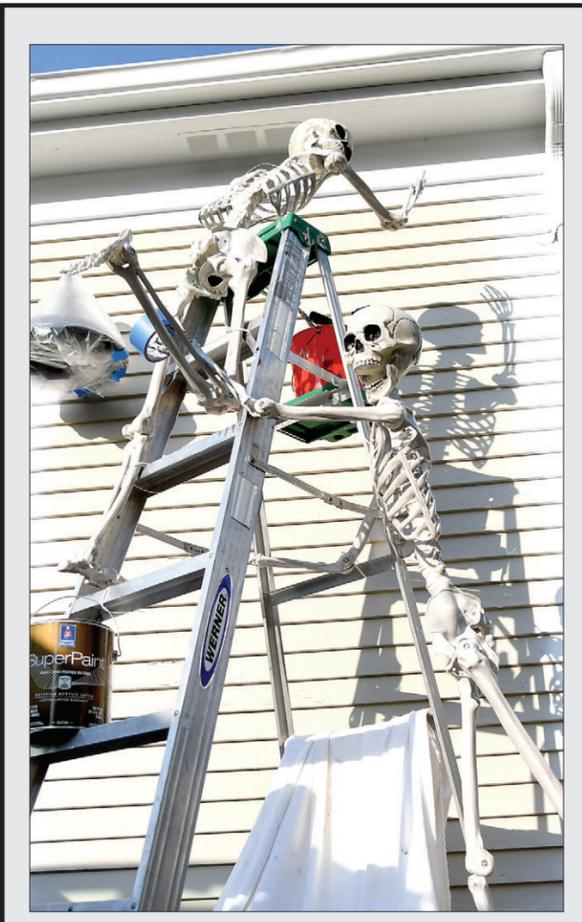


Photo by Eric Fisher

GUARANTEED NOT to go on strike, a new paint crew showed up last week at the home of Gerald and Kim Jansen in the 600 block of County Road., Wilmington. The Halloween decorations are in contrast to the live crew painting their house.

Skeleton crew

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

Neighbors near County and Shakespear streets may have been puzzled last week when driving by the home of Kim and Gerry Jansen. One day there were workers up on ladders painting their Wilmington home. The next day there were skeletons on the ladders, holding paint buckets and brushes, finishing the job. Their impromptu Halloween display created a few laughs, especially for painter Bill Shorkey who was contracted to do the job. Was it a hint that he was taking too long to do the job or just a timely display in the spirit of Halloween?

"It was done strictly with Halloween in mind," Kim chuckled. "Honestly, I saw it on Pinterest and it was perfect since we were having the house painted." She said it was fun seeing the reaction from those passing by. Even little kids on bikes were stopping to take a peak. Kim said the skeletons were a recent purchase (note: no skeletons in the closet here) and she had yet to give them a name. "We haven't gotten that attached yet but they've been fun so far," she said. The Jansens used the skeletons a couple of weeks earlier on their front porch when one was dressed as a Cubs fan, the other a Cardinals fan, each waiting for a World Series championship.

5,000 miles in 36 days

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

A group of volunteer patriots are traversing the country to inspire and unite the nation under the founding concepts life, liberty, justice, freedom and opportunity. Under the direction of Arizona resident Dave Graybill, Patriots, God and Country was established and its message is being shared by a company of volunteers who are on a 5,000 mile journey across the country to spread a message of love, understanding and unity. "Our nation is in crisis. Our country needs to rally being something positive, inspiring and uniting," Graybill said. "We need to strip away the language that categorically divides us and come together to celebrate all that this country stands for." The cross country tour started Sept. 29 in Phoenix, AZ. The 36 day venture will take

volunteers to 16 states and the District of Columbia where they will make 26 scheduled stops and dozens more in between. A planned stop in Joliet resulted in the group making a short visit to Coal City Fire Station 2 on Monday afternoon. It was through a partnership with Pink Heals that the volunteers — firefighters, law enforcement officers, veterans, and a mechanic — made the detour into Coal City with their patriotic vehicles. Like the drivers who freely give their time to the tour, the vehicles were all provided at no cost to the effort. Each of the retired fire vehicles are specially wrapped and feature a theme — American Flag and Constitution, military first responders, monuments, Second Amendment and Freedom of Religion. "Our whole mission is to

get out and spread the word of love and appreciation for people and the free country and the people that made our country free," said Gary Cochran, a volunteer from Texas. Each of the volunteers signs on drive the customized vehicles throughout the tour, for some its a few days, a few weeks or for the entire ridge. "We are a divided country and we've got to get that patriotism, that one unity back together somehow and that's our goal. We are not here about political parties, that's not what we are about. Everybody has their own opinion of who they want to vote for and everybody has their own faith or what they believe in, we're just about patriotism and being Americans and coming together," Cochran said. The visitors joined Coal City Fire Chief James Seerup at the station's Sept. 11 Memorial, where he shared details on

how the fire district secured the pieces of steel from the World Trade Center and the design that went into creating the monument. The host group then was able to take some time viewing the customized tour vehicles before they headed off to a brief stop in Morris. Seerup thanked the group for taking the time to stop by the station to share a bit about their mission. "Thank you guys and ladies for letting us come to your community and get the message out," Cochran said. After stops in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey, the tour will conclude in Washington, DC on Nov. 3. Interested individuals can follow the tour at Pgc Tour on Facebook.

Will County Nonprofit agencies can apply for CARES Act funding

Local Will County nonprofit agencies are encouraged to apply for CARES Act funding. Applications are available on county website, deadline is Monday, November 16. Funding from the federal coronavirus relief program, CARES Act, is now available to nonprofit agencies in Will County. The county will allocate \$6 million to local nonprofits agencies to assist with significant impacts resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. "Our nonprofit agencies have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis," said county executive Denise Winfrey. "They rely heavily on corporate and personal donations to provide critical services for some of the most vulnerable in our county. This crisis has reduced revenue

streams across the board and I am happy the federal government is allocating this funding to keep these agencies operating." The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by the U.S. Congress earlier this year provides payments to state, local, and tribal governments navigating through the economic challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak. The county is distributing more than \$121 million to other local governments, small businesses, local households, and nonprofit agencies. Nonprofit 501 (c) organizations, including places of worship that automatically qualify as a 501 (C) (3) organization, are encouraged to apply for up to a \$2,000

grant to cover COVID-19 Pandemic expenses, help comply with public health mandates, and/or enhance their delivery options to meet increased demand for services. For eligibility criteria, more information, or to submit an application visit the website at www.willcountytillinois.com/CARES-Act/Non-Profit-Assistance. All nonprofit grant applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16.

School lunch menus

October 19 – 21
Reed-Custer School District
Monday- Bosco Stick, green beans, cottage cheese, fruit, milk
Tuesday- Hamburger, tater tots, broccoli, fruit, milk
Wednesday- Boneless wings, au gratin potatoes, peas, fruit, milk
Thursday- No lunch, early dismissal
Friday - No school

Halloween Hot Dog Giveaway to be Oct. 31

The Braidwood Lions Club will be hosting their Annual free Halloween Hot Dog Giveaway on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 2 to 5 p.m. by the north side of the Lions' Pavilion in Old Smokey City Park. It will be a drive-thru style event this year. Free meals include hot dog, bag of chips, bag of popcorn and ketchup and mustard packets. No drinks will be available this year. Not eating will be allowed underneath the pavilion. Drivers should enter

through the north entrance on Third Street. Pull up in the gravel along the north side of the pavilion. Roll down your window and tell the volunteers how many meals you need. Meals in to-go containers will be handed through your window. No walk-ups are allowed. Meals are available as supplies last. For more information, please visit www.BraidwoodLionsClub.org.

Celebrating Manufacturing Month

Manufacturing is important to the local economy

Take a moment to think about the products that you use on a daily basis and it becomes evident how important manufacturing really is. From the vehicles we drive and fuel that goes in the tank to food and beverage products, the manufacturing industry and its workforce has an important role.

Workforce Contributions

Over the years, manufacturing has transformed into an innovative, high-tech industry that provides a pathway to rewarding career opportunities. The shop floor isn't what it used to be.

Technology has revolutionized the manufacturing industry by incorporating robotics, automation and 3D printing into production processes. In addition to positions in the plant, there are varieties of other occupations available such as human resources, information technology, accounting and sales to name a few.

"The perception of manufacturing has changed over the years from a low-skill, dirty and dangerous job to a high-tech, high-skill and high-paying one," said Randy Tatum, site manager of the LyondellBasell Morris Complex. "At LyondellBasell, we employ some of the finest professionals in our industry right here in Grundy County."

There is a shortage of skilled workers in the manufacturing sector due to a retiring workforce and lack of qualified applicants, therefore, the employment outlook is very favorable. Manufacturing also provides opportunities for employees to live in the communities where they work, which in turn stimulates spending into the local economy.

According to the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), "manufacturers in Illinois account for 12.54% of the total output in the state, employing 9.58% of the workforce. Total output from manufacturing was \$108.43 billion in 2018. In addition, there were an average of 592,000 manufacturing employees in Illinois in 2019, with an average annual compensation of \$89,853.35 in 2018."

Value-Added Benefits

For every product that gets manufactured there are numerous value-added benefits to the supply chain. Whether it's the supplier of raw materials, the transportation company delivering the product or any job function in between, there's a multitude of companies and personnel that contribute to the entire manufacturing process. Essentially this equates to more jobs in a variety of career pathways across multiple sectors.

"Manufacturing generates more economic activity than other sectors. For every dollar of domestic manufacturing value-added, another \$3.60 of economic activity is generated elsewhere across the economy. For every manufacturing job, there are 3.4 jobs created in non-manufacturing industries. No other sector comes close to these numbers," as mentioned in an interview on Area Development's website.

Industry & Education Partnerships

Recruiting, preparing, and growing the talent base is among the most critical challenges facing manufacturers. The best opportunity to train students for manufacturing careers is for businesses to partner with school districts and community/technical colleges. We see this happening throughout Illinois.

LyondellBasell's Morris Complex is one of the initial companies that partnered with Joliet Junior College to establish the Operations Engineering and Technician (OET) Associate degree programs. This program prepares individuals with the education and training needed



Courtesy photo

CALCULATING AND CONFIGURING are all part of Loni Pierce's day-to-day routine. Using computer-based information to analyze and repair equipment inside the plant, her days at Joliet Junior College studying Electrical Electronics Automated Systems have prepared her for her 30-year career with LyondellBasell. During the month of October, we celebrate Loni Pierce and other professionals in manufacturing who keep plants running safely and efficiently.

for an operator or maintenance position.

Since the inception of the OET program in 2015, JJC has enjoyed solid partnerships with industry leaders such as LyondellBasell, TC Energy, Aux Sable, CITGO Petroleum Corporation and Exelon Generation. The OET program stats continue to shine. Ever since the program began, there has been a 100 percent completion and employment rate with graduates earning an average salary of \$72,000.

Amy Murphy, dean, applied arts, workforce education & training said, "Our industry partners have been instrumental in shaping the OET program's curriculum, ensuring that our students are real-world ready through internship experiences as well as providing employment opportunities after graduation."

Preparation for a career in manufacturing should start much earlier in a student's education. Joliet Junior College adapted the success of the OET program to establish a dual-enrollment/pre-apprenticeship program, Advanced Integrated Maintenance (AIM), where high school students can attend college part-time their senior year to begin their career path in advanced manufacturing. Manufacturers have introduced hundreds of programs like these across the country.

Increasingly, advanced manufacturing companies are turning to apprenticeships to develop, grow and retain a skilled workforce. Apprenticeship programs combine on-the-job learning with related instruction in technical areas to produce qualified, highly skilled employees for careers requiring precision skills.

Apprenticeship training ensures workers have the knowledge and competencies that companies need for today and tomorrow while helping to reduce the turnover rate. According to RecruiterBox, the average cost-per-hire in the manufacturing industry is \$5,159. Many vari-

ables go into calculating your cost-per-hire including your recruiter's time, job fair participation fees, job board fees and ad spend.

An apprenticeship program provides a 94% retention rate according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Joliet Junior College is a program sponsor for many advanced manufacturing occupations and is partnering with manufacturers to establish their apprenticeship programs in the area of machinists, industrial maintenance technicians and more.

Community Investment

Not to be overlooked are the significant contributions that manufacturers make to our local communities through outreach initiatives which include charitable organizations, scholarships, food drives, environment-friendly programs as well as events to increase interest in manufacturing. These contributions show the commitment that manufacturers have to not only be part of their community but also give back.

LyondellBasell Morris Complex

As we continue to navigate the pandemic there have been many positive outcomes - an outpouring of sincere kindness from several manufacturers who are eager to make their support known in communities. Among the manufacturing companies is LyondellBasell, which donated \$50,000 to We Care of Grundy County. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted various facets of people's lives and created hardships for many. Food banks all over the world are on the front lines of this international pandemic providing food assistance to millions facing hunger, with demand increasing every day. LyondellBasell's donation aims to help relieve some of the strain with its donation.

"We Care of Grundy County is incredibly special to us," Morris site manager Randy Tatum said. "Both our employees and retirees

regularly volunteer their time to help stock the food pantry throughout the year. We take our role in this community seriously, and this is something we can do to help our neighbors during this difficult time."

Donating funds to supply food for those in need is just one example how LyondellBasell has responded during the pandemic. Additionally, LyondellBasell's materials are found in many applications critical to protecting and preserving health and safety such as medical devices, protective equipment, cleaning products, and various pharmaceutical applications. The company continues to supply its customers with a variety of materials including polypropylene resins, which are used to produce melt-blown fibers that provide filtration in facemasks; masterbatch products are used in breathable films for protective suits; and, polypropylene, ethylene oxide, and propylene oxide are used to make medical syringes, medical test kits, soaps, disinfectants, and many other products.

ExxonMobil Joliet Refinery

The ExxonMobil Joliet Refinery places a high priority on community partnership. Over the last 10 years, the company and its employees have contributed nearly \$2 million to the United Way through their annual campaign, and have dedicated countless hours volunteering for local charitable causes. Employees' sweat equity and personal commitment to those charities is further boosted by financial grants under the ExxonMobil Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP).

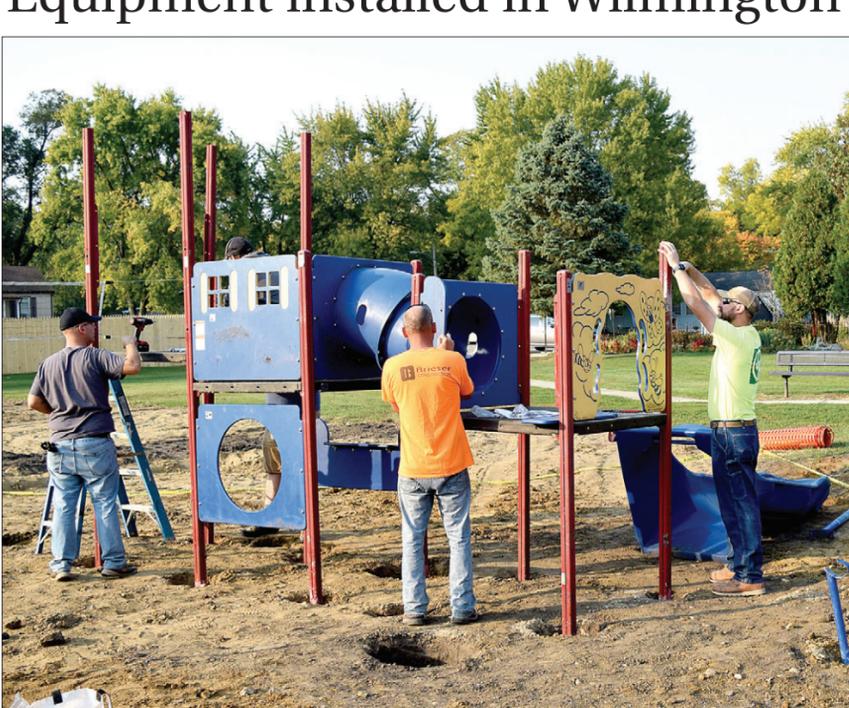
A strong commitment to education drives much of the ExxonMobil's community outreach. Each year, ExxonMobil employees share their expertise and experience with over 1,000 local students through their Secrets in Science program, Science Expo, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentor 2.0 Program, and Career Conferences. These programs pique students' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), positioning those students for higher paying jobs, and support the long term objective of developing a workforce consistent with what our future economy will require.

ExxonMobil and its employees actively support higher education through its Educational Matching Grant Program, which matches employee donations with corporate contributions. In the last five years alone, \$6.8 million has been donated to Illinois colleges and universities through the program and ExxonMobil has also recently collaborated with its contractor partners to establish the Manufacturing for the Future Fund at the Joliet Junior College.

Highlighting the more than 225 people ExxonMobil has hired in the last five years, Joliet Refinery Manager Monica Mainland expressed her appreciation for all that her colleagues do to operate the refinery with excellence, and to build strong partnerships with the community. "We operate in a challenging and dynamic business environment. As a company, we leverage our employees' diverse backgrounds, experiences and thought to deliver creative solutions."

Efforts like volunteerism, environment-friendly practices, and philanthropy continue to be the primary focus for manufacturing companies across the globe. At the end of the day, manufacturing is much more than making a product; it's about the passion and purpose which provides a solid foundation for our local economy and continues to be the lifeblood of our communities.

Equipment installed in Wilmington



Photos by Marney Simon

REPURPOSED WITH A PURPOSE — Members of the Community Foundation for Wilmington Parks, Recreation and Improvement were up early on Saturday, Oct. 10, to install some "new to us" equipment at Children's Memorial Park in Northcrest. The playground equipment was donated to the Wilmington Park District by the Alsip Park District back in April. The Community Foundation partnered with the park district, Kuypers Brothers Concrete, Builders Concrete and Ramcorp to dismantle and bring the equipment to the city. The volunteers placed one of two playsets in the park over the weekend. The equipment is designed for children ages 2-5. The foundation will still add an additional layer of mulch to the site. "Thank you to those who have supported our fundraisers and made donations to our cause, none of this would be possible without those who are trying to make our community a better place!" the foundation posted to its Facebook page.



Federal funds available to small businesses

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker urged businesses affected by COVID-19 mitigations to apply for Business Interruption Grants through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Applications for the grants are available at the DCEO website, www2.illinois.gov/dceo/smallbizassistance/pages/c19disadvantagedbusgrants.

The money comes through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, and the program makes \$220 million available for businesses suffering losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pritzker said the state is "looking for the federal government to get more help" for bars and restaurants as well as overall state finances as revenues have plummeted amid the pandemic and associated economic shutdowns. Pritzker said the need is bipartisan, quoting the Republican governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis,

who compared that state's budget to the red wedding in "Game of Thrones."

"I anticipate that after the election there will be a real desire to get something done quickly," Pritzker said.

Last month, Pritzker said he directed state agency heads to plan for cuts of 5% for the current fiscal year and 10% for next fiscal year.

But Pritzker said that if the state has to make all of those cuts it will be "tremendously damaging" claiming he came into office and inherited a "hollowed out state government" that was crippled by a two-year state budget impasse under his predecessor.

Pritzker warned of a "massive reduction in public safety funding," or a "massive diminution of funding for our evidence-based funding model" for K-12 education.

He said agency directors are working on budget cuts that will be "the least damaging possible on working families that depend upon our state government."

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Photos by Shawn Long

PUTTING FOR THE COMETS is Joel Hunt. Hunt and the Comets traveled to Grant Park on Wednesday to compete in the Grant Park Regional.



Photos by Shawn Long

LINING UP A PUTT is Comet golfer Victor Poulos during a match at High Point Golf Course. The Comets competed in the golf Regional on Wednesday and ended up as the sixth overall team with a score of 398.

Newborough advanced to golf sectional

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Reed-Custer senior golfer Clayton Newborough was the lone Comet to advance to the Tuscola Sectional that was held yesterday.

Newborough shot a 91 during the Grant Park Regional

held at Minne Menosse Golf Course last week, good enough for one of the top four golfers to advance to the sectional.

Teammate Aiden Lantka was right behind him, shooting a 100 but did not make the cut.

Joel Hunt followed him with a 102 to round out the Comet scorers.

The Comet girls also competed in a regional at Sandwich and ended up placing third with a score of 113.

Results from Tuesday's sectional were unavailable as of press time. The top golfers at sectional do not advance to state this year as it was canceled due to the coronavirus.



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Sports with masks are better than none at all

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois High School Association sports medicine advisory told the Chicago Tribune Thursday that it's possible that basketball players will have to wear masks in order to have a 2020-2021 season.

The reaction from local coaches is that if masks have to be worn in order to get the season rolling, then so be it.

Reed-Custer girls basketball coach Shelby Zwolinski said her players are strong-willed and have been wearing masks every day during school.

"Our girls have been working hard with masks on after school," said Zwolinski. "They have done a great job and put in a lot of effort. It will definitely be difficult playing in a game with a mask but it's doable. If that's what it is going to take to let our student athletes participate in athletic contests, then they will commit and play their hardest."

Coal City boys basketball coach Glenn Pacek said he won't be surprised if there is a mask mandate.

"If they're forced to wear masks all day, I can't imagine them saying, 'take off the mask to play the game,'" said Pacek.

Pacek notes that games played while wearing a mask will end up different than under normal conditions.

"You've got to be in really good shape to play the game. If you have to wear a mask, it becomes even more challenging on you as an athlete," Pacek said. "But wearing a mask is better than not having a season at all. Even if I have to substitute players more often, which is probably what it's going to take, I'd like to have a season and so would the kids," the coach said.

"I can understand the discomfort for kids in wearing masks that are only going for an hour. Basketball is not an easy sport to play cardiovascular-wise even without having to wear a mask."

Wilmington girls basketball coach Eric Dillon says his players are getting used to masks just by attending school. Still, he's not worried of them going too far.

"I'm not really worried about that," said Dillon. "The girls know their bodies and if they feel like they're at that point, they're going to say something and they're going to sub themselves out. So I'm not really worried about them running themselves into the ground."

In the Tribune article Dr. Prestin Wolin said the idea is currently being considered by the Illinois Department of Health, who still has restrictions on high school and youth sports.

Basketball is considered as a medium risk for virus trans-

mission which means schools can compete against one another but competitions against other teams is currently prohibited.

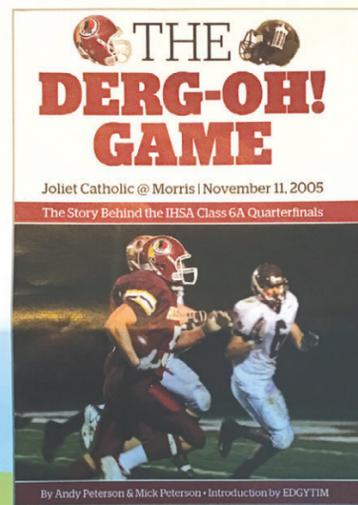
This poses a problem for the basketball season set to start Nov. 16.

In four neighboring states, fall high school sports were allowed with reduced schedules. Illinois bumped fall sports, with the exception of golf, tennis and cross country to spring. So far there has not been a ruling for how winter sports will be handled.

Illinois High School Association Executive Director Craig Anderson told the Tribune he prefers that masks be optional for players.

A decision may be known within a couple of weeks.

BOOK COMING THIS OCTOBER!



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