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BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Braidwood seeks new refuse collection contract

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Braidwood is getting set to sign off on a new agreement for garbage and recycling collection.

On Oct. 11, city administrator Tony Altiery told members of the City Council that the city was in the process of seeking bids for garbage contractors, as the agreement with Waste Management expires at the end of the calendar year.

"We're going to bid for garbage contracts," Altiery said. "They'll be due back by the 25th of October, we'll do an Oct. 26 opening. Then, the next meeting after that, we'll be able to see where we're at with either the current garbage company or if we will switch to a new one. It will give them a cou-

ple of months to transition, if there's a change, and go from there."

The city signed a one-year extension with Waste Management last year. The current rate for refuse pick-up is \$23.75 per unit per month. The current contract expires on Dec. 31.

In other business before the City Council on Oct. 11:

- Commissioner Fay Smith expressed frustration that some road resurfacing work has yet to be addressed.

"I'd like to know why we aren't getting those roads done. We had the money, and we asked to have it put on the agenda back in April," Smith said, adding that he'd like to see resurfacing completed along English Street, among other areas of town.

But, administrator Altiery said

that while the city has looked for bidders for Smith's proposed projects, so far, there have been no bites.

"The engineer called earlier today and said to let you know that they have zero bids back on that, no bids," Altiery said.

Smith countered that he had personally spoken to someone who wants the job, but said the streets look bad enough that the city should move toward addressing them immediately, before winter comes.

"We can do the patching, but I'm talking about resurfacing that we've been waiting for two years," Smith said. "Winter is coming, and lot of things I don't want to see them go through the winter, but I can't do them myself. I went early enough, that's what the excuse was before."

Altiery said he would reach out to the city engineer again on the issue.

- Altiery also said that the city was looking to purchase another piece of equipment for use with public works projects.

"We purchased an excavator... and we've been talking about use of a trailer to pull it, and it could be used for the Bobcat," Altiery said.

The city is planning on an expenditure of \$15,130 for a 20-foot trailer with a ramp from RNP Carriages. That trailer will be capable of holding and hauling 20,000 pounds.

"It will haul any piece of equipment that we have," Altiery said.

The council is expected to approve the purchase later this month.

- The council approved a con-

tract to replace carpeting at City Hall.

Altiery said the city received multiple bids for the job, which was awarded to JCF of Lockport, Inc.

The city will pay JCF of Lockport \$28,000 to replace all carpeting in the council chambers and administrative offices at City Hall.

- The council approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$100,297.

- The council approved payroll in the amount of \$95,277.

- City officials announced that the regular city council meeting scheduled for Nov. 8 will be moved to Nov. 1 due to the election.

The next meeting of the full City Council is Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Spooktacular day at Fossil Ridge Library!



Photos by Marney Simon

TRICK OR TREAT! Children and their parents got to try out their Halloween costumes and collect some treats a little early over the weekend, thanks to the annual Fossil Ridge Library Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 15. Trick or treaters got to collect candy from Braidwood police officer and firefighters, as well as members from local businesses, sports teams and civic groups that signed up to participate. The day also included crafts and pumpkin painting.

Drug Take Back returns to Braidwood

STAFF REPORT

Drug Take Back day is coming back to Braidwood.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day returns for its second bi-annual event on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC) headquarters at 465 E. Reed Street.

The BAHCC will also be handing out medication lock boxes during this month's event.

"This is one of those things, what can I do to help," BAHCC program director Pete

Dell'Aquila said. "Just get rid of those medications and stuff you don't use, you don't need it. If you haven't used it for a year, it's time to get rid of it."

Drug Take Back Day is a bi-annual effort spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and sponsored locally by law enforcement, coalitions, and local businesses. The DEA's Take Back Day events provide an opportunity for Americans to prevent substance use disorder and drug poisoning deaths.

SEE TAKEBACK, PAGE 2

School threat quickly identified as hoax

STAFF REPORT

A potential threat at Reed-Custer Middle School last week was quickly identified as a hoax.

According to the Braidwood Police Department, on the morning of Friday, Oct. 14, officers received information about a potential threat to the Reed-Custer School District.

According to a release from the department, officers immediately deployed addi-

tional personnel to the district and began an investigation.

Within one hour of receiving the threat, several interviews were conducted and it was determined that a student made the threat up, the report said. That student was identi-

SEE THREAT, PAGE 2



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Takeback

In addition to cleaning out medicine cabinets, members of the community are encouraged to reach out to friends, family and neighbors to get them to take a look at what prescription drugs they may have, and if they can be disposed of during the event.

According to the DEA, the last Take Back Day in April 2022 collected more than 720,000 pounds of unneeded medications at 5,144 collection sites. Since 2010, DEA,

along with its law enforcement partners, has collected nearly 16 million pounds of unneeded prescription medications.

“National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is an important part of DEA’s efforts to fight the overdose epidemic and save lives,” said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. “I encourage everyone across the country to dispose of unneeded medications throughout the year to help keep our communities safe and healthy.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in the United

States, over 107,000 people died as the result of a drug poisoning last year. This figure means that someone in the United States is dying of a drug poisoning every five minutes.

Take Back Day events provide easy, no-cost opportunities to dispose of medicines stored in the home that are susceptible to abuse and theft.

A permanent drug drop box is also located at CVS Pharmacy locations in Braidwood and Wilmington, as well as Braidwood City Hall.

According to the DEA, the National Prescription Drug

Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue.

The 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives. The survey also showed that a majority of misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

WPD plans for site improvements at shooting range

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

WILMINGTON — The Wilmington Police Department is eyeing a plan to make improvements at its shooting range, and city leaders have given the thumbs up to a preliminary plan to assign fees to other law enforcement agencies that use the site for training purposes.

On Oct. 11, Police Chief Joseph Mitchell brought the issue before the Committee of the Whole for discussion. Mitchell said the department is considering range improvement fees for those outside entities that come to the site on Stripmine Road for training.

“Last year, 56 times, another department came in and utilized our range,” Mitchell said. “That’s almost double this year alone. We have a beautiful range, we’ve had a lot of donations for that particular location, I’d like to enhance it. The [best] way to enhance it is having these police departments pay usage fees for our range. That’s fair, it’s something I have done with my previous employer.”

Mitchell said that over the past several years, Wilmington’s range has been utilized by nine other agencies, including Braidwood, Elwood, Shorewood, Joliet, Channahon, Manhattan, Minooka, and the Illinois State Police and Secretary of State Police.

While smaller agencies like Braidwood and Elwood have only used the range for live fire training two to three times per year over the past two years, use of the site has increased significantly by the Illinois State Police. In 2021, ISP used Wilmington’s site a total of 14 times. But so far in 2022, the state has undergone training exercises in Wilmington more than 50 times.

Use of the range has been provided at no expense, with the exception of those entities donating their expended brass for recycling.

Mitchell said adding fees would vary based on size of department and usage needs.

Money raised would be put directly back into the range for site improvements.

“We’re not just taking their money, we’re trying to use it solely to improve that range and facility for everybody,” Mitchell said, adding that the department would like to eventually add utilities and a training room.

“All we have is a canopy that they can stand under while loading their firearms and getting ready to go on the line, but we’d like to potentially have a location that’s heated and cooled,” he said.

The committee gave the go-ahead to begin the process of developing that fee schedule and plans for improvements.

Video gaming generates \$3.5 billion for Illinois

STAFF REPORT

September marked 10 years of video gaming in the state of Illinois, an enterprise that has generated \$3.5 billion for the state and close to \$655 million for the towns and counties that allow machines to operate.

When gaming first went live in September 2012 there were 61 terminals located in 13 establishments licensed by the Illinois Gaming Board [IGB].

In that first month of gaming, players put \$263,716 into the machines generating just over \$1 million in plays. Those same players cashed out \$173,622.14. The state collected \$22,512.66 and the town’s with active machines received their portion of \$4,503.56 and everyone was happy.

Since then the number of establishments and terminals have grown to 8,107 licensed establishments operating 44,110 terminals. At its peak there were 12,318 establishments with 63,723 gaming machines but COVID took a toll on some businesses.

While those numbers have decreased over time, the amount of money going in and being cashed out of the machines is consistently increasing.

According to the IGB’s monthly report for September, players pumped \$876.9 million into gaming machines resulting in \$2.64 billion played. They cashed out \$651.6 million. The state’s share came out to \$63.3 million and \$11.26 million for municipalities.

The 10 year total shows players have put \$50.67 billion in and cashed out \$37.57 billion.

To date, the largest monthly amount played was recorded in March of this year with players pumping over \$973 million into the machines with a return of \$723.79 million.

As for the local communities, each has witnessed an overall increase in the past decade.

Over the course of 10 years, the city of Braidwood has had 15 licensed establishments with 75 terminals in operation. Those numbers currently stand at six and 32, respectively.

Players in Braidwood have played \$79.2 million from an initial input of \$24.8 million, and cashed out with \$18.4 million in hand.

In that time the city has banked

\$320,451.16 and the state’s portion of that amounts to \$1.73 million.

Emmy’s Cafe leads in city in play with \$9.5 million in and \$7.19 million out on \$32.79 million played. The business’ operation has generated \$133,258.30 for the city.

Carbon Hill was the first of the local communities to have video gaming go live and in that time the community has maintained two licensed establishments that operate 11 terminals.

Players at those two locations—Bum’s Tavern and Mustachio’s— have played \$32.49 million based on an initial input of \$9.4 million. The players have taken home in \$6.87 million with the state and village receiving \$685,944.67 and \$127,208.64, respectively.

So far this year, the village has collected \$26,591.58 on gaming. Those dollars go toward the town’s general expenses.

It was by a vote of the residents that allowed Coal City businesses to offer video gaming.

The machines went live in 2015 and in that time there have been 18 establishments operating 44 terminals.

Players have cashed out \$28.8 million based on an initial input of \$39.46 million that generated \$125.4 million play.

The village’s share of the gaming tax has resulted in \$532,980.63 that has been used for various purposes including a summer internship program focused on town cleanup and beautification.

Emmy’s Cafe has the highest volume of play with \$11.34 million going into the machines there and \$8.48 million being cashed out. The play at that business has generated \$142,772.69 for the village and over \$770,000 for the state.

So far this year, the total gaming income for the village stands at \$73,254.62 based on play across 38 terminals.

TA Operating LLC generates the most play in the village of Diamond with \$8.4 million being pumped into the machines since the business opened. Players there have cashed out \$6 million. The town’s share of that comes to \$119,855.46.

Since gaming started in Diamond, the town has received revenues of \$546,047.49, dollars that have been given back to residents in the form of municipal utility credits.

Diamond has had 10 licensed establishments with 36 active terminals that

resulted in \$132.38 million played on an initial input of \$39.7 million. Those machines resulted in cash payouts of \$28.8 million.

Currently there are 37 active terminals in six licensed establishments that have generated over \$80,500 for the town so far this year.

Operating 10 terminals, TA Operating LLC is also the highest grossing business in the city of Wilmington.

Its players have pumped \$16.9 million into its machines and cashed out \$11.8 on \$57.89 million in play. Its operations have generated more than \$254,000 for the city.

According to the IGB, the city of Wilmington has had a total of 23 establishments operating 121 terminals since gaming opened in the community.

In that time players have put \$68.69 million in, played \$229.95 million and taken home \$50.27 million.

The city’s share of that comes out to \$920,872.22.

Wilmington currently has 108 terminals operating in 20 licensed establishments that have so far generated \$165,307.20 for the city in 2022.

Will and Grundy counties also receive gaming revenue from the state based on operations located outside municipal boundaries.

In Grundy County there are currently 33 active terminals in six licensed establishments, down a bit from the decade total of 42 and eight respectively.

Players at those locations have put \$23.76 in and cashed out \$17.7 million based on \$74.77 million played. Illinois’ share of that come out to \$1.6 million with the county collecting \$301,236.71 for its general fund.

So far this year Grundy County has collected \$45,034.43 from six licensed establishments.

Will County has received just over \$241,500 in gaming revenue this year from the 21 establishments located in the unincorporated areas of the county.

In 10 years, the county has had a total of 184 terminals in 37 licensed establishments.

Those machines took in \$144 million resulting in \$464 million being played. Patrons took home \$106 million, the state collected \$10.1 million and the county share amounts to \$1.9 million.

BAHCC hosts newest MicroPantry site

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Since 2016, small cabinets providing shelf stable foods and personal items have been a life saver for those who need a little extra to get by.

MicroPantries—weather-proof cabinets designed to hold donations of food and goods—first appeared

throughout the area more than six years ago. Now, the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC) has become the latest site to host one of these helpful assistants.

“The MicroPantry is up and running, and people are really taking advantage,” BAHCC president Chad Klover said earlier this month. “We

need to keep reminding people to donate to that. We restock it two to three times a week, and it still needs more. That’s great, in my mind that’s what it’s there for. We’re glad to hear that people are taking advantage.”

The pantries began popping up first in Joliet in late 2016, in front of E-Z Auto Sales on Larkin. Owner Jeff Eberhard placed the first cabinet there to address local need, but saw the potential for it to expand throughout the region.

The idea spiraled from there, with the pantries being built and placed outside businesses, public buildings, churches, and community centers, with the BAHCC now the latest site for the cabinet.

The concept is simple: Take what you need, leave what you can. The small pantries are large sturdy cabinets made of home building materials, including siding and roofing, and hold all types of goods for those in needs,

including non-perishable food items, household goods, and even hygiene products and diapers. What is in the pantry is dependent on community donations.

The MicroPantry is not meant to replace local pantries, but rather, to help those in need fill the gap when they hit difficult times. The pantries provide many of the same things found at local pantries on a much smaller scale, helping families grab what they need in the moment.

There are now more than 140 Micro Pantry throughout Illinois, with one location in Ohio.

In addition to the BAHCC, pantries can be found at the Fossil Ridge Public Library, Ignite Christian Church in Braidwood, Lardi Chiropractic in Coal City, Wilmington Pharmacy, the Braceville/Godley fire house in Braceville, and The Center in Custer Park.

Threat

fied, and BPD said the student admitted that the threat was made up.

There is no known threat to the Reed-Custer School District, the report noted.

Superintendent Mark Mitchell noted that the quick response and resolution to the incident highlights the successful and collaborative relationship between the district and the Braidwood Police Department. The Reed-Custer School District utilizes an on-site school resource officer, with three members of the BPD assigned to Reed-Custer schools.

Discipline of the student is confidential. Enforcement of penalties is laid out for parents in the parent and student handbook.

Braidwood Lions Club to host Halloween hot dog giveaway

The Braidwood Lions Club will be hosting its annual community Halloween Hot Dog Giveaway on Monday Oct. 31, under the Lions pavilion in the Braidwood City Park from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event will run in conjunction with the established Trick-or-Treat hours for the City of Braidwood. Free hot dogs, chips, popcorn, hot chocolate and lemonade will be provided, while supplies last, compliments of the Lions

Club. The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 will also be on hand passing out free Halloween treats for the kids, while supplies last.

The entire community is invited, so bring your friends and family down to the park for some good community spirit.

Costumes are encouraged but not required. For more information, call 815-791-8093 or visit www.braidwood.

Notice of foreclosure of 180 W. Bodine Ct.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY – JOLIET, ILLINOIS

Grundy Bank, Plaintiff vs.
Wesley P. Shats, Nicole M. Shats, Unknown Owners, and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.
CASE NO. 22 FC 980
180 W. Bodine Court, Braidwood, Illinois 60408

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

THE SOUTH 167.00 FEET, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE WEST 260.84 FEET THEREOF, OF THAT PART OF LOT 10 LYING EAST OF THE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY LEADING TO SHAFT "B" IN DANIEL SMALL'S SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTH-WEST QUARTER OF SECTION 5, IN TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST, AND BEING PART OF SUB-LOT 1 OF SAID LOT 10 AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF THE COUNTY CLERK'S RESUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 5, RECORDED JULY 9, 1897, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 193441, IN PLAT BOOK 10, PAGES 16 AND 17, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS BENEATH THE SURFACE AND THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME TOGETHER WITH THE SOUTH 148.00 FEET OF LOT 7 BEING PARTS OF SUBLOTS 3 AND 4 OF SAID LOT 7 IN SAID COUNTY CLERK'S RESUBDIVISION LYING WEST OF THE WEST LINE OF VODICKA'S OLD BRAIDWOOD, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED DECEMBER 9, 2002 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER R2002-214774, ALL SITUATED IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

P.I.N.: 02-24-05-309-068-0000

Said property is commonly known as 180 W. Bodine Dr., Braidwood, IL 60408, and said mortgage was made by Wesley P. Shats and Nicole M. Shats and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number R2019047661 and for other relief, that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County, on or before November 12, 2022, A DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DATE AND A JUDGMENT ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, this case is set for Mandatory Mediation on October 5, 2022 at 1:00 p.m., and any subsequent date set by the court, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, Illinois, Room 441. A lender representative will be present along with a court-appointed mediator to discuss options that you may have and to pre-screen you for a potential mortgage modification. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court or by contacting the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below. YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE MEDIATION DATE GIVEN, OR YOUR RIGHT TO MEDIATION WILL TERMINATE.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

James M. Durkee, Malmquist, Geiger & Durkee LLC, 415 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 (815) 942-5072, (815) 942-5073 (fax), Attorney Number 6296297, staff@mglawoffices.com THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR. Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 19 and 26, 2022.

Braidwood accepting bids for waste disposal/recycling

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD
141 W. MAIN ST.
BRAIDWOOD, IL 60408

NOTICE—AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Braidwood is requesting proposals for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services including the Collection and Processing of Recyclables and Yard Waste for a Three Year Contract to Terminate October 31, 2025. Bid packets are available online at www.Braidwood.us. The Proposals shall be submitted sealed to the City and identified as a Proposal on the envelope and delivered to the City Administrator, City of Braidwood, 141 West Main Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 no later than 12:00PM on November 9, 2022. Proposals will be unsealed and publicly opened at 1:00PM on November 10, 2022 at the City of Braidwood Council Chambers Meeting Room, located at 141 West Main Street, Braidwood, IL 60408. Bids not physically received by the due date and time will be returned, unopened to the firm. Emailed or faxed bids will not be accepted. The bids will then be tabulated by the City and furnished to City Council at its next meeting. Published in the Braidwood Journal on Oct. 12 and 19, 2022.



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Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

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

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

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SOUND-OFF

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

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

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

lish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to 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. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Vote wisely

Thankfully, in America we have the right to agree to disagree. With the November election descending upon us Nov. 8, we have to make some important choices when we vote. If you haven't already noticed, abortion is about the only topic our politicians have focused on. There are far more concerns that should be addressed and supported by both the left and right. Close the border. Crime and violence in our communities are growing daily including carjackings. Gas prices are once again rising. Open the Keystone Pipeline. We don't have to buy from other countries. Rising taxes, again and again. Vote no workers right amendment. Support the men and women in blue. If you're not aware of it, politicians all have bodyguards or police protecting them. What about us? The politicians work for us. Vote wisely as if your lives depended on it.

We were better off

COAL CITY—I really don't understand all the Trump haters out there. Our country is in the worst financial state it has been in years, if ever. Our economy is in the toilet, health care is failing, unemployment is skyrocketing, gas prices are unreal and the open border has allowed thousands of immigrants to invade the U.S., who we taxpayers will be supporting financially. How much worse could things be? Biden is a joke and it's embarrassing to have him as our president. We were much better off before he took office. How can you people support a president who stumbles over his words and half the time doesn't even remember what he's talking about or where he is.

Another Illinois con

WILMINGTON—The vaguely named Amendment 1 on the Nov. 8 ballot is just another con job by our leaders in Springfield. It's being called the Workers' Rights Amendment which is inaccurate and biased because the amendment would overwhelmingly harm private sector workers while granting public sector workers the powers to make limitless demands of the public treasury, i.e. taxpayers. In reality it's a \$2,100 tax hike for the average Illinois homeowner over the next four years. No other state in the country would grant such extreme powers to government unions. With federal right to work laws already in place, there is no need to vote yes for Amendment 1. As crazy as it may sound, the way it is written "all employees" would have "a fundamental right" to collective bargain. That is alarming because it would give politicians and prisoners, all paid from the state treasury, the right to unionize. That's absurd because the final provision says none of these rights can be scaled back—"diminished or impaired"—by the legislature in any way. Springfield doesn't explain this, instead calling it a Workers Right Amendment instead. Don't be fooled by the tens of millions of dollars in misleading advertising, it's just another con job that will cost us \$\$\$ thousands while benefiting themselves.

Pathological narcissism

COAL CITY—As the evidence reveals, Trump planned to declare victory in the 2020 election before the election took place and regardless of the election results. Why? It was part of Trump's twisted strategy and also a cover for the embarrassment of losing the election which fits with Trump's huge ego. So Trump plotted his political game and not only ignored the incoming intelligence warnings but also stifled those warnings deliberately to cover his tracks. Trump's loyal servants in the Proud Boys and Oathkeepers have already been convicted of seditious conspiracy and are awaiting their punishment. Trump should also be held accountable for the many crimes he has committed against our great country. Kurt K.

Violation of privacy

MORRIS—Every American should understand that public servants are only custodians of documents, and they have been removing documents from citizens' files and sending them to unknown locations. We are to be notified of any requests for documents and only copies of these documents are supposed to be sent anywhere and only with a signed release. But public servants do not care about the legal rights of privacy, only the privacy of public servants. Public servants do not send copies of documents, but the originals, which is a violation of rights of citizens since that stops them from being able to receive a complete set of their own files that prevents the American Citizen from producing complete evidence for any claims. What laws do the public servants obey?

Took it away

We remember when Main Street was prosperous. Yes, we do and it sure wasn't when Democrats were in power. If you made any extra money then, Democrats took it back in taxes and gave it away to someone else. That's the reason they were called the 'tax and spend' party. And now we have Biden who can't find his way off a state in front of the world, as completely demolished the energy sector, all while he and his son's shady deals with China are overlooked by the media and he pushes billions of our tax dollars to Ukraine to be laundered back. As for thriving, we never ever heard the term "supply chain issue" before he came along and didn't wonder whether we could afford both gas and groceries if we paid the electric bill. People might be dumb, but they

can sure look in their wallet now and see they got less of it than when Trump was in office.

Money is their metric

WILMINGTON—Senator Tommy Tuberville blamed Democrats for crime and even said Democrats are pro-crime. What an a-hole. Republicans that voted to privatize prisons could be labeled pro-crime because the companies get paid based on the number of prisoners being held. Empty beds don't make any money and money is the only metric that Republicans use to measure everything. Remember, it isn't money but the love of money that is the root of all evil.

A fabricated story

WILMINGTON—In reference to the Oct. 13 edition of the sound-off. A voice was heard in the Free Press newspapers. The community has the right to know the facts from fiction and nonfiction. The nonfiction is the fact that its members of the Wilmington Area Historical Society have worked with the new board creating several committees to outline the duties of what a member and the board entails. Each member and board has their own duties. Each committee works diligently to uphold the museum as a whole and its respect for the Wilmington community. The members and the new board have corrected each error that was left behind from previous years. Each board member continues to work at updating committees to endure the measurement it holds. Each voice that has been heard at each meeting has been positive with great respect. We, as a whole, do have the museum at heart, for we would not be where we are today without the good nature and hard working members and its board. Sending out a fiction, fabrication story for all to see? I invited the town of Wilmington to come to a meeting and see for your own eyes. Then depict the truth that lies on the inside walls of the museum. Then decipher for your own conclusion of the truth and not a fiction, fabricated story being told.

A stupid stunt

SHADOW LAKES—The Governor of California signed a bill into law that prevents doctors from disagreeing with politicians about Covid misinformation since the politicians receive all their information about Covid from the news media. Apparently the politicians know more about the human body than a person who has spent years studying everything about medicine and the human body. Every time California pulls some stupid stunt it seems like Illinois ends up being just as dumb and both governors want to next run for President. This is nothing but a controlled stunt by individuals who are only thirsty for money and power while they continue to try to destroy freedom. Politicians are supposed to work for its citizens, but the politicians seem to be receiving taxpayer funds to pass laws against us. The people in the Democrat Party better wake up to the reality.

As Americans

DIAMOND—We, as Americans, not as a Democrat or a Republican, face crushing inflation. Gas prices that clean out your wallet at a single fill-up, a devalued over-printed dollar, wide open borders, rage in crime, defunded police further handcuffed by Pritzker's SAFE-T Act and major wars with no available solution as Biden's compromised mind threatens an unstable Putin. Diplomacy is the art of talking such as Trump can do to achieve détente at the very least.

The embarrassment

WILMINGTON—At his rallies, Trump's message is more of the same lunacy as his tweets of years ago. The fumbling, bumbling former president is a hustler and pathological liar who made a farce out of his presidential duties culminating in the document scandal. But oh, there is so much more that fills the many books written lately. Trump tried to destroy NATO which is now a necessary defensive line against the atrocities of Putin. Trump shamefully gave cover to the butchers who dismembered an American journalist and human rights advocate, Jamal Kashoggi. Trump betrayed our country when he declared to the world in Helsinki in 2018 that he believed Putin rather than our own national intelligence. When Trump told Americans to drink bleach, we demanded to know, what kind of dimwit is this? Trump is the kind of dimwit who should quietly shuffle off in disgrace. KL

Go Circle K

WILMINGTON—Big shout out to Circle K West for having the best gas prices in Wilmington and even better than the Kankakee area right now. It would be nice if the other gas stations followed your lead. Thank you.

Green new scam

WILMINGTON—Our politicians are pushing for the purchase of electric vehicles even though we cannot afford these type of vehicles and the taxpayers will have to pay for all the charging stations throughout the country. But what the politicians don't discuss is what it will cost to charge the batteries in these vehicles since the vehicle will only travel about 200 miles per charge of the battery. Your electric bill will skyrocket which will cause an EV owner to not be able to purchase anything except electrical power if it's available. Big business will also inflate prices to make up for their surging electric bills. Politicians don't care because they live off the taxpayers. How will Americans



be able to purchase food in the winter? Buy some snow shoes before it's too late. Good luck trying to survive the green new scam.

Foreign policy blunder

DIAMOND—Addressing RK from Braidwood in the Oct. 5 sound-off column. I agree that Putin is definitely violating the sovereignty of Ukraine. Your President Biden hasn't demonstrated any foreign policy skills to either American or the world viewing public. If President Trump was still in office Putin would never have invaded Ukraine. Every member nation of NATO is required to pay dues for mutual unified protection. President Trump protested being the only nation paying their fare share. Most others were not. Without U.S. dues they were required to be self supporting the way NATO was established to be. President Trump was not then, nor will he ever be, Putin's buddy. His college major was communications. Diplomacy is the art of communicating with other world leaders about their policies. At the very least it will achieve détente. Demonizing, slander and childish name calling in today's dangerous times has resulted in nuclear threats and a possible World War III. Biden's foreign policy blunders have created just that. If Putin has any American buddies look to Obama and Hillary. They sold American uranium resources to Putin. Some of that uranium is surely in the very nuclear weapons Putin is threatening to use on America today. Sharon

Signs don't vote

WILMINGTON—The recently televised Jan. 6 hearing revealed once again that Trump's senior staff and 62 court cases provide the evidence that Trump lost the 2020 election. But I've personally encountered relatives and acquaintances who still believe that Trump won. Like my sister-in-law in Southern Missouri who is surrounded by Trump supporters and also around here Trump yard signs have been much more plentiful than Trump's opposition. Why? Because people are afraid for their personal safety if they dare to defy Trump due to the hateful, vulgar violence that Trump promotes. There were so many in the 2020 election and now in the 2022 election who oppose the radical right-wing but remain inconspicuous out of fear. But signs don't vote. And the loud screaming at public rallies by right-wingers doesn't impress anybody. Alex

A failed effort

SHADOW LAKES—If the Biden administration was a football team it would be the Bears. Every week it's more bad news but they tell you we are really winning because it's not as bad as it could be and it's not our fault, it's the other team's fault. This is a bad team and you had two years to fix it. Failure should not be rewarded. Eddie

Ups and downs

WILMINGTON—People need to relax about all negative stock numbers. The markets always move with the world around us. All stocks are not doing poorly. I am glad to hear Tammie is going after these oil companies/gas stations for gouging us. Cheap gas is in Braidwood. We will gladly take a refund check. Big business is too greedy. Look at ComEd. Increase one after another. They want to stop solar and wind. Inviting competition will only benefit the people. Let's reflect where we were two years ago, I am thankful for our state being one of the top safest during covid. It took strong leaders to stand their ground. Support common sense and don't forget to vote.

It's scary out there

BRAIDWOOD—It's a scary time of year with ghosts and goblins everywhere and especially in the election process. Fortunately, Illinois candidates are fairly moderate but nationwide there are ghouls on the ballot such as in Arizona where Mark Finchem is running as Secretary of State who refuses to promise the prevention of voter intimidation and also refuses to protect mail-in voting which is important to the many retirees in Arizona. Finchem's actions could distort election results and the electoral count in the 2024 presidential election. And perhaps Finchem will illegally submit fake electors in 2024 like Arizona did in

2020. Finchem is a radical extremist who could spell the end of American democracy. Taylor

The arrogance of it all

WILMINGTON—What's one difference between Republicans and Democrats? Republican Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville blasted black Americans with racist remarks despite the excessive money he made off the talent of black athletes over the years. Tuberville didn't apologize. Contrast this with Democratic Los Angeles City Council President Martinez who apologized and resigned after making racist comments about a fellow council member. And Democratic Senator Al Franken was run out of the Senate due to unsubstantiated rumors, but he resigned gracefully and without rancor in 2018. This was two years after Trump arrogantly offered no regret for his sexual escapades. We say to Republicans, get your pompous bones off your ivory towers and show the humility befitting servants of the people. Ralph D.

Big shots happy

RITCHIE—As we admire the fall colors, we're reminded that God assigned us as stewards of the earth in order to provide sustenance for our lives. But did you know that during his presidency, Trump removed over 100 environmental regulations in order to keep the fat cats happy as they dirtied the country and fattened their wallets? But eventually outrageous scandals piled up and Trump had to replace his brazenly anti-environmentalist EPA director with a more stealthy and strategic EPA director. The new one was a coal lobbyist who did the same damage but did it quietly under the radar. Of course, the taxpayers must pay the piper in the end. This is the way Trump and the MAGA Republicans roll. Pat K.

Oil stability needed

MORRIS—Blame President Biden for shutting down pipelines, stop fracking etc. His war on fossil fuel. We were oil independent when he was put into office two years ago. Last week petroleum exporting countries OPEC, including Russia, agreed to a traumatic two million barrels per day cut in production. That move is intended to raise oil prices and revenue, the first largest reduction in output since the pandemic. The US and Europe are especially concerned the cuts will help Russia financially and militarily since Europe banned Russian oil. There will be possible further production cuts and price rises. Gasoline prices at the pumps will soar once again. It's a world economy green energy thinking disaster. We need gas and oil for decades. Big mistake President Biden and Democrats in the House of Representatives and Senate.

Spend, spend, spend

MORRIS—I read federal officials have OK'd plans for new electric charging stations in all 50 states granting access to \$1.5 billion in aid for next year. The first cost of the \$5 billion intends to have US charging network. Just keep spending President Biden while putting the middle class in poverty.

Counter-productive

SHADOW LAKES—I'm sure some of you remember a few decades ago when everyone told us how important trees were and that we should stop cutting them down to save the planet. I totally agreed and I was puzzled last week when I saw large areas of trees being cut down and I asked why. They said solar panels are going to be installed. So we do know that photosynthesis is the process by which plants use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to create oxygen. Right? And we are trying to reduce our carbon footprint right? So it seems to me that all these solar panels built incidentally in China are really counter-productive and we are doing all this based on modeling, not facts. Is my thinking correct? Dan Hill

Withstanding evil

DIAMOND—Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand firm. Ephesians 6:13. Sharon

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White grapefruits in harvest make for a delicious Navy Grog

A quick scroll through your social media newsfeed will tell you who is looking forward to Halloween, who is looking forward to Thanksgiving, and who is looking forward to jolly old Saint Nick's ride at the end of December.

If you have any rum aficionados in your network, there is a good chance that they are anxiously awaiting Florida's white grapefruit harvest. The arrival of white grapefruit in supermarkets is also a "wonderful time of the year", no doubt about it. What are we to do with this white grapefruit?

We have been patiently waiting all year long for this, and we're going to shake up one of the all-time great rum drinks, the classic Navy Grog.

Before we get into the Navy Grog, let's talk white grapefruit. They begin to appear in produce aisles around mid-November and hang around until the end of January if the growers in Florida had a good harvest.

If a recipe is over 50 years old and calls for grapefruit juice, then the recipe calls for white grapefruit juice. Ruby red grapefruit may rule the citrus aisle in modern grocery stores, but white grapefruit was the only option for chefs and bartenders of yesteryear.

Can't we substitute ruby red grapefruit for white grapefruit? No. The flavor profiles are



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

completely different. Ruby Red is tart and very sweet, whereas the sweetness of the white grapefruit is more subdued. The white grapefruit may have lost the popularity contest to the bright ruby reds, but the less complex sweetness of the white grapefruit makes it more ideal for mixing drinks.

By the way, the European and Asian markets love white grapefruit. Most of the white grapefruit grown domestically is bottled and juiced for international markets.

If you cannot locate fresh white grapefruit, there are a few juice options available, be sure to buy only "100% juice" options without added sweetener.

A few tips and tricks when preparing white grapefruit for your home bar:

First, use a juicer if you have access to one, even an inexpensive juicer will get the job done. When juicing, do not press the fruit so hard that you force the juice out of the pith of the fruit as it will be a tad bitter compared to the juice from the center of the fruit.

I buy a box of white grapefruit every year, which yields nearly a gallon of juice. Another great tip for bar home bar service is to bottle and refrigerate the juice that you will use over the next few days, and freeze the rest.

The best way to freeze white grapefruit juice is to fill ice trays with the grapefruit juice,

which yields perfect 1 oz. cubes, ideal portions for mixing future drinks.

Also, white grapefruit juice is an excellent way to lightly sweeten your fruit or vegetable smoothie.

On to the Navy Grog. This is an iconic drink that has been a fan favorite at Polynesian-themed bars and restaurants since it was first served in 1941. There are two main varieties of the Navy Grog, one made famous by Don the Beachcomber and the other made famous by Trader Vic. The recipe below is closer to the Trader Vic version.

The Trader Vic version has had many fans over the years, including former president Richard Nixon. The rival Donn the Beachcomber recipe was one of Frank Sinatra's favorite cocktails, one that he would sip while dining in California. Do you have a favorite version? Let's try the recipe below on for size.

A quick glance at the six-ingredient recipe may be a bit intimidating, knowing what to buy is half the battle. As far as rum goes, this drink is best with two types of dark rum. I like Myer's Original Dark or Appleton 12 for the Jamaican rum and El Dorado 12 for the demerara. You could also get by using Pusser's Navy Rum, which is a blend of Jamaican and demerara rums.

The Navy Grog calls for allspice dram, a pimento liqueur that you may not run across every day. Allspice dram is a complex Jamaican liqueur with notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, and

cloves that you can prepare at home using any number of online recipes.

If you do not have the time or the ingredients to go the DIY route, pick up a bottle of St. Elizabeth Allspice Dram, a high-quality liqueur made in the Jamaican tradition. It doesn't smell or taste like anything else, and less always more when using allspice dram. However, you will not achieve Navy Grog nirvana without it.

I realize that it feels a bit out of season to enjoy tropical drinks during a long cold winter. Just think of this as an escape to whatever tropical destination is on your bucket list. If you "squeeze and freeze" some white grapefruit juice into your ice trays, you will have the most popular home bar on your block as you serve year-round Navy Grog. Cheers!

The **Navy Grog** is built in shaker and served in an ice-filled double Old Fashioned glass.

Combine in shaker:

3/4 oz. fresh lime juice
1/2 oz. fresh white grapefruit juice
1 oz. dark Jamaican rum
1 oz. demerara rum
1/2 oz. simple syrup
1/4 oz. St. Elizabeth Allspice Dram

Shake with ice and strain into ice-filled glass

Garnish with lime wheel
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Millie needs a new owner



MEET MILLIE, she is as sweet as they come. She loves to get belly rubs and seems to always have a smile on her face. Adoption fee includes spay, rabies shot, distemper, heartworm test, microchip and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com

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First United Methodist Church

PORK ROAST DINNER
Saturday, Oct. 22
401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

YUM! Roast pork, stuffing, potatoes, green beans, oriental slaw and desserts. **YUM!**

- Carry-outs will be available -
The community is invited to attend.

Cost: Free-will offering to benefit local charities
Our Caring Closet will hold a SILENT AUCTION at this event

Moving Sale!
Saturday, Oct. 22
24932 Lorenzo Rd., Wilmington
We are opening up our shop 9 am - 4 pm to clear out 16 years of accumulation
TOOLS - SAWS - LADDERS - ROTO TILLER
CAMPING GRILL - VINTAGE SCHWINN BIKES, ANTIQUES & SO MUCH MORE
MAKE AN OFFER...everything must go as our building is being torn down

BREEZE-AIR
We're moving to
459 Davy Ln., Wilmington
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Call (815) 476-6615

American Standard



OUR CARING CLOSET volunteers include (sitting from left) Audry M., Judy J. and Ike W. Standing are Larry L., Lori S., Bonnie H., Jane P., Cathy E., Maryet A., Maria M., Debbie A., Debbie L., Micki T., Nancy M., Ruth L., Diane C. and Tony R.

Our Caring Closet preparing for the holidays

Volunteer workers from Our Caring Closet NFP met on Monday, Oct. 10 at the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington to plan for Halloween, Thanksgiving, the Winter coat distribution, and Christmas displays in the Closet's showroom.

Halloween costumes and decorations are already on the shelves and racks and Fall items are ready to be displayed.

The Annual Winter Coat Distribution and will be Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St. in Wilmington.

Saturday Christmas Shopping, in conjunction with Wilmington's Christian Help Association, will be Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Many local churches, businesses and clubs will be collection sites for winter outerwear, beginning Oct. 22.

After the meeting adjourned, friend of the Closet, Pastor Harriet, offered Grace. A beautiful potluck dinner was enjoyed and Judy Johnson was honored for her many years as a board member.

Anyone interest in donating or volunteering should contact us. Phone 815-476-0900, or email: ourcaringcloset@gmail.com, or see our Facebook page "Our Caring Closet NFP".

Letter to the Editor

I hope no one faces this type of nightmare

I live in Florida and was exposed to Hurricane Ian.

The usual response is to get FEMA involved. The destruction was a preventable nightmare. Why after decades of hurricanes there is mass destruction and death. Why?

There's been no major move to hurricane-proof this state. There is a community here called Burdick of 5,000 homes. According to the news there was no damage or flooding. Why. Because it was built to address hurricane power.

This proves that the state for what ever reason didn't enforce or create a hurricane building code. There are no storm drains to relive flooding.

There are 21 military bases that are not being made available to the victims of this storm even though their taxes have been used to build and maintain them.

Our government set up the flood plain maps. Sadly,

they missed the flooding that happened in areas not included. Then add in the massive exit of homeowner insurances from the state, leaving victims without affordable insurance to cover any loss.

A lot of people stayed. If you're low income or have Social Security only, how can one afford room, gas, meals and add inflation. Sadly, there are looters, so you stay to protect what little you have left.

Can you believe after two weeks there are areas still flooded and without electricity or running water in America. There are approximately 300,000 churches, surely they have some members that could volunteer their skills or just lend a hand. Aren't we supposed to help one another? Looks like no one cares. Sad. I hope no one ever has to face this type of nightmare, ever!

Roger Robins, Sebring, FL

Apply now for assistance in paying heating bill

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

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

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

Families who earn up to two times the federal poverty level are eligible for LIHEAP. That works out to a 30-day gross income below \$2,265

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

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

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

We have homegrown pumpkins!

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To apply, please send your cover letter and resume to:
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HALLOWEEN

Trick-or-treat hours

MONDAY, OCT. 31

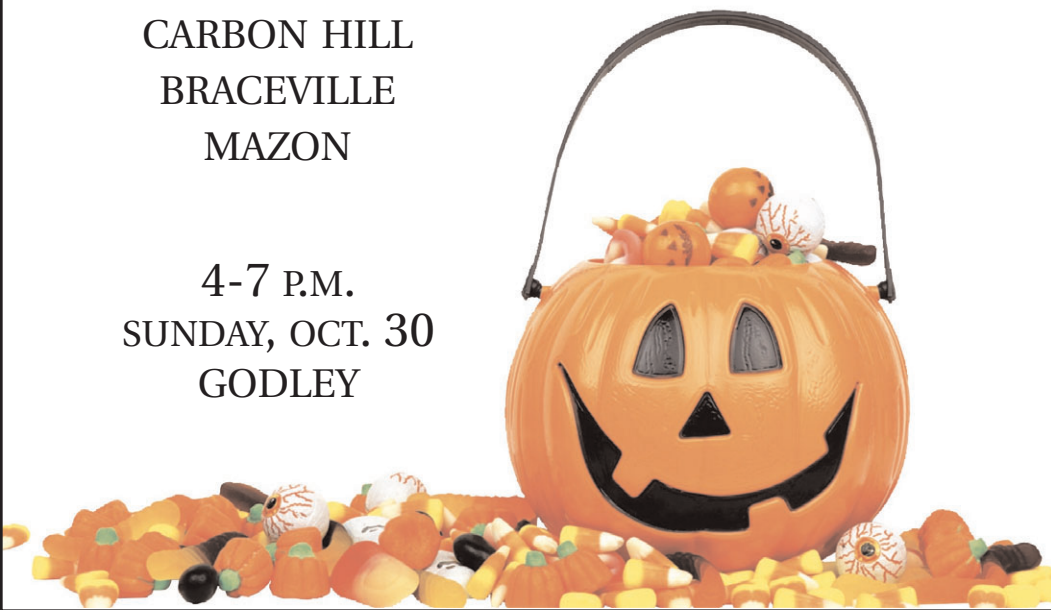
4-6 P.M.
DIAMOND
SOUTH WILMINGTON

4-7:30 P.M.
WILMINGTON

4-7 P.M.
COAL CITY
CARBON HILL
BRACEVILLE
MAZON

5-8 P.M.
BRAIDWOOD

4-7 P.M.
SUNDAY, OCT. 30
GODLEY



Gas price drops but diesel, home fuel rise

Gasoline prices dropped 20 cents per gallon in Braidwood and were down in Wilmington Monday after a prior week of pump increases.

According to GasBuddy.com, the low price of \$3.81/g. was reported in Braidwood while in Joliet stations were charging as much as \$4.29/g., a difference of 48 cents.

Wilmington area stations saw a significant drop to \$3.85/g. on Monday after averaging \$4.09 the week before.

"After a sharp rise in the national average over the last few weeks, we've seen an abrupt, yet expected decline as refinery issues have eased in the West and Great Lakes, overpowering some increases elsewhere. Though at the same time, diesel prices have soared," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Prices in Morris and Bourbonnais were holding up at \$4.19/g., while in Coal City the average was \$4.15/g.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 9.8 cents per gallon in the last week,

averaging \$4.30/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 38.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 89.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel has increased 18.7 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.06 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.49/g, while the most expensive was \$5.87/g, a difference of \$2.38/g.

"The Great Lakes will see prices drift lower as BP's Whiting, Ind. refinery is soon to complete maintenance. In addition, oil prices have cooled off slightly after OPEC's decision to cut production, and that should slow increases elsewhere. Diesel and heating oil prices are likely to continue to rise as extremely low inventories of middle of the barrel products like these two push prices higher."

Free mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilmington

Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing free food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington, on Monday, Oct. 24 at 4 p.m. (until food runs out) 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.

CC United Methodist to host blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArde Road in Coal City, will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone willing to donate blood can contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 to schedule a preferred time or you may register online at www.versiti.org.

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended. Please bring a photo ID and eat a good meal before donating. Please consider giving blood - one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.

Utility work to close EB I-80 lane

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that testing to a utility pipeline along Interstate 80 in Joliet will require a temporary daytime closure of one eastbound lane between Houbolt/Hollywood Road and Illinois 7 (Larkin Avenue) this week.

Through Thursday, Oct. 20, eastbound I-80's left lane will be closed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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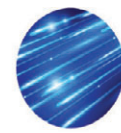
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OBITUARIES

Robert W. Horton Sr.

BRACEVILLE—Robert W. Horton Sr., 85, of Braceville, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022 at Riverside Miller Health Care in Kankakee.

Born April 23, 1937, Robert William was the son of William and Marie Horton. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1955. Bob attended Joliet Junior College and went on to successfully own and operate 5 Star Pest Control for 35 plus years, leading to him being affectionately known as “The Bugman.”

He had a huge heart for animals, often taking in stray cats or would find a dog companion at the animal shelter, and the birds always had plenty of seed with a bird bath full of water. Bob was an avid sports fan, and especially enjoyed cheering for the Chicago Cubs.

Surviving are his wife, Tina Horton, of Kankakee; three sons: Rob (Chris) Horton, of Braidwood; Kyle (Sarah) Horton, of Wilmington



and Darren Horton, of Dana Point, CA; two step daughters, Susan (Larry) Olichwier, of Crestwood, IL and Monica (Jeff) Hagberg, of Essex; as well as many grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William and Marie Horton and his daughter, Deborah Jackson.

Per Bob's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded, and a private family graveside service will take place. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bob's memory to Uplifted Care, 482 Main Street NW, Bourbonnais, IL 60914.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, upload photos and share Freda's memorial page via social media.

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

Richard W. Mitchell

GARDNER—Richard W. Mitchell, “Dick,” 77, of Gardner, formerly of Braceville, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Oct. 10, 2022 at his home.

Born Sept. 29, 1945 in Chicago, Richard William was a son of Stanley and Bernice Mitchell. He was raised in Chicago where he attended Saint Eugene Grade School and Maine West High School in Park Ridge. Dick worked as an over the road truck driver for over 30 years until his retirement at the age of 62. He loved being on the road and took meticulous care of his vehicles. Dick was passionate about country music and was a talented guitar player. As a young man, he performed in many music shows, including at famous venues such as the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago and the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN. Dick was a character who beat to his own drum, but if you were his friend



there wasn't anything he wouldn't do for you.

Survivors include his daughter, Kristine Mitchell, of West Frankfort, IL; one sister, Pat (Al) Freese, of Algonquin, IL; several nieces and nephews, and his dear friends: Danny, Val, Ray, and Arlene.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Rosalie (Leo) Bush, and one brother, Al (Loretta) Bochat.

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

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.Reevesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, upload photographs, and share Dick's memorial page via social media.

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

Josephine L. Sullivan

WESTMONT—Josephine L. “Jo” Sullivan (nee Leach), 96, of Westmont, formerly of Braidwood, was gently called from her home to eternal life on Oct. 17, 2022. She was born in Braidwood on Aug. 19, 1926, the daughter of Joseph J. Leach and Josephine J. (Ruva) Leach.

She was a graduate of Reed-Custer High School and valedictorian of the class of 1944. Jo worked as a secretary for the Office, Field Director of Ammunition Plants (OFDAP) in Elwood until her marriage to the love of her life, Edwin J. (“Ed”) Sullivan, in 1950. Thereafter she worked at the State Bank of Braidwood and helped Ed establish the Sullivan Insurance Agency in Braidwood. After Ed's death in 1980 Jo worked at the Fossil Ridge Public Library until retiring in 1993.

Jo was very proud of her faith, family, friends, and community. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Church, Braidwood, where she was a lector, Eucharistic Minister, CCD teacher, youth minister, member of the Parish Advisory Council, Mt. Olivet Cemetery Board and Past President of the Council of Catholic Women. She was a charter member of the Braidwood Recreation Club, a member of the Braidwood Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary (Fire Sirens), Braidwood Chamber of Commerce, Reed-Custer Educational Foundation, Braidwood Area Historical Society and the Red Hats chapter. She was a volunteer at St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet. After mov-



ing to Westmont to be nearer her grandchildren she became an active member of Holy Trinity Parish, the Holy Trinity Seniors Group, and the Westmont Joyful Voices Show Group.

She is survived by her son, Dan (Cindy) Sullivan, of Downers Grove; her daughter, Rita (Kevin) Carlson, of Downers Grove and her grandchildren: Brendan Sullivan, of Indianapolis; Thomas Sullivan and Shannon Sullivan, of Downers Grove; Caitlin Carlson, of Milwaukee and Molly, Patrick, and Sean Carlson, of Downers Grove. She is also survived by her honorary son, Charlie (Cheryl) Boyd; honorary grandchildren, Jessica Boyd and Charlie Boyd Jr., all of Braidwood and countless others who knew her simply as “Grandma Jo.”

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her sister, Tressie (Tom) Hiles.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, Braidwood, followed by burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers, donations made in her memory to the charity of the donor's choice would be appreciated.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes & Crematory, www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com, is in charge of arrangements.

Campaign messages can backfire

The political action committee affiliated with the Illinois Network of Charter Schools is always well-funded, well-organized, well-run and often quite successful at electing legislative candidates who are supportive of their cause.

But, unlike, say, Personal PAC, which focuses almost solely on the issue of abortion in its ubiquitous direct mailers, you don't often see charter schools even mentioned in the cash-rich INCS Action's mailers. And “INCS” is the only identifier on its mailers. They don't mention the full name of the group itself.

There's nothing illegal or even particularly wrong about that. The group wants more allies at the Statehouse, so they use polling to shape their campaign messaging, instead of using their own core issues, which may not move enough voters. And because they're an independent expenditure committee, campaign contribution caps do not apply. So they can spend big. And they do.

This year, though, INCS broached an issue that caused them some Statehouse trouble.

“Repeal the dangerous SAFE-T Act,” blares one dot-point in a mailer on behalf of Rep. Chris Bos (R-Lake Zurich). “Violent Criminals shouldn't be allowed out on the streets with no cash bail.” It's the top item in what INCS claims is “Chris Bos' plan to reduce crime and make our communities safer.”

There's probably not a huge overlap between staunch charter school proponents and enthusiastic criminal justice reform advocates, but the latter group does have quite a bit of influence in both legislative chambers, which is how the SAFE-T Act was passed in the first place.

Sen. Robert Peters (D-Chicago), who has been one of the SAFE-T Act's most vocal proponents since the massive pushback against the criminal justice reform law began, issued a statement last week about the INCS mailer.

“It's disappointing to see this from the charter school industry especially since their own website says they serve 92% of students of color,” Peters' statement read. “They should support the elimination of cash bail given 87% students are on free and reduced price lunch and are profoundly impacted by the issue. I hope they reconsider their position especially for the families their schools serve.”

Sen. Peters was described by the Chicago Teachers Union earlier this year as being a “staunch CTU supporter,” and that union is perhaps the most vocal opponent of the charter school system.



Rich Miller

I've since been told that INCS Action will no longer use the issue in future mailers. Somebody over there just wasn't thinking things through. It's one thing to help a super-minority party candidate win, it's quite another if how you aid that person winds up damaging your core issue with the super-majority party. I figure they'll find a way to patch things up. They're usually pretty good at this stuff.

According to disclosures filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections, INCS has, as of this writing, sent three mailers on Bos' behalf, at \$11,400 a pop. It reported having \$1.9 million cash on hand at the end of September.

Rep. Bos definitely needs the help. He ended June with just \$10,000 in the bank and has since reported raising just \$19,000. INCS has already reported spending more money on Bos than the incumbent has available.

Bos is up against Nabeela Syed, a hard-charging opponent who has reported raising about \$372,000 between the beginning of July and October 14th. Rep. Bos isn't yet a Tier One target, but Syed walks a lot of precincts and convincingly won a Democratic primary, which undoubtedly boosted her name recognition. So, unless the bottom drops out on the Democrats, she could make it a close race, particularly if the House Democrats put her cable ads on Chicago broadcast TV.

What money has been spent by the Republicans has focused mainly on the crime issue, which INCS evidently picked up on. The Republicans have been criticized, however, for using a photoshopped image of Syed which falsely makes her look like she's holding a sign saying “Defund the police.” The Democrats have been known to do this sort of thing, too, of course.

The House Dems are running two cable TV ads for Syed. One mixes economic issues with abortion.

“Rising prices hurt everyone,” the 15-second ad begins. “I'm Nabeela Syed. I'm fighting to cut property taxes and prescription costs. Extreme politician Chris Bos opposes a woman's right to choose, no exceptions. I'm Nabeela Syed. I'll protect your pocketbook and your rights.”

The other 15-second spot focuses solely on Bos, claiming he will “outlaw a woman's right to choose, even in cases of rape and incest.”

According to Illinois Right to Life Action, Rep. Bos is “Fully pro-life.”

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

Grundy Bank holding coat drive

Grundy Bank's Caring Committee is bringing back its annual “Winter Coat Drive” this year to help collect winter coats for local residents in Grundy and Southern Will County who are preparing for the cold weather this upcoming winter season.

Grundy Bank will be accepting donations of coats that are gently used or new for men, women, and children of all sizes and can be dropped off at the main branch located at 201 Liberty Street, Morris or 120 S. Main Street, Wilmington.

“We are excited to be able to bring our coat drive back this year and be able to help collect coats for local residents that are in need for this upcoming season. It's a great feeling seeing all the coats being donated on a daily basis - it's extremely heartwarming to see the communities come together for such a great cause,” said Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales Director of Grundy Bank.

This year's coat drive will run through November 17. All coats donated will go to We Care of Grundy County in Morris and Our Caring Closet NFP in Wilmington.

Our Caring Closet NFP in Wilmington offers free household goods and clothing in all sizes to people and families with an immediate need. We Care of Grundy County offers services ranging from food, clothing, one-time rent/mortgage assistance, utility, & holiday assistance.

For more information



Courtesy photo

FILL THE BOXES in the lobbies at Grundy Bank's Wilmington and Morris locations with winter coats to help those in need. Kicking off the annual Grundy Bank coat drive in the lobby of the Morris branch are Christine Mendez and Jen Yurkovich.

contact Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales Director at (815) 513-2241 or email cmendez@grundy.bank.

Grundy Bank is a leading community bank in Grundy County that is dedicated to providing hometown service while offering big bank prod-

ucts to their clients.

Grundy Bank is proud to say they have served Grundy County and southern Will County for over 155 years with their financial needs. For locations and information on Grundy Bank call 815-942-0130 or visit grundy.bank.

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June 9	December 15*

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STI/STD Information

Miller joins Morris Hospital OB/GYN

A nurse practitioner bringing more than 20 years of nursing experience has joined Morris Hospital Obstetrics & Gynecology Specialists.

Heidi Miller, F.N.P.-B.C., will see patients at the Morris Hospital Obstetrics & Gynecology offices in Channahon, Morris and Ottawa. She joins a team that also includes Dr. Andrea Chen, Dr. Mary Fitzgibbon, Dr. Victoria Ochoa, Dr. Leticia Setrini-Best and Dr. Douglas Toussaint.

As a nurse practitioner specializing in obstetrics and gynecology, Miller provides care for women at all stages of life, including women's preventive health, reproductive, menstrual and hormonal disorders, menopause and gynecological conditions including fibroids, endometriosis, and



HEIDI MILLER, FNP-BC

birth control. In this role, Miller believes the opportunity for one-on-one care allows her to build meaningful, lasting relationships with her patients.

“I strive to have a personal and caring connection with each one of my patients,”

Miller says. “My goal is to provide educational, empathetic and empowering care to women of all ages.”

Miller received her master's degree in nursing from Chamberlain University in Downers Grove, Ill., and has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Lewis University, Romeoville, Ill. She is a licensed and certified surgical assistant, and is certified as a nurse practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She worked as a registered nurse in labor and delivery for 20 years.

Born and raised in Joliet and Crest Hill, Miller has three boys, one daughter and a granddaughter.

For more information, visit www.morrishospital.org/obgyn.



THE ENTRANCE TO Evans Judge Preserve on Route 113 in Custer Township features a canopy of color. The 1.5 mile trail at the preserve also leads hikers down to the Kankakee River, where colors are expected to reach their peak this weekend.

Fall colors expected to peak

Fall is officially underway, with much colder temperatures making for cool crisp days and nights perfect for snuggling under the covers.

But the highlight of fall color is expected this weekend as daytime temperatures are expected to reach into the 70s once again, making it the perfect time to go out and see what Mother Nature has to offer.

The leaves change color each autumn because the days get shorter. When there is less sunlight, the leaves cannot make as much chlorophyll, the pigment that makes leaves green. Without the chlorophyll to make them green, other pigments in the leaves are expressed, creating the vivid

display of fall color we look forward to each year. And although we know without a doubt that the leaves will change color each fall, the timing is not always the same from year to year.

While we can use our own knowledge to make some local predictions about the timing, the folks behind the Smoky Mountains website have come up with a national forecast map to give us a good idea of when we can expect the dazzling display to begin. They've used a variety of data, including historical temperatures, rainfall and past leaf trends to come up with the 2022 Fall Foliage Prediction Map.

Currently, peak color is expected to hit at the end of

this week and into next week.

Get out there and enjoy it while you can, because the peak period will be brief, with Will County moving past its peak period by the week of Oct. 31, according to the map.

For those who don't want to travel too far or hike too long, the Forest Preserve District of Will County has several local places to stop and take a look at the changing colors, including the Braidwood Dunes on Route 113, Kankakee Sands on Route 113, and Evans Judge along Route 113.

Rivals Park, The North and South Island in Wilmington, the Wauponsee Trail, and just around the neighborhood are also great places to get out and take in autumn.

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FOR WILL COUNTY SHERIFF

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✓ Reilly strongly opposes and will fight against the Dangerous Safe T Act: Which will end cash bail starting January 1, 2023

✓ Reilly will be a full-time Sheriff who protects our communities and law enforcement
(Joliet Patch: June 30, 2022)

✓ Reilly will end Ghost Payrolling and Political patronage costing Will County taxpayers potentially millions of dollars
(Herald News, May 8, 2019)

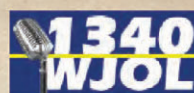
When it Comes to the SAFE-T ACT Most Democrats & Republicans Agree.....



Democrat Will County State's Attorney
James Glasgow



Republican Will County Sheriff Candidate
Jim Reilly



July 26th 2022

"You as the electorate need to demand that anybody running for election in November is going to vote to repeal this bill," said Glasgow. "It will destroy the state of Illinois. I have 640 people in the Will County jail. All their bonds will be extinguished on Jan. 1, and 60 are charged with murder."

-James Glasgow / Will County State's Attorney

ELECT JIM REILLY FOR WILL COUNTY SHERIFF



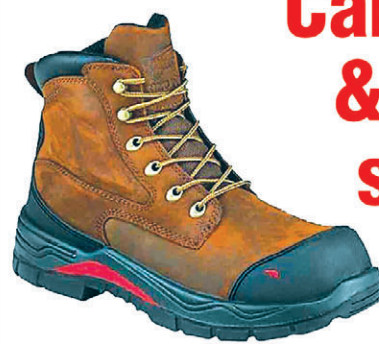
TREES LINED ALONG Route 113 make a colorful fence line for those visiting Braidwood Dunes and Savanna nature Preserve.

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Mountain lion struck, killed in DeKalb County

A mountain lion (Puma concolor – cougar) was struck and killed by a vehicle on Interstate 88 in DeKalb County on Sunday, according to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The animal was transferred by the Illinois State Police to an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) wildlife biologist and has been delivered to the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana (UIUC) for a full necropsy and DNA analysis. The UIUC analysis will provide valuable information to biologists about the animal, its place of origin, and exploratory movements across the Midwest.

IDNR experts believe it may be the same mountain lion that was captured on a trail camera on private property in Whiteside County in late September and confirmed by wildlife biologists from IDNR and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

IDNR is monitoring another mountain lion reported in western Illinois in early October. This animal has a GPS collar that was originally attached in November 2021 by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) as part of an ongoing research project on their mountain lion population, including movement patterns.

The NGPC has been coordinating with state agencies on GPS location data as the animal recently made an eastward journey across Iowa and into Illinois. IDNR will continue to coordinate with NGPC and other agency partners on this animal while it is in Illinois.

Mountain lions were eliminated from Illinois prior to the 1870s due to habitat loss and overharvest. Although extremely rare in Illinois, mountain lion sightings have been confirmed in Illinois during the past few decades consisting of younger animals, typically originating from a population in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

IDNR receives numerous reports of mountain lions in the state each year. Most often the alleged sightings are determined to be cases of mistaken identity with other animals, such as feral cats or bobcats, or evidence is not available to validate the report. Regardless, IDNR documents and investigates all reports by the public.

Mountain lions have been protected in Illinois since 2015, and it is unlawful to hunt, kill, or harass them unless they pose an imminent threat to a person or property. The IDNR reminds the public that it is very rare for a mountain lion to pose a threat to people or property. However, if encountered and the animal does not immediately flee, people should stand tall, wave their arms, throw stones or other objects, and yell. Do not run, but slowly back away from the site, keeping an eye on the animal.

The public can report large carnivore sightings at the following link: www.wildlifeillinois.org/sightings/report/.

First United Methodist to host annual pork dinner

The First United Methodist Church will be hosting its annual roast pork dinner on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

It will be held at the church on 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington. The meal will include roast pork, stuffing, potatoes, green beans, oriental slaw and desserts.

A free will offering can be made to benefit local charities and a silent auction will take place for The Caring Closet of Wilmington.

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS THE MONEY SOURCE, INC.; Plaintiff, vs. MICHAEL T. ZOPP; CITY OF MORRIS, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION; STATE OF ILLINOIS; Defendants, 22 FC 21 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the office of Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 05-03-107-021. Commonly known as 502 East High Street, Morris, IL 60450. The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. File Number 22-003568 ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com IL3205360 Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 19, 26 and November 2, 2022.

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GARAGE SALES

BRAIDWOOD

415 N English St., Braidwood, Thurs., Fri. & Sat., Oct. 20, 21 & 22, 9am-3pm Lots of different items, holiday decor, Harley Davidson plus size ladies tops, some tools, HD T-shirts XL cc42

CUSTER PARK

35920 Zilm Road, Custer Park. Thursday and Friday, October 20-21, 9am-5pm and Saturday, October 22, 9am-2pm. Antiques, collectibles, clothing, tools. cc42

WILMINGTON

1213 Vista Dr., Wilmington. Fri., Oct. 21, 10am to 6pm and Sat., Oct. 22, 10am to noon. Tools, Kennedy toolbox, empty bins, ladies Schwin bike, Christmas, small furniture and more.

ESTATE SALES

Estate Sale - 33811 West River Road, Wilmington. Friday, October 21, 8am-4pm & Saturday, October 22, 8am-1pm. Indoor and outdoor furniture, yard tools, glassware, collectibles, etc. Priced to sell. Cash only. ca42

DUPLEX FOR RENT

2 BR Duplex Ranch Style, Only 2 units per building. 1/2 mile from I-55 (Diamond). Attached garage, backyard. Oak cabinets, concrete drive, washer/dryer hook-up. All maintenance included. \$1,050.00 per month plus all utilities. (Available 10/27/22) No Smoking or Pets & Year Lease. Call 815-351-2494. cr42-45

Diamond, 1570 Patmore, 2 BR, 1 BA, decent kitchen w/ all appliances, 1 car garage, repainted and new floors. No pets. \$1,200/mo. Everything brand new! Call 815-941-4832. cc3942

FOR RENT

Retail/Shop for Lease, formerly "Big Z's". 101 East Chicago St. Call 815-693-6030 for details. ca40-43

HELP WANTED

Help with training dogs full or part time. Wilmington area. Call 630-399-4982 before 6 p.m. ch40-42

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

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36" Dethatcher rack for lawn tractor \$40, GoGo Elite Traveler 3 wheel with basket \$300, XL dog crate with wheels on the bottom, like new \$50. Prefer text 815-347-1971. ca41-43

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COORDINATOR POSITION OPENING

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community (WCHC) is accepting applications for a full-time Coordinator to implement grant-related strategies to reduce underage drinking and youth misuse of opioids and prescription drugs. Requires 2 years of experience in a prevention-related field, with special focus on communications and youth-related work. Bachelor's degree is preferred, but not required.

The ideal candidate will be comfortable in working with middle and high school youth in classroom and community settings. Strong communications (oral and written) and computer skills will also be important for grant-related projects that include organizing meetings and assemblies, developing messages and signage, working on campaigns, in-person presentations and webinars, and collaborating with local stakeholders to reduce substance use/mental health disorders among youth.

Salary starts at \$35,000, with a flexible schedule (some nights and weekends). Benefits include paid holidays and vacation. Start date: November 14, 2022.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to: WCHC, 1095 S. Water St., Suite F, Wilmington IL 60481; info@wilmington-coalition.org
For more info about the Wilmington coalition, please visit our website, <https://www.wilmington-coalition.org> or call 815-476-1660.

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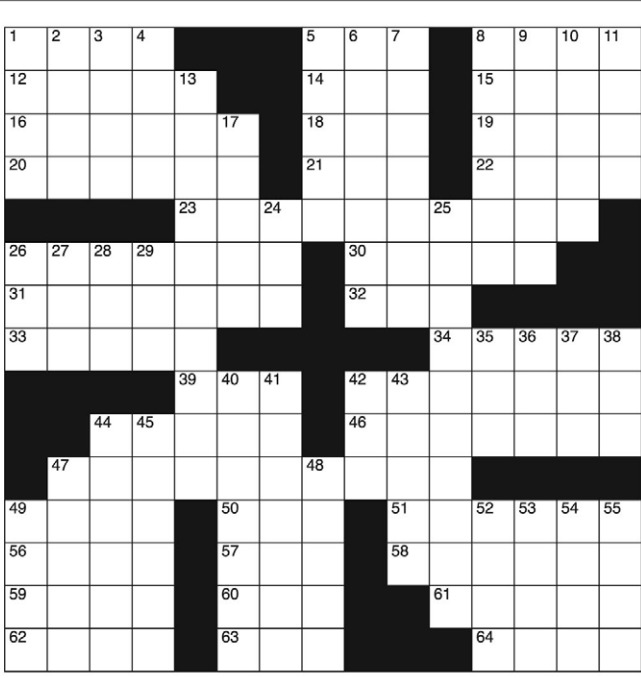
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Towards the mouth or oral region

5. A way to season

8. North-central Indian city

12. Emaciation

14. Actress de Armas

15. A way to score in basketball

16. Odd

18. Scripting languages on IBM machines

19. A right of local jurisdiction

20. Hard, colorless compound

21. Diving seabird

22. Wild goat of the mountains

23. Not shortened

26. Someone who learns from a teacher

30. Is inclined

31. Still asleep

32. Antidepressants (abbr.)

33. Town in Surrey, England
34. Indian music patterns

39. Birth control means

42. People tend to be on one

44. A way to keep meat moist

46. Home of the Crimson Tide

47. Pasta type

49. Late 1990s rapper

50. One circuit of a track

51. Surrounded by water

56. Late "Growing Pains" actor Thickie

57. Married couples say it

58. Drool

59. Sicilian city

60. Airline worker perk (abbr.)

61. Grayish-black mixture

62. Systems, doctrines, theories

63. Midway between east and southeast

64. Athletes who get paid

CLUES DOWN

1. Genus of owls

2. Hindu queen

3. Cain and _____

4. Hindu female deity

5. Islamic calendar month

6. Changes posture

7. More stubborn

8. Give work to

9. Round maps of the Earth

10. Gathered fallen leaves

11. Popular credit card

13. Separation of church and state

17. Founder of Sikhism

24. They _____

25. Where you find the milk

26. Institute legal proceedings against

27. The neural structure consisting of the brain and spinal cord

28. Expresses surprise

29. Have a debt to
35. Businessman

36. State on India's western coast

37. Practice of managing financial risks (abbr.)

38. Patty Hearst's captors

40. Put into service

41. 10-year periods

42. Crony

43. Surgical clamp

44. Leave unable to move due to lack of wind

45. Where rockers work

47. Valleys

48. Ancient lyric poem

49. Wise men

52. It lights a room

53. Assert

54. Fifth Roman Emperor

55. Ancient Greek city in Thrace

How old homes stack up to new when it comes to energy efficiency

Dear EarthTalk: How do manufactured homes stack up against traditionally constructed houses in terms of energy efficiency and overall environmental footprint?

-- Jen Jackson, via email

As one might expect, manufactured homes run the gamut with regard to energy efficiency. In an analysis completed by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), it was found that modern manufactured homes used 70.4 MM btu/year, a significant amount less than the 108.5 MM btu/year average seen in traditional, or "site-built" homes.

In addition, the actual manufacture of manufactured homes produces much less waste, as does the on-site setup. According to the Manufactured Housing Association of British Columbia, the construction and set-up of manufactured homes creates 50 to 70 percent less waste than traditional home-building.

Traditional home-building also requires that the

EARTH
TALK



Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

materials, tools and workers all be sent to different sites throughout the year. This approach is far less organized and efficient than the streamlined factory process associated with manufactured homes.

As a result, all kinds of emissions are produced. In an in-depth report commissioned by the Sturgeon Foundation of Alberta, Canada, carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions of both modular and on-site building projects were compared. It was determined that the on-site construction process produced a whopping 43 percent more CO2 emissions!

According to ACEEE, those who lived in a manufac-



MANUFACTURED homes can be greener than traditional houses if they are designed and built that way — but this may be the exception.

ture home before 1976 "spent more money on their energy bills than on home loans" and spent double on energy per square foot than those who occupied a traditional home.

How is this possible? Before 1976, manufactured homes were built more quickly, for less money and with far less regard for energy efficiency. By June of that year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) devised and implemented the HUD Code, setting a higher standard in quality, safety and efficiency of product.

Today, manufactured homes must have sufficient levels of insulation (this includes around ductwork, electrical outlets, lighting, etc.), modern water heaters and energy-efficient appliances.

If the manufactured home does not meet the minimum standards set out by HUD, then it is illegal for it to be sold, leased or rented to anybody.

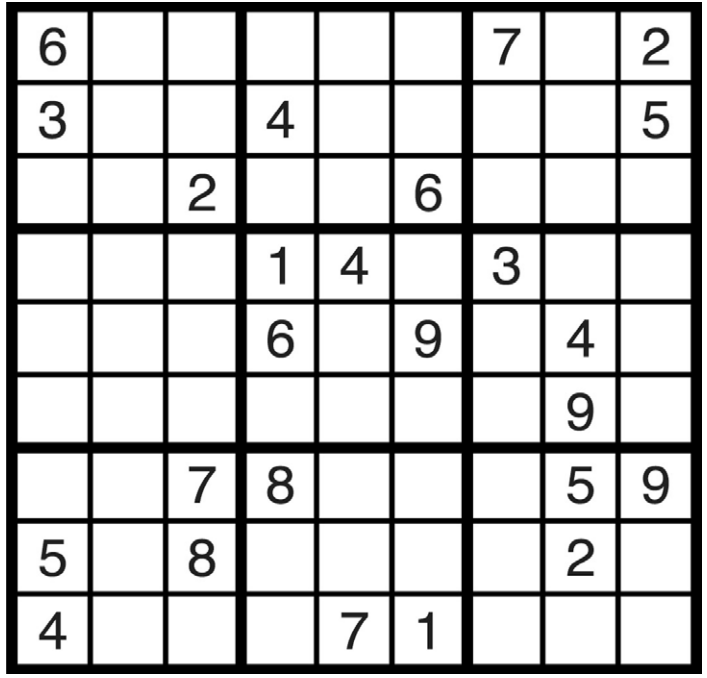
That being said, if you happen to own a manufac-

ture home that was purchased before 1976, there are still many ways that you can upgrade your pad-from-the-past to meet the energy demands of the modern age.

Passive solar design is one such avenue, whereby manufactured home-owners orient and design their home space to maximize the amount of sun exposure. This will not only power any solar panels that may have been installed more efficiently, it will also provide both natural light and heat.

Using a solar water heater is another great way to reduce one's energy expenditures. Though roof-mounted options may be limited (as manufactured homes are less sturdy), the ground-based options are definitely a good choice for anyone with a manufactured home that isn't moved often.

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Be prepared when dining out

Most of us have learned to bring a bag or more with us for grocery trips but few are prepared for leftovers when dining out. Here is a quick list of items to keep in your car to reduce waste regularly:

- Reusable shopping bags

- Reusable food containers for leftovers
- Reusable travel mugs for beverages
- Reusable straws
- Reusable water bottle
- Reusable cloth napkin
- Reusable utensils

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COMET SPORTS

Lady Comets Class of 2023 honored during Senior Night



REED-CUSTER VOLLEYBALL SENIORS who were recognized, along with their parents, during Senior Night last week include (from left) Halie LaGrange, Haley Budick, Savana Helton, Laci Newbrough and Kaitlyn Fisher.

Photo by Zandie Sims



REED-CUSTER SENIORS and their parents were introduced and thanked for their contributions to the volleyball program prior to last's week's final home game of the season against Coal City. Players and parents line up across the gym while five seniors were introduced.

Photo by Zandie Sims



KAYLEE TRIBBLE spikes the ball over the net while battling Coal City on senior night on Thursday.

Photo by Zandie Sims



BLOCKING THE BALL at the net are Lady Comets Kaitlyn Fisher and Makenzie Keller playing against Coal City at home during senior night.

Photo by Zandie Sims



BUMPING THE BALL over the net is Reed-Custer's Kaylee Tribble playing at home against Coal City on Thursday.

Photo by Zandie Sims

Comets, Cats go Pink for October



SERVING THE BALL is Reed-Custer's Abigail Koonce playing against Wilmington on Tuesday.

Photo by Zandie Sims



NATALIE FLORES passes the ball to her teammates on Tuesday's game against Wilmington.

Photo by Zandie Sims



ADILENE FIERRO hits the ball to her teammates on Tuesday's game against Wilmington.

Photo by Zandie Sims

Kuban, Comets finish season better than before

Last week's 4-0 loss to Herscher during the regional semi-final completes an 8-14 season for the Reed-Custer soccer team.

The Comets say farewell to eight seniors who were big contributors throughout the season. With no juniors on this year's squad, Reed-Custer will hope for the return of six sophomores and six freshmen on the 2023 team.

It was a record-breaking year for senior Danny Kuban who finished with 24 goals, the most ever scored by an individual during a Comet season. He surpasses his previous best of 22 in 2021, Kenny Lebeda who had 16 in 2013 and BJ Bailey who recorded 14 in 2014.

Kuban's best performance

was the season opener at Westmont when he kicked in five goals during a 5-1 victory over the Sentinels. He had four goals during a 9-1 regional victory over Grace Christian plus two other matches when he recorded three goals in each.

Kuban was also the assist leader for the season with seven.

Mendi Aliu, a senior, was the second top scorer during the 2022 season with eight goals, including a hat trick during a 3-4 loss at Coal City. Aliu dished out three assists to finish second on the list for points scored in a season with 17.

Sophomore Brady Schultz was third on Comet scoring with five goals and four assists. Three of his goals came during

that 9-1 victory over Grace Christian.

Scoring four goals and four assists for the Comets in 2022 was senior Logan Leckrone while classmate Josh Sprinkles contributed three goals and one assist.

Sophomore Jerrek Hirsch recorded two goals and three assists while freshman Jayden Bustos came through with two goals and two assists.

Senior goalie Stephen Condreay finished with 148 saves in 22 games. He averaged 6.72 saves per match including one shutout against Mommence.

Overall the Comets improved over the previous season when they were 5-14-1.



NATALIE FLORES passes the ball to her teammates on Tuesday's game against Wilmington.

Photo by Zandie Sims



ADILENE FIERRO hits the ball to her teammates on Tuesday's game against Wilmington.

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Greater Grundy County Readers' Choice Awards 2015

Comets' firepower too much for Coalers

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

After the mud quit flying on a rainy Friday in Coal City, the result was a familiar one for the Reed-Custer football team (8-0), a 58-14 win, but it was anything but easy.

In fact, they actually trailed for the first time this season as Coal City (5-3) struck first, finding success through the air with Gavin Carpenter.

"Hats off to Coal City for coming out and swinging a haymaker at us right away. The Carlson kid had a lot more speed than we were ready for," said R-C head coach Gavin Johnston. "He had some nice routes and some really good throws by Braden Reilly."

Reilly went a perfect 3-for-3 for 70 yards on the opening drive with the key play being a 50 yard pass to Carpenter on third-and-16.

The senior QB capped the drive finding Landin Benson for an eight yard touchdown reception and a 7-0 advantage.

"It was kind of a surprise, but we knew they have a bunch of weapons and Reilly definitely threw the ball very well," said senior running back/linebacker Jace Christian.

In a game of few positives for the home side, Coal City coach Francis Loughran was pleased with the connection between Reilly and Carpenter.

"I think in the last few weeks our passing game has done a nice job and it's always good to get the ball in your playmakers' hands."

The lead would be short-lived though, a minute and 42 seconds to be precise, as R-C senior quarterback Jake McPherson broke free for a 40-yard touchdown run. Lucas Foote's two-point conversion run was good making it 8-7. McPherson also had a 23-yard run on the drive.

On the Coalers' next possession, they decided to fake a punt, but R-C was all over it and took advantage as Christian scored on a 15 yard touchdown run as time expired in the first quarter, 14-7 Comets.

"We know what our offense is capable of so we knew if we could get a couple stops, the momentum would go on our side," said Johnston.

Christian added another 15 yard touchdown run with 6:48 left in the first half for a 22-7 advantage.

"Our offensive line was key with those good blocks. They have been doing great and the holes we were running through were huge."

The two teams traded interceptions late in the first half with Reilly's proving costly.

After Cason Headley returned a McPherson



Photo by Ann Gill

SWEEPING TO THE OUTSIDE for the varsity Comets on Friday against Coal City is Jace Christian who ran for 104 yards in nine attempts.

interception 16 yards setting the Coalers up inside R-C territory with under 30 seconds remaining, Foote stepped up and made a huge play, returning an interception 72 yards for a touchdown giving the Comets a 30-7 half-time advantage.

"We're not going to make excuses. It was the same turf for each side. They did a nice job of stopping our run game," said Loughran. "It was just a tough game and we have to rebound."

The touchdown definitely swung the momentum in R-C's favor. A Coaler touchdown there would have made it a one-score game at the half. Instead, it was a three-score game.

With that momentum firmly on their side, R-C needed just two plays and 26 seconds to score again, as Christian powered through the defense for his third touchdown of the night, a

40 yard run.

Foote showed off some more of his athleticism with a 20 yard touchdown reception, timing his jump perfectly in the endzone, 44-7 R-C halfway through the third.

A Creide Skubic 22 yard kickoff return gave the Coalers good field position and they were able to cash in on a Braiden Young 18 yard touchdown catch, but that would be all the scoring for Coal City on this rainy evening.

The Comets turned to their second team offense led by Nick Cieslak and he delivered like the reserves have all year long, with touchdown runs of two and 60 yards, the latter a great individual effort with 39 seconds remaining to make the final 58-14, ensuring an eighth consecutive running clock.

The win gave R-C their fourth conference championship and first since 2008.

"We had two goals this year to win the conference and win state. Being able to reach that first one was awesome," said Johnston. "I don't think we'll be satisfied if that's the only goal we reach this year, but it's something that no one can take away from these kids."

They finished with 481 yards of offense with 421 on the ground. The Coalers recorded 196 yards with 187 coming through the air.

The Comets were led by McPherson who had seven carries for 121 yards and was 4-for-5 passing for 60 yards. Christian was right behind him with 104 yards on nine rushes and had a 12 yard catch. Cieslak contributed seven carries for 85 yards, Foote gained 57 yards on nine rushes and added his 20 yard td catch.

Travis Bohac and Josh Bohac finished with 16 and 14 yards, respectively, on the ground with Josh chipping in with 28 yards receiving. Connor Esparza added 15 yards on five rushes and Zack Cieslak's nine yards capped the strong night for R-C.

"All those guys can do something with the ball. They stay fresh. They are all getting carries and it stresses out defenses wondering who is going to get the ball on each play."

Reilly paced the Coaler offense going 9-for-19 for 151 yards with six of those completions going to Carlson for 121 yards. Young added his 18 yard touchdown and Benson his eight yarder.

The CC run game was completely shut down with only nine total yards by a stellar Comet defense that had given up only 100 rushing yards total through the first seven games.

"It was important to make sure that we weren't looking in the backfield and have our whole team read their keys which made everyone do their jobs," said Christian.

Chase Cora led the way for CC with 23 yards on 10 carries. Drake Dearth added a two yard run.

The Reed-Custer defense was led by Esparza's seven solo tackles. Christian was all over the field with 5.5 tackles, three for loss. Josh Bohac had five tackles and Zack and Nick Cieslak recorded 4.5 and four tackles, respectively. Brandon Moorman tallied three stops and an interception while Kody Marschner had 2.5 tackles and Wesley Shats and Gavin Bruciak both contributed 1.5 stops.

"It's hard to run on a wet track like this. We practiced inside Tuesday when it was pouring rain and we probably should have practiced outside," said Johnston.

"It was good to see them respond to it. We're going to have to play in the elements going forward."

The Comets will look to complete their first unbeaten regular season when they host Herscher (1-7) for Senior Night Friday.



Photo by Ann Gill

SHOOTING COMETS - Reed-Custer quarterback Jack McPherson (2) follows blockers Gavin Bruciak (55) and Lucas Foote during a ground gainer at Coal City.

JV Comets fall



Photo by Ann Gill

ON THE MOVE for the fresh-soph Comets during the game at Coal City is Landen Robinson.

Comets looking to make more history against Herscher

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

In a season where they broke the school's single-game scoring record three different times, the Reed-Custer football team will look to wrap up the school's first unbeaten regular season when they entertain Herscher for Senior Night Friday.

"We're coming off another emotional win by winning the conference and defeating a rival in Coal City," said Comet coach Gavin Johnston. "We've been in this spot before. This is their seniors last game. We have playoffs coming up, but they would like nothing more than to spoil our Senior Night."

Herscher is only 1-7 but they had a four-point loss to Streator, a six-point loss to Manteno in overtime and gave Wilmington all they could handle for a half.

"We've been very fortunate to get the clock rolling in every game so

we're hoping that we can take care of business early, get some guys rotated in and make sure that we're healthy."

It won't be the last home game for the R-C seniors though who will most certainly be hosting a playoff game next week.

Still, it will be a special night for them as they look for more school history.

"I can't thank them enough, just a remarkable group that has definitely had the talent the whole time. This is also a group that has put in the work," Johnston commented.

"So to be able to put both of those things together and on top of that, they are just great kids overall who do a lot of things for the community and are great role models for the community."

"This is going to be a fun Senior Night, knowing at least it's not their last home game, but this is going to be a tough group to let go when the season is actually over."



Photo by Ann Gill

GAINING GROUND for the JV Comets on Friday at Coal City is running back Dominic Alaimo. Coal City won the contest 49-7.

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