

BY MARNEY SIMON FDITOR

A small group of Reed-Custer parents said they have some ideas to make sure communication is top tier when it comes to the district getting messages to students' homes.

On Oct. 19, two parents approached the members of the Board of Education to discuss the notification process when a potential emergency is on hand.

The discussion was prompted ing as they arrived that morning. n an incident on Friday, Oct. 14. Marla Kloeckner, a parent in the from an incident on Friday, Oct. 14. District officials as well as the Braidwood Police Department said that comment regarding a potential

threat to one of the schools in the dis-

trict initiated an emergency response. Within an hour, the BPD was able to determine that the potential threat was simply a hoax made up by a student, whose discipline is confidential.

Parents said that while they were pleased with the quick response of the district and the police to get to the bottom of the issue, having a police presence at school was nonetheless disturbing for students and parents who were not sure what was happen-

district, said she'd like to see steps taken to make sure communication

future

"We got a chance to pressure test some crisis management, and I was wondering from a parent perspective what the opportunity areas are. Because, from what we saw, I think we could partner better," Kloeckner said, adding that she'd like to see if there is a chance for the district and parents to get together to analyze the response and see what can be improved.

Reed-Custer Superintendent Mark Mitchell noted that the district has an emergency response plan in place.

"We talked about it a little bit [in

some discipline related to it... and I tions, which includes an up to 10 day think we're looking at areas for growth," Mitchell said. "We try to balance a fine line between communication and causing maybe what I would consider to be unnecessary anxiety. I use that term. I don't want it to seem loosely because we take all of these extremely seriously. But, in regard to that, the communication component what we have talked about possibly is reviewing our protocol with parents... and we also talked about having the police come in to talk to the student body about how serious these things can be.'

The district's discipline policy to homes is a little more clear in the closed session] because there was provides for consequences for infrac-

suspension for students who engage in threatening acts, verbally or physically. The Cliffs Notes version for students and families is that the district does not differentiate between legitimate threats and hoaxes-either way, the policy applies.

The way this played out, the students were in the building and we immediately were in conversation with the Braidwood Police Department]," Mitchell continued. "The police often have more information than we do, and we want to share

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 2

RC students give back to Braidwood



Waste not, want not Renewable Natural Gas Plant turns trash to treasure

BY MARNEY SIMON **FDITOR**

Will County is taking out the trash in Wilmington.

On Oct. 21, county officials, local dignitaries, and representatives from SCS Energy Project held a ribbon cutting for the county's Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant in Wilmington, a 20,000 fuel providers. square foot facility sitting along 1.5 acres of the county-

landfill, turning that waste into non-tax revenue for the county and creating a carbon-neutral alternative to conventional natural gas.

The self-sustaining plant is projected to generate \$14.5 million in revenue for Will capital projects County through both the sale of gas and credits paid for by fossil

In simple terms, the plant will essentially pull methane compress it, remove the moisture, remove volatile compounds-things that end up in the landfill but shouldn't such

owned Prairie View Landfill at has out of the landfill, clean it, Arsenal Road.

The plant—the second of its kind in Illinois and the first in the Chicagoland regionwill capture and repurpose methane gas emitted from the

SEE RNG, PAGE 2

Reed-Custer readies for next phase of improvements

STAFF REPORT

The Reed-Custer High School football team is headed to the playoffs.

And this historic year for the Comets was made even better thanks to the new field at Comet Stadium.

On Oct. Superintendent Mark Mitchell have an update of the district's facility improvements to the members of the board of education.

'We have heard nothing but compliments on the facility improvements that took

place out there," Mitchell said. "We're awaiting the final phase of that which will be the bleachers and press box. That will go in after the football season is over... It looks like everything is on schedule."

The switch from a grass field to the artificial turf was part of the district's \$2.4 million improvement plan for

SEE FIELD, PAGE 2





Safety

as quickly as possible. We both felt that the investigation was going in the direction where we knew that there was nobody in harm's way, and we let it run it's course, we talked to the student and figured out what happened and at that point there was a communication that went out.'

Kloeckner noted that the rumors about the incident this month spread quickly and wildly, making a threat that was handled sound far worse.

There's a level of anxiety for children and parents in that hour and a half window where something is going on, kids know, kids are calling their parents, and we have no clue what's going on," she said. "There were kids who were really rattled by this, and there were parents who were really rattled, and from what I saw on social media and what was going around town, I wasn't going to just say, it will be okay. I wanted to come in and have a conversation to see what can we do better and how can we help you with these situations.'

District officials said they were understanding of that anxiety that parents face, and said they would make sure parents were aware of protocols already in place and how the district responds to potential threats.

Mitchell said that while the system worked well for this month's incident, the district plans to clarify better for parents how the process works.

The district's emergency protocols are outlined for parents and students in the student handbook.

The Reed-Custer School District utilizes ALICE protocols.

ALICE for Alert, stands Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate, but are not limited to be used in that specific order.

ALICE protocols give teachers and students options during an emergency situation, and students and teachers receive yearly training and drills on the protocols.

The district also uses a mass communication system to improve communications between the schools, families and district employees. That system provides updates on announcements, weather-related closings, and emergencies.

The district recommends that families have at least one telephone number that is current in the system, and also encourages a second number listed, such as cell phones or that of a relative, that would likely be answered during the daytime for any emergency such as an unanticipated

early release or lockdown. The system can also send a message to a valid email address on file.

"I think we can definitely clarify better with parents how we go upon that process, and maybe put some minds at ease that we work extremely closely together [with police]."

Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons added that for a town like Braidwood, the schools are also home base for families of officers and staff.

"We have safety meetings that we participate in," Lyons said. "Whenever there's a school issue, if we hear something, they hear something, we all have each other's cell phones. We are in constant communication when we hear any type of a threat. They bring their perspective, we bring our perspective. From the get go... we had officers coming from home, we had the school secure

immediately. If we think ever that someone in this town is in harm's way, and I was telling others as well, we all have kids in these buildings. Almost every Braidwood officer. We don't just work here, we're part of the community."

The student handbook is available online for parents to refer to, at www.rc255.net, under the document center in the "About Reed-Custer tab.

'We appreciate the feedback and we know we can always do better," Mitchell said. "One thing is... we don't want parents coming to school. That's a big thing that parents need to understand, because if we were, God forbid, in a serious situation, they aren't going to get near the building. So, that's the first thing with those parents, to build that partnership and that trust to not come to school.

RNG

as paint solvents or chemicals from some batteries-then send that gas back into the pipeline. While the technical aspects are far more complicated than a simple explanation, the end result is that the gas that exits the facility will be roughly 96% methane, versus 50% from when it was pulled in.

The RNG plant will replace the process of burning the methane in a flare to dispose of it, and instead turn it into natural gas that can be sold and distributed externally.

The renewable natural gas produced at the plant will be sold on the open market as an alternative fuel source for large-scale transportation vehicles. Officials said that gas sold from the RNG plant will power the equivalent of 150 million miles traveled annually.

"This forward-thinking initiative will help fuel the clean energy revolution in said Illinois." County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant. "This self-sustaining project will provide significant environmental and financial benefits well into the future."

County officials noted that the project also represented a strong commitment to investing county resources toward local projects. A Project Labor Agreement in 2021 coordinated the construction of the plant, the vast majority of which was completed with local labor. According to the county, 96% of the work, which began in June 2021, was performed by local companies.

That means the project was able to not only support



WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant (center) cuts the ribbon at the county's new Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant in Wilmington on Friday, Oct. 21. The plant is expected to generate \$14.5 million in revenue for Will County.

ment into our local business-

local businesses, but the labor that built the plant also made a difference here at home.

tantly, we hired prevailing

wage workers, high paying

jobs. Almost 50% of the union

labor that participated in this

project was also from Will

County. They turn around and

use their paychecks and sup-

port our local economy. I can't

be more happy for the city of

plant was a significant invest-

"Construction of the RNG

Wilmington.'

es," added Bertino-Tarrant. "Will County capital projects "Having a \$60 million are successful because of the project here in Wilmington, strong pool of trained local you don't see this every day," labor. The project was overseen Will County Board Dist. 6 Rep. Joe VanDuyne (D-Wilmington) said. "To bring SCS Energy. Project Manager Darren Nightingale such an important project to said the plant also has the the southern part of the counpotential to grow. "It's designed such that it ty that's revenue generating is amazing. But, most impor-

can be expanded with mini-mal effort," Nightingale explained. "So, there's a lot of potential for this plant... It's definitely the wave of the future. Renewable natural gas has many advantages, flexibility, it's versatile, its a big part of the future of energy. Economically, it's a good option. It's clean for the environment. Very high quality natural gas, and it's easy to store."

The plant will be able to handle a flow rate of 4,500 standard cubic feet per minute (SCFM), but with the ability to expand to 6,900 SCFM.

Once operational, the facility will employ three fulltime operators. Nightingale said the plant will be operational for a minimum of 20 to 30 years, but essentially there is no end date. As long as the landfill continues to take on trash, the RNG plant will be able to convert the methane from the landfill into useable natural gas. Once the landfill is closed, the plant will still be able to tap into that waste for another two decades.

The plant is expected to officially go online by mid-November.



Field

outdoor facilities. The board approved the project in late in 2021.

The field includes a shock pad under the turf to meet the current safety standards set by the National Football League.

While football is on everyone's mind, the field is also utilized for soccer games, marching band practice, cheer practice, spring sports practice as needed due to weather, PE class activities and the occasional community events like youth sports, and ceremonies.

The improvements also included a new video scoreboard. Bleachers and press box improvements are slated next.

The bleacher and press box renovations will bring the home bleacher seating to safety/handicap code, increase seating capacity by almost 50%, and provide a much more comfortable seating enviwere funded by a combination of money that remains in the Capital Projects Fund from com-

ronment. The

ing in under budget on the construction of both Reed-Custer Elementary School and the Reed-Custer High School Cafeteria addition and budgeted Operations and Maintenance Fund (District Improvement) expenditures from fiscal years 2022, and 2023.

improvements

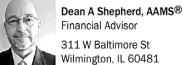
Byrne & Jones Sports Construction constructed the field, and Dant Clayton will be responsible for the bleacher/press box portion. Local union contractors have been subcontracted and/or directly hired by the District for both electrical and excavation work.

Mitchell added there might be some drainage repairs needed under the turf to address a small area where rain caused some minor sinking.

"I'm very happy with the work that all the contractors did," Mitchell said.

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Reed-Custer High School 🜍

Funeral Home

Golden Mine 🛈

WHERE: **Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition Office** 465 E. Reed St. Braidwood IL 60408



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SUBSTANCE USE INITIATIVES OF WILL COUNTY

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.



FROM WASTE TO WEALTH Darren Nightingale from SCS Energy explains the process for how methane from the Prairie View Landfill in Wilmington will turned into useable natural gas.



Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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Attorneys at Law

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WORKERS COMPENSATION



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> Eric D. Fisher, publisher Marney Simon, editor

Giving them a run for their money, Braidwood style

Watching chil dren at play you frequently hear, "Bet I can climb this tree faster than you can!" or "Race you to the next corner!" guess being the fastest kid on the block is a real feather in your

cap. But it's not just kids that do it. Just watch NASCAR and you can see that big boys do it too. In the 1880's our neighbor to the south, Braidwood, was full of big boys who wanted to be the fastest kid on the block. Let's look at a few.

Running races became the fad sometime in the late 1870's and by 1880's it had gotten serious, especially in the coal mining communities. In an age when people barely made \$1 (\$29 today) a day, big money was being wagered on these races.

Case in point, a proposed race between E. E. Harvey of Wilton Center and a Mr. Barber from Braidwood. Harvev issued the following challenge, 'Mr. Barber, Braidwood: Dear Sir; I am now prepared and will run for any amount from \$500 (\$14,500) a side or more on the Joliet running track.

you at Will meet Wilmington, Saturday, July 17, and sign agreement and put up \$250 (\$7,250) a side the rest to



Sandy Vasko

we agree upon. Said race to be one hundred soon I remain Harvev'

> However, seems that Harvey was all talk as we

read the read the result in the Wilmington Advocate, "Mr. Barber and several of his backwere in Wilmington accordingly on last Saturday, but failed to see Mr. Harvey or any explanation of his nonappearânce.

They were naturally indignant over the disappointment, and were not slow to characterize Mr. Harvey as a braggart and a duffer.

They claim to have the man and the "sand" to meet him with, but they want no more bombastic challenges followed by such trifling. Now, Mr. Harvey, state your case." And later, "The proposed foot race between Barber and Harvey remains a fizzle on account of Harvey's apparent trifling.

Let him put up or shut up and keep his bragging letters at home." It seems that boasting moment preceding the race. was a big part of this racing thing

But there were real races that went on, "That much Cassiday was an easy winner of

of said race, which race came off on Saturday afternoon in presence of many spectators.

The distance was 100 yards. Hoping to yards; purse, \$100. (\$2,900) It hear from you was won by Cassiday in 10 and one-fourth seconds, it is said, yours truly, E. E. he leading his opponent by about 5 feet. Several hundred dollars changed hands upon the issue of the contest, and now other races are on the docket."

> Cassiday had become a local hero. A Cassiday Club was formed and we read two weeks later, "The Cassiday Club, Braidwood is to give a complimentary hop tonight at McArthur's opera house. number of guests from this Wilmington will also attend."

> A great deal of money was bet on these races; just how much money changed hands can be judged by the next Cassiday race. We read in the October 8, 1880 Advocate, "Braidwood on last Saturday. The excitement attained a fever heat, and men even mortgaged their humble homes for betting money.

Cassiday appeared to be largely backed by the Irish element and Dinsmore by the Scotch, and betting went on wildly up to the very last At about half-past three the word "Go!" was given, and in a few seconds thereafter Mr.

be put up on day talked of Cassiday-Ferguson the race by some five yards. An exultant shout went up

on the one side, while sullen silence pervaded the other. It is estimated that all of \$3,000 (\$87,200) changed hands on the result. One man we know of lost \$210 (\$6,100), while many others won \$25, \$50, \$60, and so on. George Barber has since challenged the victor and also his trainer, Mr. Carr, to run a month hence for \$500 - \$100 to be advanced as a forfeit.'

This racing thing did not die out, as we have no 1881 newspapers we look to1882 and sure enough this fad is still going as we read in July of that vear, "Chas. Page beat Wm. Long in the 80 yards foot race, on yesterday, by several yards. The purse was \$200, and a big crowd was present.

Page and Kittleman are to run for a like amount today.' Another foot race was announced the same month, "A foot race on the 22nd of 100 vards, for \$500 a side, is announced for Saturday next, being the principals "Grasshopper Jack" and a Braceville coal digger.

Ĕraidwood's Showing sense of humor, the 4th of July celebration of 1882 included another type of race, we read, "Tom Jones won the fat men's race on the 4th, Mr. Odell not competing." Ah, that's more my style. Any one want to race?

FOSSIL RIDGE LIBRARY NEWS

Adult programs

Nov. 3-Well Read Book Club, Nov. 4-Kids Bingo, 3:30-4:30 6-7 p.m. This months selection: p.m.

Anthem By: Ayn Rand. Nov. 4-Blood Drive 2-4 p.m. Fossil Ridge Public Library will be partnering with Versiti to host a blood drive in the auditorium. Blood donors of all blood types are needed. One donation, three lives saved.

Child Programs

Toddler Time every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Caregiver must accompany their child during

Crafternoon-Every Monday, 5-6 p.m. Each week we will have a story, song, and a craft or science experiment. Topics will

include: insects, emotions, time,

shadows, bones, water works,

and marbles. Registration is required for all event and programs. More information can be found at www.fossilridge.org or call 825-458-2187.

"Panther Press" hot off the press at RCMS

The Panther Press is Reed-Custer Middle School's school newspaper. There are 18 dedicated writers, ranging from 6th to 8th grade.

The first issue was published in September, and it featured a variety of fiction and nonfiction articles. A few of these included the history of school, tips on staying organized, recipes, interviews with teachers and students and fall photography.

The students are currently working on an October issue, which they hope to have available to all students by October 26th. The writers are excited about it being a special Halloween issue.

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 yo Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, defendants in the above entitled cause, th suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the

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 PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SCTION 5, ACCORDING TO THE PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 5, ACCORDING TO TH PLAT THEREOF RECORDED DECEMBER 9,2002 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER R200: 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 th Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County, on or before November 12, 2022, DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DATE AND JUDGMENT ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAIN

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.ill noiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If yo need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asg YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOC

UMENT.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 mod-ification. 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 Plaintiffs 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

 Inis communication is an attempt to concern a transmission of the 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.

Salute to the RCHS Class of 2023



THE CHEER TEAM performs during half-time of Friday's Senior Night victory over Herscher. Comet cheerleaders include (from left) Danica Loveland, Dionna Walker, Olivia McLaughlin, Maddie Brown, Tori Loomis, Zoe Hassett, Mia Castillo, Olivia Esparza, Skyleigh Brakeman, Gracie Burgess and Addy Kinkin. They will lead the cheers on Saturday at 2 p.m. when Reed-Custer hosts Chicago Carver for the first round of the Class 3A playoffs.



THE MARCHING COMETS perform during half-time in front of a Senior Night crowd Friday. Playing the sousaphone is Alex Bielfeldt.

program.

Lions 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.

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. 19 and 26, 2022

Columbus Council 1574 will for some good community also be on hand passing out spirit. free Halloween treats for the kids, while supplies last.

invited, so bring your friends or visit www.braidwood.

The Braidwood Knights of and family down to the park

Costumes are encouraged but not required. For more The entire community is information, call 815-791-8093

Fossil Ridge Public Library 2022 Site Renovations - Rebid

PUBLIC NOTICE

SECTION 001113 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the 2022 Site Renovations will be received by the Fossil Ridge Public Library located at 386 W. Kennedy Road, Braidwood, IL 60408 until 11:00 a.m. prevailing time on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. Lump Sum bid proposals will be received for this project at the scheduled time of receipt of bids and will be publicly opened and read

aloud at the above stated time and place. Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee in the form of a Bid Bond, Certified Check or Bank Draft in an amount equal to and not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid and made payable to the Board of Trustees, Fossil Ridge Public Library. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the bid opening date without the consent of the Owner. Checks or drafts of unsuccessful Bidders will be returned as soon as practical, after opening and checking the bids. Successful Bidder must provide a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond in the full amount of the Contract, acceptable to the Owner.

the Owner. Bids shall be submitted in an opaque sealed envelope clearly marked as SEALED BID and addressed to

Rene Leyva Library Director Fossil Ridge Public Library 386 W. Kennedy Road

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof or waive any irregularities or informalities in bidding, that are in the opinion of the Owner, to

be in the best interest of the Fossil Ridge Public Library. This Contract is subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et seq.). QUALIFICATION: Each Bidder must satisfactorily complete the qualification process described in Section 004395 -General Requirements of the Project Manual, by providing the required Qualification Documents. The required Qualification Documents must be delivered along with the Bidder's sealed bid at the same place and time required for the bid. Contents of each Bidder's Qualification Documents will be available for public review. The Qualification Documents will be reviewed by the Owner and Architect to determine the est responsible Bidder

Bidding documents consist of drawings, project manuals, plus all addenda issued prior to bids; and may be obtained electronically and reproduced at the Bidder's expense from Cross Rhodes Reprographics, 30 Eisenhower Lane North, Lombard, IL 60148, (630) 963-4700, www.x-rhodesplanroom.com or contact them at orders@x-rhodes.com. Drawings are anticipated to be available beginning on Wednesday, October 26, 2022.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting walk-through for general contractors will be held at 1:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at the Fossil Ridge Public Library located at 386 W. Kennedy Road, Braidwood, IL. Prospective bidders are encouraged to attend. Although the pre-bid meeting is non-mandatory, a site visit is required by all contractors during library operating hours and must sign-in with the front desk to provide the with deta and income the visit date and time Board of Trustees

Fossil Ridge Public Library

Braidwood, Illinois END OF SECTION 001113

Published in the Braidwood Journal Wednesday, October 26, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2022

	General		Special Revenue	•									
	Corporate Fund	TIF #3 Fund	Funds	Custodial Funds	Enterprise Fund								
Begginning balance	\$ (2,637,831)	\$ 1,119,598	\$ (895,657)	\$ 4,652	\$ 29,451,127								
Total revenues	4,571,856	114,225	1,114,374	9,098	3,304,552								
Less expenditures	(3,376,513)	(76,842)	(751,163)	(10,000)	(3,385,100)								
Other sources (uses)	3,086,922	8,000	2,141,246		(5,228,168)								
Ending balance	\$ 1,644,434	\$ 1,164,981	\$ 1,608,800	\$ 3,750	\$ 24,142,411								

REVENUE

Cannabis Tax 9,855, Fines/Fees/Forfeitures 277,114, Franchise Fees 75,586, Garbage Collection Fees 700,433, Grants 549,550 Hotel/Motel Tax 20,173, Income Tax 891,344, Interest Income 5,872, Licenses 47,900, Local Use Tax 240,582, MFT 597,190 Miscellaneous 77,992, Permits 64,418, Property Taxes 1,847,854, Reimbursements 175,162, Replacement Tax 21,289, Revenue Sewer 1,578,998, Revenue Water 839,802, Sales Tax 658,484, State Gaming Tax 72,052, Telecommunications Tax 64,081, Utility Tax 306,374.

EXPENDITURES

AEP Energy: 35089.52, Aeration Industries International: 35970, Altorfer Industries, Inc: 111470.25, Amazon Capital Services, Inc: 7114.55, Aquafix Inc: 9380.61, Axon Enterprise, INC: 22647, B&F Construction Code Services, Inc: 38655.88, Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL: 241309.89, BlueFin: 2989.91 Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire Inc: 19179.02, BP: 31345.11, Braidwood Fuel Inc: 7597.80, BTI Tire & Alignment: 9607.95, Cargill, Inc: 68993.68 (Casey's General Store, Inc: 8341.40, Charles Schwab: 230099.84, Cintas First Aid & Safety: 3800.18, Circle K: 11603.77, Comcast Business: 6264.83, Commonwealth Edison: 25364.25, Constellation Newenergy Inc: 292789.07, Core & Main LP: 15348.81, County of Will - LLC EXPENSES: 11019.83, Cummins NPower LLC: 5083.31, De Lage Landen Public Finance LLC: 9108.96, Deere & Company: 14043.58, D'Orazio Ford: 90555.52, DTW Inc.: 24732.54, EVT Tech: 21753.63, Fattan Trucking: 6552.34, Firewalls.com Inc: 4086.96, Fisher Auto Parts: 7574.33, Hawkins Inc: 2956.86, Heritage FS Inc: 17941.45, Holt & Sons, Inc: 40321.54, Humana Insurance Co.: 3701.37, Illinois EPA Fiscal Services: 700484.18, Illinois EPA Fiscal Services Section: 17500, Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative: 262793, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund: 40110.51, Illinois Public Risk Fund: 132292, Internal Revenue Service: 172379.64, ITouch Biometrics LLC: 16170, JCM Uniforms: 9230.24, John Kasperek Co. Inc: 138751.35, KRK Plumbing Revenue Service: 1723/9.94, Houch Biometrics LLC: 16170, JCM Uniforms: 9230.24, Join Rasperek Co. Inc: 138751.35, KRK Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning: 3167, Lexipol, LLC: 6696.81, Lockwood Furnace Company: 8943, Mahoney Silverman & Cross LLC: 40339.05, McCann Industries, Inc.: 4590.27, Menards: 7552.19, Midwest Industrial Tire LLC: 8138.60, Midwest Salt: 89029.46, Mississippi Valley Pump, Inc.: 18516, MOE Funds: 208264.41, Monroe Truck Equipment: 3159.74, Nicor Gas: 23885.22, Pamela Hysel: 17850, Paycor Inc: 8965.62, Peerless Network, Inc: 15100.51, Polydyne Inc.: 27138.62, Pomp's Tire Service Inc: 3428.45, Robinson Engineering: 15997.769, Sistek Sales Inc.: 5429.68, Springbrook Software LLC: 25919.81, Stalker Radar Applied Concepts, Inc: 5235, Stewart Spreading, Inc: 44954, Storino, Ramello & Durkin Law Office: 8651.35, Subsurface Solutions: 3374.35, Suburban Laboratories Inc: 7884, The Ecompany Development Group: 1271412. Thempegn Electric Company: 4160, Train Technolegies: 72155. Spreading, Inc: 44954, Storino, Ramello & Durkin Law Office: 8651.35, Subsurface Solutions: 3374.35, Suburban Laboratories Inc: 7884, The Economic Development Group: 12714.12, Thompson Electric Company: 4160, Trojan Technologies: 7715.65, Underground Pipe & Valve Co: 3613, University of Illinois: 6659, US Bank: 169202.60, USA Blue Book: 9349.55, USPS: 8265, Verizon Wireless: 10821.13, Volgelsang USA Ltd: 18360.49, Vortex Technologies Inc: 6697.5, Walmart: 4714.54, Warren's Collision Center: 7487.21, Waste Management of Illinois: 550586.46, Water Solutions Unlimited: 3735, Water Well Solutions Illinois LLC: 79052.5, Wescom: 100382.18, Wex Bank: 3388.55, Whitmore Ace Hardware: 4223.17, Will Co Center for Econ Devel: 3000, Will Co Governmental League: 5297.33, Will County Children's Advocacy Center: 5832, Will County Treasurer: 8440.72, WIPFLI LLP: 26000, Wunderlich-Malec Services, Inc: 4950, Expense Disbursements Under 2500: 147483.94

PAYROLL

<u>\$25000 and Under:</u> Bailey, Jeremy; Bengston, Nicholas; Bettenhausen, Gary; Bishop, Diane; Boyer, Gregory; Bunting, Edward; Cockream, Ronald; Collins, Cora; Coronelli, Richard; Dell'Aquila, Peter; Doogan, Raymond; Dyer, Dakota; Earling, Kimberly; Frideres, Michelle, Guistat, John, Harrod, Rilley; Helsing, Jeremy; Holst, Glenda; Howenstein, Barbara; Jasper, Ted; Jones, Robert; Kocek, George; Lee, Tina Marie; Linneman, Kathleen; McShane, Raymond; Michalec, Tonya; Mikel, James; Mlyniec, Frank; Money, Douglas; Moore, Shirley; Porto, Samuel; Ritz, Anthony; Saltzman, Wayne; Smith, Fay; Wood, Joseph; Wood, Nichole; Wojnarowski, Thomas

25000 to \$49999: Bohac, Hillary; Bolatto, Richard; Colavechi, Michael; Flint, Todd; Locascio, Barbara; Millerin, Michael; Salazar Woods, Shree; Skalnik, Joseph; Waszkiewicz, Matthew; Weaver, Sarah

Stoudi To \$74900; Beaty, Adam; Geiss, Donna; Grivetti, Matthew; Grygiel, Nicholas; Howard, Scott; Phebus, Gary; Reed, Vernard; Richmond, Carol; Weaver, Jr., George \$75000 to \$99999; Altiery, Antonio; Causer Jr., Gerald; Coronelli, David; Glisson, Jr., Aubrey; Goodwin, Bret; Grivetti, Jr., Robert; Lyons,

Todd; Peterson, Jeffery; Tyree, Phillip <u>\$100000-\$124999:</u> Altiery, Christopher; McCasland, Jack <u>\$125000 and Over:</u> Savarino, Douglas

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the City of Braidwood for the fiscal year end ing April 30, 2022, that it was filed with the City of Braidwood Clerk on October 18, 2022, and that it published in the Braidwood Journal Newspaper on October 26, 2022 as required by Section 3.1-35-65 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/3.1-65-65)

Hillary Bohac

Hillary Bohad

City Člerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenses for the City of Braidwood for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2022, that on October 18, 2022 it was printed in pamphlet form and available for inspection at Braidwood City Hall, and that printed copies were furnished to the State library, City Library, if any, and all daily and weekly newspapers with a gen-eral circulation in the City of Braidwood, and any persons who apply for a copy at the Office of the City Clerk, as required by Section 4-5-16 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/4-5-16).

Hillary Bohac

Hillary Bohac

City Clerk Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 Free Press Newspapers readers
SOUND-OFF
Textsion 24 hours of day, so to

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

What have they done?

SHADOW LAKES—I am sure your TV programming has been interrupted by all the political ads. As you are watching these ads, ask yourself this. All these candidates have been in office for either 4 or 6 years. When they are pitching to you to vote to put them back in office again, do any of them tell you what they have done during their term? How many of them have written a bill and had it passed? They all tell you what they are going to do, but another term in office, and the result is the same. They do nothing and run again! A lifelong job. Always, Margot Lane

Meaningful issues

WILMINGTON-One might think, by watching political commercials these days that our biggest issue is abortion. Isn't that what we've been seeing on T.V.? Although important, there are many more meaningful issues that our politicians are not discussing with us. 1.) High gas and oil prices. Solution, open the Keystone Pipeline. No need for us to import from other countries. 2.) Violence, crimes, murders, hijackings on the rise. So please show your support by supporting our men and women in blue. Our politicians are protected. 3.) Taxes on the rise in Illinois. Considering moving to another state. 4.) Workers right Amendment to the Illinois constitution. Vote No! It's another way to raise our taxes.

Taken for granted

COAL CITY-Finally! I never thought I would see the day when a black Chicago journalist, Charles Thomas, finally coming out and saying the truth about black voters and the Democratic Party in Illinois. The commercials with Mr. Thomas questioning why black voters continue to vote for the left wing liberal politicians who make the same promises to black voters every two or four years, get elected or reelected and then never deliver on any of their promises. It is about time! The Democrats take the black vote and black citizens for granted. They just assume that no matter what they say or do the black voters will vote for the Democratic candidates. Perhaps the tide has finally turned and black voters will see the light and vote for a candidate that will actually follow through on their promises.

Vote no to Amendment

DIAMOND- The proposed Amendment One to the Illinois Constitution will be on the Nov. 8 ballot. No other state in America has asked its voters to grant such a blatant power grab to the government unions. The Illinois school board association, The Illinois Chamber of Commerce and The Illinois Manufacturers Association all opposed it. #1 the second clause states that the amendment would be controlling over another part of the constitutions that spells out home rules unit of local government. Meaning units of government would be subject to the amendment. #2 It would drive up property taxes by giving government unions power to negotiate political issues including econom-ic welfare. #3 Elevating collective bargaining rights to the same level of the constitution gives unions more power than your elected officials. #4 If a teachers' union didn't want back ground checks as part of the hiring process they could write it into their contract. They could hire a child sex predator for a bus driver with impunity. As a parent you could do nothing about it. #5 The Chicago's Teachers Union is the most powerful union in Illinois. They're presently operational only in Chicago but that will change dramatically if voters pass Amendment One in November. This law would spread the CTU's extremist views and power to every part of Illinois including Grundy County. #6 It prohibits lawmakers as our representatives from ever changing or enacting reform down the line. It will be prohibited by the amendment itself. They only need 60 percent of the vote. If it fails to reach 60 percent but still musters more yes votes from more than half of those voting, it would still pass. Talk this over with friends and neighbors both here and other parts of Illinois. Then ask them to do the same. Not all voters have the same access to this information that we have. Sharon

mers in Europe and the privileges he experienced go on and on. Enough with you liberals and the white privilege BS.

anonymous.

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line

Ťhe Free Press Newspapers reserves

provided to give readers a chance to

voice their opinions. Calls may be

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-

Hope it's not true

COAL CITY—Please say it isn't true. Recently had dinner with some friends who live in the Braidwood, Wilmington and Coal City area and they informed me and my wife that some of the schools are providing litter boxes in the schools (in the classrooms) for these idiot kids who identify as cats. I hope this isn't true but would like to get some conformation as to the validity of this subject from the "Sound-Off" community. If it is true- Where the hell are the parents of these idiots and when are we as a country going to stop catering to the needs of every crack pot moron who can't seem to realize that they are human like everybody else. Also, how can the Health Department allow something like this occur?

Can't trust him

SHADOW LAKES—Last night, I watched the debate between Senator Darren Bailey and Governor Pritzker. When the topic came up about teaching our school children and promoting gender change, our beloved Governor, said untrue. The next day I received a copy of the "Will County Gazette." The headline in this paper stated the Pritzker family, and Lurie Childen's Hospital promotes "gender and sex development experiments" in Illinois public schools. Is this the man you are going to reelect? Who do you believe? Always, Margot Lane

My favorite book

WILMINGTON—A recent caller submitted a quote from the Bible and I felt compelled to quote one of my favorite books, that being the Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce. In it he defines religion as a daughter of hope and fear explaining to ignorance the nature of the unknowable. By the way, I like Jesus, but not his fans. Penny Lane

Ignoring Jan. 6 crimes

WILMINGTON—On Fox news they tried to scare the Rubes for scores of rampant crime yet they ignore the crimes of Trump and the January 6th traitors.

Political propaganda WILMINGTON—I recently received a copy

WILMINGTON—I recently received a copy of the Will County Gazette which claimed to be a newspaper. It is actually a political propaganda filled with right wing talking points including a tax on gay and trans youth while pretending to be protecting the children. That being said I'd like to thank Eric Fisher and his staff for printing The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant with real news content and the Sound-Off page which gives everyone a form to voice their opinions not just those of Dan Proft and Darren Bailey.

FP Trickster

SHADOW LAKES— This is Frank. Pritzker used federal bailout money to get Illinois bond ratings raised, the same federal money that originated off federal taxpayers in the U.S.A. Guess who owes all that money now? His campaign commercials try to make it look like he actually had some brilliant plan to achieve this and saved Illinois, a typical trickster. Smoking mirrors. One thing I give J.B. is his goal to make Illinois the baby killing capitol of America with his super pro abortion policies. Anyone who votes for J.B. or any Democrat, they are all pro abortion. Guilty of complicity. And those that iu nav that means is they should have a right to choose whether or not they kill their baby. What are you gone say to God when he asked you about it. Do the right thing and don't vote for any Democrat. Nothing is hid from God. 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 Soundoff 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.



which the Illinois Supreme Court followed. Didn't our lawmakers in Springfield learn from this? Now we have Amendment 1 on the ballot that contains a section to vote on another constitutional amendment for "workers' rights." It will have no bearing on private workers, only state workers who will have the power to demand anything they want during a strike. If they want low-cost housing in there contract, like the Chicago Teachers Union demanded, then Amendment guarantees their right to demand it. This proposed Amendment would bring Illinois into another crisis. It would prohibit any law from being passed that diminishes their rights. What about the rights of us taxpayers? We shouldn't have to pay \$2,100 more in taxes to help pay for this. Let us learn from the pension situation: Adopting something that cannot be undone is a dangerous endeavor. Vote no for Amendment 1.

For emergencies only

BRAIDWOOD—This is simple. In 1975, Congress voted to have a strategic oil reserve for an emergency like war, not for the party in charge to use to lower the price of gas for votes before the midterm elections. Please remember after the election all the sales taxes come back.

Out with fools

BRAIDWOOD-Since the Covid pandemic, economic problems are worldwide and no less so than for our cousins across the pond in the UK. Several months ago they threw out Prime Minister Boris Johnson and last week his replacement, Liz Truss, resigned after 44 days in office. She tried to cut taxes on the wealthy as a way to achieve national stability but even her allies gave her no support. It must be noted that Trump's 2017 tax cut did the same thing conditions. under different although Nevertheless, the Brits seem to have no tolerance for fools and it's too bad our nation does when it allows a president to attack the government he swore to protect. Perhaps if we lose our democracy, we should try the parliamen-tary form of government. Madison M.

Handling the storm

CAPE CORAL, FL—Century link outage is coming up on one month in the Embers Burnt store area. Every time they give me a day, the next two days they move the date and do nothing. In this time I have seen two vans on the road. They lack resources and ability to handle the storm. scams are involving young and senior citizens. Who needs the nightmare? Beware of scam text messages on Covid relief and tax credits. The IRS is warning they're on the rise as are fake texts offering to set up online IRS accounts. The text messages known as smishing may look like they are from the IRS but they are not. Don't respond to the text or open the link. Copy the caller ID number and text message and e-mail it to the Revenue Service ugly side of technology. Be extra careful with your Social Security number.

Gambling addiction

MORRIS—I read in last week's newspaper that video gaming generated \$3.5 billion for Illinois in 10 years. Not a mention of gambling addiction by far too many. Wives, husbands and children suffer miserably when the money to support them goes into a gambling machine. Far too many end in failed marriages. Close to \$655 million for the town and counties that allow the machines to operate. Sad commentary.

Brutally honest

MORRIS—She signs her name Sharon in the sound-off column. Whoever she is, her articles are so brutally honest about the political scene today. We enjoy her articles because it's not gibberish. She knows how politics works. Thanks Sharon.

Extreme?

The only angle the liberal Democrats have for the November election is that anyone who disagrees with their way of thinking is extreme. They have not presented a single plan on how to fix any of the issues facing our state/country. I have not heard a single Republican candidate refer to a Democrat as extreme. If you want to see extremism, take a look at the new law/regulation passed in California, Bill AB 2223, that allows babies to be killed up to 28 days after they are born and the individuals who commit such an act cannot be prosecuted. Only in California. There was another group of people in history who committed these types of acts and their names were Nazis. But don't worry, the Illinois liberals hate being up staged by the California liberals and such a law will be drafted and passed in Illinois in the near future. Whatever happened to the constitutional rights of a new born baby? If a Hispanic woman crosses the bridge from Juarez, Mexico into El Paso, Texas and gives birth to a child on the USA side of the Rio Grande, that child has every right that an American citizen has and if it is murdered the culprits will go to jail. How is that any different from a child born in an American hospital by an American citizen? Doesn't that child have the same rights as the Hispanic child born in El Paso simply because the child's mother crossed over a bridge onto American soil? You liberals really are a bunch of hypocrites. You don't want anybody to eat meat because it involves the slaughter of domesticated animals but killing babies, harvesting their body parts and dumping their remains into a landfill is no big deal for you narcissistic monsters.

WWW.FREEPRESSNEWSPAPERS.COM

White privilege?

The next time a left wing liberal Illinois Democrat tells you that white privilege is a big problem in Illinois, ask them why then did they elect a Governor who is the poster child for white privilege. Born into the Hyatt Hotel fortune, grew up in a mansion, went to the prestige's Milton Academy outside Boston (only 14% of applicants are accepted unless you got the big money influence to get in) with annual tuition around \$65,000 per year, spent sum-



Got our vote

BRACEVILLE— Mary K. O'Brien, we like your commercial. You got our vote, Braceville.

Listen to the facts

COAL CITY—Considering the numerous allegations of various crimes filed against him, former President Trump has the unmitigated gall to declare our nation a "cesspool of crime" since he left the White House. In fact, it has come to the attention of fact checkers recently that the Republican state of Oklahoma has a higher violent crime rate than New York and California according to official records. Another surprise is that the sparsely populated state of Alaska has one of the highest murder rates of any state. Is it because of their indigenous natives? Probably not because Hawaii has a high minority population and is one of the safest states of all. The MAGA crowd seems to

be playing fast and loose with the truth as usual. Kurt K.

Can't be undone

CUSTER PARK—Illinois' five taxpayer-funded pension systems are \$317 billion in debt. Illinois has the second most pension debt in the nation and efforts have been introduced to amend the pension program but have failed because of the provision in the Illinois Constitution that says pensions cannot be "dimin-

Testimony under oath

WILMINGTON—Republicans are a tough bunch and none tougher than Liz Cheney and none more patriotic. Cheney promises that Trump's subpoenaed testimony under oath to the Jan. 6 committee will not turn into a "circus" like Trump's first presidential debate in 2020. Cheney states that discipline will be maintained by gathering Trump's testimony over several days' time. Of course, the American people refused to allow Trump's shenanigans to affect their vote back then. In fact, Trump's behavior as a carnival barker during that first debate most likely turned voters against him which is why Trump lost the election. Irene D.

Supporting enemies BRAIDWOOD—Our national debt is

BRAIDWOOD—Our national debt is unsustainable. We now pay \$1 trillion interest on what we owe foreign countries like China, Russia and Japan, just to name a few. We are supporting the military of our enemies China and Russia. Joe just keeps promoting more and more giveaways.

Scams, scams, scams

MORRIS—The Department of Education began accepting applications for student loan relief when it launched a beta test for millions of qualifying borrowers online website and in the mail. Also Medicare plans are on television and in the mail. Be very careful and alert. Some plans are just licensed insurance agents scammers working overtime. If caught they should

get life in prison. Won't happen in the USA. Mostly

Family Dentistry

Emergency visits welcome All forms of insurance accepted including Meridian and Dentaque

New patients

Dr. William M. White

Not so good

WILMINGTON—The more I hear about this Trump fella I'm starting to think he might not be a good guy.

Diesel supply in danger

DIAMOND-The United States, as of Oct. 14, has 25.4 days of supply, down from 34.2 days of supply four weeks prior. The diesel crunch comes just two weeks before the November midterm elections and will drive up prices even more. Diesel is the fuel used by the freight trains and long-haul truckers to transport our foods and other goods. Farming, construction, fire engines and military vehicles are also endangered. Here we sit in an abundance of American oil used to transport the greatest farm producing meats, fruits and vegetables in the world with military vehicles and equipment needed to be at the ready in these dangerous times, yet we have been denied access to it. This is the soul responsibility of the Biden administration and those who put him into office.



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Immaculate Conception to host Halloween party

Immaculate Conception Halloween Party Friday, Oct. fun. Don't forget to wear your 28, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at costume. Call Tami Favero Father White Hall, on 110 S. School St., in Braidwood.

Join us for a free night of church is hosting a family fun games, hot dogs, candy and 815-405-40982 for more information



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An ice cream-based dessert drink from the 1940s

THE SUNDAY

COCKTAIL

Brian Rung

Anyone feel like going out per clubs were all for ice cream? The universal the rage. answer across all age groups is a resounding "yes". However, going out for ice cream looks a bit different depending on where you are in life, and where you are in the USA.

This week we visit The Badger State for a treat that is part cocktail, part ice cream, and 100% Wisconsin. If you know, you know. Anyone up for a Pink Squirrel?

The Pink Squirrel is an ice cream-based dessert drink straight from the vintage blenders of America's Dairyland. The cocktail was invented at Milwaukee's famous Bryant's Cocktail Lounge in the early 1940s and has been a staple of Milwaukee mixology ever since.

The drink is not as popular outside of the Midwest, and has evolved into a drink made with heavy cream instead of ice cream outside of Wisconsin. If you order the drink in Wisconsin, expect ice cream, and lots of it.

The Pink Squirrel rose to prominence in 1940s/1950s Wisconsin as electric blenders were becoming popular in America's kitchens, and sup-

the rage. A typical night

at a supper club in mid-century Milwaukee would start with a Brandy Old Fashioned at the bar, followed by a meal, then wrapping up the evening with a return to the bar for a Pink Squirrel.

So, what's in the Pink Squirrel? ice cream is straight up vanilla

and the "pink" comes from crème de noyaux. What exactly is crème de

novaux? I had to look up this one myself as I have never encountered this particular liqueur. Crème de noyaux is a French almond liqueur, similar in color to the Italian almond liqueurs (amaretto). The Italian almond liqueurs such as Disoranno carry a strong almond flavor, whereas crème de noyaux carries lighter, sweeter almond notes.

The Pink Squirrel isn't an all sweetness/no substance cocktail. In fact, for a "sweet" dessert drink the Pink Squirrel is surprisingly complex.

complexity comes courtesy of the almond notes in the crème de noyaux, the rest comes from the balance of chocolate and vanilla flavors. Think of it as

adding chocolate syrup to a milkshake, or pouring chocolate syrup on your vanilla ice cream. The cocoa Pink ice cream? Actually, the notes add a satisfying depth to

the vanilla sweetness. The chocolate notes in the Pink Squirrel come from crème de cacao, the chocolate used liqueur in the Grasshopper and the Brandy Alexander. There are two types of crème de cacao, light and dark

The dark variety is a coffee-colored liqueur whereas the light variety is clear. Use the light variety over the dark. You will not achieve the light pink hue if you use the darker crème de cacao.

Speaking of the signature pink hue, the Pink Squirrel should turn out a light pink and should not be a darker red or bright neon pink. If it is "too

Most of the pink" dial back the crème de noyaux or add more ice cream. Ice cream cocktails are unofficially in a separate cate-

gory of mixology, and Wisconsin owns the category. In addition to the Pink Squirrel, Bryant's Cocktail lounge has been turning out perhaps the best Grasshoppers in the Midwest for decades.

If you ever find yourself thirsty in Milwaukee, and vou're not counting calories, Bryant's Cocktail Lounge is located at 1579 S 9th Street, west of I-94 and north of Lapham Boulevard. It's not all ice cream and dessert drinks at Bryant's, they serve all of the classics and are consistently rated among the best bars in America by Esquire Magazine.

The Pink Squirrel is built in a blender and served in a Hurricane glass.

Combine in blender:

1 oz. crème de noyaux 1 oz. white crème de

cacao 3 scoops vanilla ice cream

Blend until smooth Serve with whipped cream on top, garnish with sliced almonds

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Rutherford earns Chamber EOM trophy



MINGTON CHAMBER of Commerce recently presented Debbie Rutherford (left) from Kerr Management Consultants with Employee of the Month Trophy. Presenting the trophy is Chamber ambassador Dee Yehling from The Corner Tap. Rutherford has been with Kerr Management Consultants for 26 years, and was recognized for her passion for hard work, thoroughness and friendliness. She is also treasurer for the chamber, an unpaid position, who volunteers much of her time and fundraising ideas for the benefit of the community.

Mortgage assistance program to reopen Nov. 1

Qualifying homeowners can receive up to \$30,000 in assistance

payments and up to three their primary residence. months of future payments. The funding can also be used their monthly housing payproperty homeowner's insurance, condominium or homeowner association fees, and mobile home lot rent. Funds received do not need to be repaid. More information is available at illinoishousinghelp. org/ilhaf, and the application portal will be open from Nov. 1 through the end of January 2023.

used for past-due mortgage py the home in the state as mortgage assistance may

 Be at least 30 days late on amount a person can ree

Braceville Gardner Cemetery clean up

The Braceville Gardner Cemetery is announcing their fall clean up. All grave decorations must be removed by Nov. 10 or they will be discarded.

Also, during the year all wilted, faded and broken grave decorations will be removed.

Please use garbage cans located by the Maintenance Building. Do not replace decorations until the clean up is completed.

Everyone's cooperation is greatly appreciated by the cemetery board and manager.



BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state will reopen a mortgage assistance program for pandemic - impacted homeowners on Nov. 1.

The Illinois Homeowner Assistance Fund, run through Illinois the Housing Development Authority, provides up to \$30,000 in assistance to homeowners through payments made directly to mortgage servicers, taxing bodies or other approved entities

The program is funded through an appropriation from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and can be

implants/dentures

New patient visit

50% off

To qualify, Illinois homeowners must:

• Have experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic after Jan. 21, 2020, or a hardship that began before that date and continued afterward.

· Currently own and occu-

ment. ٠ Have a household

income at or below 150 percent of the area median income.

• Be able to demonstrate they have either communicatwith their mortgage ed provider about their inability to pay or sought counseling with a federally approved counseling organization.

Individuals who participated in a previous round of

\$30,000 cumulatively. IHDA and its housing partners will hold information sessions on the program, and a schedule is posted online at illinoishousinghelp.org. Information can also be obtained by contacting the

ILHAF hotline at 1-866-454-3571.



As I sat intending to write a brief memorial and memories of (Mom) Cora Mae. Memories just flooded into my mind. All the good stuff. My mother loved going to garage & estate sales. We would check the Free Press for the first ads to appear in spring, reading and picking what we thought were the best sales the night before. Early the next morning we were off, arriving sometimes an hour early for the first sale to start. Sorry, yes we were some of those (Early Birds). We would last until noon. Then it was time to go for lunch or in my mother's case - dessert. Pie, cake, cookies you name it, she was good with it as long as it was sweet. I heard the sweettooth was from the Hoffman side of the family. We would enjoy our lunch and talk about all our great finds.

Then fall would come and the Garage Sales slowed; which marks the start of card playing and best of all puzzle season. Mother must have put hundreds of puzzles together in all her years and remembered every one of those pretty pictures.

So try to be a pretty puzzle piece today, in memory of Cora Mae Hoffman. Love,

Who passed one year ago Oct. 27, 2021.



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MEET TANNER, he is approximately 6-years-old and weighs just 17 pounds. He loves to play with his toy and carry it around. He walks well on a leash and has done well with other dogs. Adoption fee includes neuter, 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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Apply now for assistance in paying heating bill

Low-income families in \$3,838 for a three-person Illinois can now apply for state assistance on their natural gas, propane and electricity bills.

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

LIHEAP provides onetime 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, 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 wcccc.net or by calling 815-722-3262.



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Grundy Bank joins campaign to help consumers from being scammed

ed, industry-wide campaign to protect consumers during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

We want to take the opportunity to join this industry-wide campaign and bring awareness to phishing scams that con people daily. We hope that joining this campaign that we give our customers the best practices for phishing defense, "said Christine Mendez, Marketing and Sales Director of Grundy Bank.

Grundy Bank joined the American Bankers Association and banks across the nation to promote an industry-wide campaign educating consumers about the persistent threat of phishing scams. The FTC estimates that consumers lost \$5.8 billion to phishing and other fraud in 2021, an increase of more than 70% compared to 2020.

combat То phishing, the #BanksNeverAskThat campaign uses attention-grabbing humor and other engaging content to empower consumers to identify bogus bank communications asking for sensitive information like their passwords and social security numbers.

"Phishing attempts are at an all-time high

America's banks join forces in a coordinat- and scammers are targeting consumers from every direction -by text, phone, and email, "said Paula Benda, Senior Vice President, Operational Risk and Cybersecurity at ABA. "Education and awareness are key to helping consumers spot a scam, and with help from participating banks like Grundy Bank, we're able to reach bank customers across the country so they can stay one step ahead of the scammers.

Grundy Bank, along with more than 1,000 banks from across the U.S. and ABA, kicked off the month of October with National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Grundy Bank is sharing consumer tips on social media and in bank branches to highlight common phishing schemes. Because cybersecurity education and fraud awareness can often be dull and forgettable to many consumers, the campaign is designed to be bright and bold with a bit of comedy.

The campaigns short videos offer similarly ridiculous scenarios like wallpapering a room with cash, roasting marshmallows over a cash fire and recycling cash on garbage day. Consumers directed are to BanksNeverAskThat.com for more



*All checkings subject to credit approval. To qualify for the reward, open a 1st checking for the primary member with a debit card, e-statements and direct deposit to receive a \$50 bonus deposit to your new checking account. All requirements must be completed within 60 days of new checking account opening. Your checking account must remain open in order for you to receive the reward, which will be credited to the eligible account within 10 days for all conditions have been extended will be identified as 1000 to receive the reward, which will be credited to the eligible account within 10 days and the state of the state The rail conditions have been met and will be identified as "SOCU Checking from Reward" on your monthly statement. A qualifying Direct Deposit is defined as a recurring Direct Deposit of a paycheck, pension, Social Security or other regular monthly income electronically deposited by an employer on an outside agency into your Checking account. The total amount of all qualifying Direct Deposits credited to your checking account must be at least \$100.00 or more. Transfers from one account to another do not qualify as Qualifying Direct Deposits. Not eligible for business accounts. Offer may be extended, modified or discontinued at any time. Federally insured by the NCUA.

Less seasonal use, not politicians helping gas prices to decline

Area gasoline prices continue to drop as local motorists are seeing most stations with fuel under \$4/gallon.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 9.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.20/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Locally Braid

"Average gas prices have declined for the second Lakes having an oversized effect on the drop in the national average," said Patrick De Haan, head of petrological analysis at GasBuddy.

decision to cut proprice reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was \$3.43/g

higher in the Northeast as "With oil prices struggling a bit after reaching \$93 after tight levels ahead of the heating oil season. Motorists are gasoline prices is seasonal and should continue into the fall, driving prices, not the desires According to GasBuddy or hopes of politicians."

Family Medicine Welcoming New Patients!

tions on Monday were priced duction, many regions could reminded that the decline in \$3.65 to \$3.68/g. Wilmington stations were week as demand continues to \$3.68/g to \$3.99/g near the decline seasonally, especially if and is unrelated to the coming interstate while in Coal City more data points to a signifi- election. Seasonality is king in GasBuddy was reporting cant economic slowdown." prices at the pump at \$4.04.

see falling gas prices again this

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Joyce Alderson ____

COAL CITY-Joyce Elaine Alderson (nee Holt), 74, of Coal City, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022, at Heritage Health in Dwight.

Joyce was born on Oct. 6, 1948 to Selmar Franklin and Margie Maxine (nee Hagood) Holt. On Sept. 1, 1990 she married William Alderson in Arkansas and they made their home in Coal City. Joyce loved every dog she ever met and especially adored her own dogs: Frankie, Stella and Izzy. Joyce was a nature

lover, enjoyed painting ceramics, nurturing her flower gardens and making floral arrangements. In her earlier years, she was employed by Arrow Road Construction which is how she came to meet her husband. Most of all, she loved spending time with her grandson, Will, and was immensely proud of his congressional nomination and acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

Surviving are her husband of 32 years William Alderson; daughter, Russelle (Brent) Holsinger, of Columbus, OH; grandson, William Holsinger, of Annapolis, MD; sisters, Lois

WILMINGTON- Gale Czys, 78, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday evening, Oct. 19, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Feb. 24, 1944 in Salem, IL, Gale Rochelle was a daughter of Luther and Blanche (Stybr) Hish, She was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the Class of 1962. On Jan. 9, 1965 Gale married David Czys and together they made a home and raised their family in Wilmington.

Gale's employment began working with the Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency (APSA) before gaining employment with the Wilmington Advocate Newspaper. She later went to work for the Wilmington School District, from where she retired from working in the High School Guidance Office in 2008.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington; belonged to the Braidwood Recreation Club, and was an active volunteer with Kuzma Care Cottage. Gale enjoyed working crossword puzzles, playing scrabble and euchre and in years past loved to play volleyball. She was a great fan of Elvis and cherished her time together with family and friends out to eat and shopping. Gale will be most remembered as a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, who was always her boys and grandkids biggest fan.

Survivors include her husband, David; two sons: Mark Czys (fiancé Abbey Hagi) of Champaign, IL and Bret (Jennifer) Czys of Wilmington; grandchildren: Brendan, Ellie, Evan, Blain and Emery; one brother, Gary (Julianne) Hish of Wilmington; her uncle,

Stamper and Judy Holt; brother, Roger D. Holt; sister-in-law, Ann Holt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, brother, Franklin Holt, and many cherished dogs.

Funeral services will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022 at 1 p.m. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m. All guests are welcome to dress in casual

attire for the visitation and funeral. Interment will immediately follow in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Dwight.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may directed to Uplifted Care hospice or to an animal organization of the donor's choice.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Gale Czys

Donald (Velda) Hish of Bloomington, IL and sisters-in-law: Mary (Ben) Wilson of Wilmington and Christine Krahn of Naples, FL, and five nieces and nephews: Wendy Krahn, Marnie (Jonathan) Jones, Mike Wilson, Robyn Ybarra and Greg Wilson. Gale was preceded in death by

her parents, Luther and Blanche Hish and her father-in-law and mother-inlaw, Edward and Anne Czys.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Funeral services will follow Monday morning, Oct. 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the funeral home with Rev. Harriette Cross from the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington offici-

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Gale will be laid to rest with her parents. Pallbearers and honorary pallbearers will be her sons and grandchildren.

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

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

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

BR. Leo Keigher _

PERRYVILLE, MO—Br. Leo (Francis J. "Fran") C.M., 92, of Keigher Perryville, MO, passed away

peacefully Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022 at the Apostle of Charity Residence St. Mary of the Barrens in Perryville, MO.

He was born May 25, 1930 in Chicago to Leo W. and Veronica M. (Haley) Keigher. When his family moved to Joliet, Fran attended St. Patrick's Parish and grade school and Joliet Catholic High his years growing up with his family and friends there. After graduating high school, he worked at Caterpillar in Joliet and later Argonne Labs



nature. He kept connected in between with calls, visits, and cards.

In 2017, after 44 years at DePaul, 34 of which were spent operating his Back Door Ministry, Br. Leo retired. He moved to the Vincentian Apostle of Charity Residence at St. Mary of the Barrens in Perryville. There he reunited with other retired priests and brothers, most of whom he knew well. Despite his trials of health and distance

from family and friends in Illinois, he found School. The second of 10 children, Fran enjoyed happiness there. Br. Leo came to love and appreciate the dedicated staff of nurses and caregivers. He loved to reminisce with his family when called or visited, and never tired of sharing the many stories of his life. Because Br. Leo saw firsthand the sad plight of the poor, he was left with great compassion for the suffering of others. That experience led him to a deep appreciation for his faith, family, and friends. He often encouraged us to appreciate those blessings and to never forget to say our prayers. He had a strong devotion to the rosary, and was proud to live on the same grounds as The Shrine of the Miraculous Medal. He is survived by his brother, Patrick Keigher; four sisters: Theresa O'Connor, Rita Keenan, Eileen (Tom) Schiltz, and Kathleen (Warren) Lindsay; foster brother, Jim (Joyce) Traina and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Michael Keigher; sisters: Margie Keigher, Mary (Buddy) McGrail, Lois (Tom) Flavin; brothers-in-law, Jerry O'Connor and Glenn Keenan; his sister-in-law, Carroll Keigher and nieces, Sheri and Marina Schiltz as well as numerous relatives and friends. Br. Leo (Fran) was loved so much and will be truly missed, he was a wonderful brother, uncle, Godfather, cousin, Vincentian Brother and friend. Rest in peace our dear Brother Leo. A funeral mass was held Wednesday, Oct. 12 at Mary, Mother of God Chapel at St. Mary's of the Barrens in Perryville with the Rev. Patrick McDevitt, C.M., Provincial of the Western Providence officiating. Burial was at Vincentian Community Cemetery in Perryville. Memorial contributions may be given to St. Mary of the Barrens or Congregation of the Mission. Online condolences may be made at www.fordandyoungfuneralhome.com or www.facebook.com/people/St.Marys-of-the-Barrens/100080131630846/

Stephen A. Sayers _____

Stephen A. Sayers, 73 of Orland Park, and formerly of Coal City, died Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022 at his home.

Born Feb. 10, 1949 in Fairfield, IL, Stephen Adrien was a son of Adrien Eugene and Doris (Harrison) Sayers. He graduated from Coal City High School with the Class of 1967, and was soon thereafter, drafted into the United States Army where he served in combat

BITUARIES

during the Vietnam Conflict. On Sept. 22, 1973, Steve married Rosemary Shelton and together they made their home in Coal City. He worked for Stepan Chemical, where he retired as an Engineer in 2015 following 35 years of service. Steve was a life member of the V.F.W. and belonged to the Coal City Area Club.

Known for his love of the outdoors, Steve loved to fish and camp. He enjoyed spending his summers vacationing on Marsh-Miller Lake in Wisconsin and visiting the casinos in Tunica, MS. Steve will be most remembered as a simple man, who had a great sense of humor; spoke fluent sarcasm and would help those he loved and cared for with anything they needed.

Survivors include his son and daughter-inlaw, James and Denise Womack, and his loving companion and partner, Beverly Dattilo, both of Orland Park; granddaughter, Victoria (Anthony) Ortiz of Westville, IN, as well as Dana (John) Klein of Steger, IL, who were like his own. Five grandchildren: Liam, Arianna, Dallas, Caleb and Nya; two brothers: Robert (Debbie) Sayers of Pea Ridge, AR and John (Debbie) Sayers of Kewanee, IL; nieces and nephews: Kerry Sayers-Foley of Davenport, IA, Kim Sayers of Darien, IL, Kelly Sayers of Oswego, IL, John Michael Sayers of Durant, IL, Bree Sayers of Jackson, MO and Rob Sayers of Alpharetta, GA. Steve was preceded in death by

his parents, and his wife Rosemary. The family will receive friends for

a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 North Broadway (one block north of Illinois Route 113) in Coal City on

Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will follow on Friday morning, Oct. 28, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. in the funeral home with Rev. Chris Hopkins from The Center in Palos Park officiating

Burial will be in Sample Cemetery in Morris, where Steve will be laid to rest with his late wife, Rosemary. Pallbearers will be: Dan Davidson, Gabriel Pryszcz, Edward Milkint, Michael Doyle, Todd Mielcarz and John Klein.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts Steve's memory to The Center, 12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, IL 60464 or to the Animal Welfare League 10305 Southwest Hwy, Chicago Ridge, IL 60415.

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

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

Dorothee Tjelle _____

CARBON HILL—Dorothee Rose Tielle, 94, of Carbon Hill, passed away Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022 surrounded by family at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Nov. 14, 1927 in Coal City, Dorothee Rose was a daughter of James and Rose (Mlynek) Vilt. She was raised and educated in Coal City and was a graduate of Coal City High School with the class of 1945. On Nov. 26, 1949, Dorothee married Everett Tjelle in St. Rose

Catholic Church in Wilmington, and together they made their home in Gardner, before relocating to Coal City.

Dorothee was a former member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington, and currently belonged to Assumption Parish in Coal City, where she was a member of The Martha's. Dorothee served as a 4-H Leader, and most recently was an active volunteer, assisting with the Carbon Hill Homecoming for many years; St. Vincent's Table, where she baked and provided desserts weekly; The Coal City Clothes Closet, and MOMS Cookies. She enjoyed dancing, as well as gardening and flowers. Family was always the center of Dorothee's life and she cherished the time she was able to spend with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and siblings. She was also for certain to be in attendance for any and all of her grandchildren's activities

Survivors include her children: Dennis (Margene) Tjelle, of Dwight; Alan Tjelle, of Carbon Hill: Diane Cramer, of Saunemin: LuAnn (Randy) Bradbury, of Odell and JoAnn (Loren) Koenig and Brian Tjelle, both of Carbon Hill; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; one brother, Ron Vilt, of Wilmington and two

Fern L. Wren

COAL CITY—Fern L. Wren, 97, of Coal City, passed away with family at her side on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022 in Morris

sisters-in-law, Lorraine Vilt, of Carbon Hill and Phyllis Tjelle, of Dwight, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dorothee was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Everett Tjelle (Jan. 9, 1990); son-in-law, Kenny Cramer; brother, Richard "Hotshot" Vilt; sister, Bette Stutts, and her special friend and companion, Franklin Bevan.

Funeral services were held Tuesday,

Oct. 25, 2022 in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Rev. Josh Miller presiding, and Deacon William Dunn assisting. Burial was in Sacred Heart Catholic

Cemetery in Campus, where she was laid to rest with her late husband.

Pallbearers were: Jim Muser, Jordan Koenig, Craig Cramer, Chris Cramer, Luke Tjelle, Jake Tjelle and Shane Wepprecht.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Dorothee's memory to Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431; Paralyzed Veterans of America, P.O. Box 758542, Topeka, KS 66675-8542 and St. Vincent's Table or the Assumption Building Fund c/o 195 S. Kankakee St., Coal City, IL 60416.

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

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

Fern was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Francis Sr.; two sons and a daughter-in-law: Francis Jr. and



with an additional two years leave spent serving in the U.S. Army. At age 29, Fran decided to begin his vocation as a religious brother. He chose the Vincentian Order Congregation of the Mission because of the founder St. Vincent's great love and service to the poor.

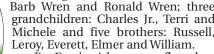
Fran entered St. Mary of the Barrens Seminary in Perryville and made his final vows July 19, 1962. His assignments included St. Mary's Seminary, DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont, IL and finally in 1973, the Vincentian Residence Offices of DePaul University in Chicago. Brother Leo also spent time volunteering for the Big Brothers and Sister Org. and the Kennedy Home for Special Needs Children, and at the Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home. In 1983, Br. Leo petitioned for and was granted permission to work full time in service to the poor. It was then that Br. Leo's Back Door Ministry began its crucial work. Each day, a line of homeless men and women would come to his door in need of help. They would receive clothing, blankets, necessities and coupon books for food at area restaurants. Those books meant even more in the winter months providing some time away from the bitter cold. Many of them relied on Br. Leo to just listen to their story and hear his words of consolation. He often would point to the crucifix as proof of God's love for them. Br. Leo worked hard to find resources and donations, and compiled a long list of contacts. His ministry also included helping poor families who came or called on him with various needs. He greatly appreciated the generosity of so many faithful donors and volunteers.

During his years in Illinois, Br. Leo (Uncle Fran) stayed close to his family. He was a favorite guest at so many parties and special events. Fran loved to share a magic trick or funny story with his special nieces and nephews who remember him for his gentle and accepting Hospital.

Born July 25, 1925 in Morris, Fern was a daughter of Charles Alfred and Lavina Mae (Ashton) Gordon. She was raised and educated in Morris and on Dec. 6, 1941, Fern married Francis Edwin Wren. Together they made a home and raised their six children.

A devoted wife and mother, nothing made Fern more proud than to become a grandmother, great-grandmother and greatgreat-grandmother. She was a member of the Morris Women of the Moose, and will be remembered as an exceptional cook. Fern enjoyed playing bingo, working puzzles and gambling. She was a great euchre player; a fan of the Chicago Cubs, and could often be found watching the Gameshow Network.

Survivors include four children: Charles E., Sr. (Margaret) Wren, of Braidwood; Gary L. Wren, of Carbon Hill and Sherrie L. Hobbs and Richard A. (Joan) Wren, both of Coal City; daughter-in-law, Dena Wren, of Coal City; 16 grandchildren: Stephanie, Stacy, Kimberly, Tammy, Julie, Carey, Sherry, Ronald Jr., Ryan, Jason, Justin, Dawn, Jeffery, Jillian, Brad and Kristin; numerous great and great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Ruth Sanders, of Coal City and numerous nieces and nephews.



Per Fern's wishes, green flameless cremations rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral

Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022 from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 noon. Inurnment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris, where Fern will be laid to rest with her late husband, Francis Sr.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Fern's memory to the Morris Hospital Foundation, 150 W. High St., Morris, IL 60450.

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

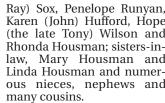
Flameless cremation arrangements and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Raymond Housman -

DWIGHT—Raymond Andrew Housman, "Ace," 75 of Dwight, formerly of Braidwood, passed away Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa.

Born Jan. 25, 1947 in Braidwood, he was the son of Andrew Raymond and Ruth L. (nee Stevens) Housman. Raymond was a union carpenter with Local #174. He enjoyed watching old westerns and fishing with his

grandson. Surviving are three children: Cindy (Bernie) Studyvin, of Joliet; Daniel Fredrick Lee (fiancé, Tricia Boyne) Housman, of Dwight and James Clifford Housman, of Pontiac; two grandchildren, Leeann (George Henry) Hall and Mark Allen Redman Jr.; two great-grandsons, George Henry Hall III, "Junior" and Leeland Ray Hall; six brothers: Donald (the late Donna) Housman, David (Jan) Housman, William (the late Brenda) Housman, Nathan (Kay) Housman, Richard (the late Joyce) Housman, and George (Angie) Housman; seven sisters: Peggy (Ronald) Wendel, Carol (Gary) Zilm, Patricia (the late



Preceding him in death were his parents, Andrew and Ruth; wife, Linda Lee (nee Lutomski) Housman (June 30, 2015), who he married Dec. 9, 1974; three brothers: Ronald Housman, Warren

Housman and Ralph Housman and one sister, Marilyn Housman.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022 from 12 p.m. until the time of memorial services beginning at 4 p.m.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpat-tersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

MEMORIAL SERVICE and TRIBUTE for ALICE F. FALETTI Nov. 13, 2022 | 11:30 a.m. Presbyterian Church - Braidwood, IL

A tribute to Gary Brieser



Photo by Eric Fisher

OVER 75 VEHICLES and roughly 200 people lined up at Wilmington High School on Sunday morning to parade to the home of Gary Brieser, the owner who started Brieser Construction, who passed away Saturday. The line-up stretched over a mile long as police escorted vehicles through downtown Wilmington. The circled the driveway at his home near Harborside Marina where each vehicle dropped a carnation in his honor. It was a fitting tribute to Brieser who turned a small construction company into a reliable general contractor who employed about 3,000 people over the past 44 years. Brieser's tradesmen were often encouraged by Gary to volunteer their time and talent for building community projects. The main office was in Wilmington on Lorenzo Rd from years 1978 - 2000 before locating currently in Channahon. It's still a very Wilmington-heavy corporation with about 25% of its employees having a Wilmington address. The company Gary started is now one of the largest woman-owned civil industrial contractors in the United States. His obituary information was unavailable at press time as arrangements were still being made.

OBITUARIES

Jim Noffsinger

LEROY—Jimmie Lee Noffsinger, 71, of Leroy, passed away unexpectedly Oct. 14, 2022. He was born Feb. 20, 1951 in Oak Park, IL to Thomas and Gracie Noffsinger.

Jim graduated from Reed Custer High School class of 1969. Being naturally athletic, he excelled in many sports while in high school. He found a great love for bowling and golfing and enjoyed those for many years. Jim worked for years in the Carpentry and Sheetmetal Unions and was the proud owner for years of a hardware store in Mackinaw, IL. He enjoyed putting together puzzles and proudly displayed them in his home.

Surviving are sisters, Dee (Bill) Beasley and Darnell (Don) Christenson; brothers, Ed (Terry) Noffsinger and Jack (Juanita) Noffsinger; five

children: daughters, Dana (Kelly) Lardi, of Coal City and Stacy Belz, of Mahomet; sons: Michael (Brenna) Noffsinger, of Coal City; Kevin Noffsinger, of Lacon and Arthur (Brooke) Noffsinger; grandchildren: Abby Lardi, Grace Lardi, Claire Lardi, Lucy Lardi, Alice Lardi and Caroline Lardi; Dane Noffsinger, Brady Noffsinger, Caleb Conover, Riley Conover, Wyatt Belz, Derek Belz, Cameron Noffsinger, Bryson Noffsinger and Brynlee Noffsinger.

Jimmie was preceded in death by his parents and his late wife, Teresa Noffsinger.

A graveside service was held Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022 at Dawson Cemetery. Those who wish to remember Jimmie can make donations to the Calvert-Balangee-Bruce Funeral Home at 101 W Center St, LeRoy, IL 61752.

Joe P. Gleason

COAL CITY—Joe P. Gleason, 62, of Coal City, formerly Elwood and Joliet, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 at Joliet Hospice House

Born April 6, 1960 in Joliet, he was a son of Edward L. and Theresa M. (Caron) Gleason. On Dec. 11, 1985, Joe married Deborah Moore in Joliet, and together they cherished 36 years. Joe lived many lives in one lifetime. He started working at the age of 8, making lunch deliveries to neighborhood business, paper delivery, bicycle repair and mowing lawns. By his teens Joe started working with a traveling carnival for the summer. This eventually lead to owning his own concession vehicle, allowing him to travel with carnivals and circuses. In time he joined the Hauk Gas Co. working up to management while many ventures. music, comedy, stage performances and discov- direction and care of Reeve Funeral Home, Ltd., ering new experiences. He always looked for a 75 N. Broadway Street, in Coal City.

good laugh, good food and getting a good bargain. Survivors include his wife, Deborah, of Coal

City; three brothers: Dave (Dawn), Steven and Wayne Gleason; one sister, Susan Gleason; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Brian Gleason and one niece, Lisa Marie.

Cremation rites have been accorded and services will be held per Joe's wishes.

Preferred memorials in Joe's memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association. Friends and family are encouraged to sign

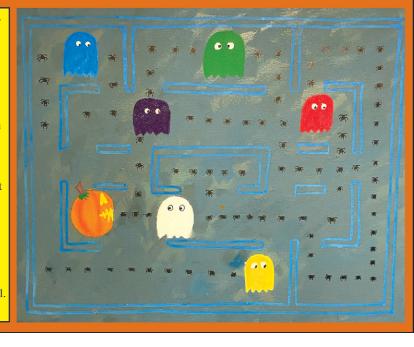
onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Joe's page via social media.

n made under

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artwork to express encouragement, positive attitude, funny humor, or just feelings from past memories. Email submissions or if you have

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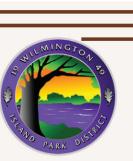
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Custer Park to have tree lighting

The 10th annual Lighting of the Trees will be on Friday, Nov. 18, at 5:45 p.m., at the Custer Park Town Hall.

The Reed-Custer High School madrigal singers and instrumentals will be playing holiday music for the occasion.

Santa will make an appearance at approximately 6:45 p.m. so have your cameras ready. Hot dogs, hot chocolate will be provided all for free.

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Sweet and scary

Ranking the best, worst and favorite Halloween treats

STAFF REPORT

Chocolate and peanut butter appear to be the perfect combination and that's why when it comes to Halloween candy, the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup reins.

It's tradition that on Oct. 31, costume characters roam the streets in search of sweet treats, everyone seeking out their favorites as they empty their pumpkin buckets, bags and pillow cases to inventory the stash of candy they collected going door-to-door.

For the majority of Americans, finding a peanut butter cup is a win while Halloween this year and among them 96% finding a peanut butter kiss—the ones wrapped in black and orange paper—is a loss.

most popular and worst trick-or-treat candy are released, and CandyStore.com provides a comprehensive listing of both by analyzing published reports and comparing it to its own survey of 15,000 customers to determine what trick-ortreaters want and don't want to find at the end of the night.

Starburst and Hot Tamales.

This year's favorites have not changed in the last 365 days as Hershey Kisses, Snickers, Tootsie Pops and candy corn maintained their spots in the top 10.

Candy corn also ranks among the top 10 worst candies-for the record it's #2 this year, dropping down a spot from last season.

The list of the worst starts with circus peanuts up from #2 last year, followed by candy corn, peanut butter kisses, Necco Wafers, wax cola bottles, Smarties, Mary Janes, Tootsie Rolls, black licorice and Good & Plenty.

CandyStore.com reports 172 million Americans are expected to celebrate will purchase candy spending about \$27.55 on average.

. Overall, Halloween spending this Each Halloween the rankings of the year is expected at about \$10.6 billion with \$3.1 billion going toward the purchase of candy, according an estimate provided by the National Retail Federation.

The annual CandyStore. com survey also breaks down the favorite candy choices by state.

Illinoisians' top picks continue to be The 2022 list of America's favorites Sour Patch Kids followed by Kit Kat and

once again starts with the peanut butter Starburst. The on-line candy retailer cup, followed by Skittles, M&M's, reporting some 152,928 pounds of Sour reporting some 152,928 pounds of Sour Patch Kids being bought and consumed this year.

> Neighbors in Iowa prefer M&M's, Wisconsin residents like Butterfingers and in Indiana Starburst is the favorite.

> Missouri residents continue to favor Milky Way and in the state of Kentucky the peanut butter cup is the treat of choice.

> The top ranking candy in each of the neighboring states has not changed in the past year.

> Out of all the states, Arizona residents consume the most of their favorite treat downing 779,828 pounds of Hershey **Kisses**

> Among the more unique candies making the favorites list is salt water taffy coming in at #2 in both Nebraska and Washington.

> And, Hot Tamales are ranked the favorite in four states-Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota and Virginia-and were a runner-up in eight others.

As a point of note to parents, it's OK to stash some of those surgery treatshalf of parents across the U.S. say they hide some of the candy their kid collect to enjoy at a later time.

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tificate of Sale that will enti-tle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open inspection and plaintiff

(g)(4)

tiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that pur-pose. Case # 21 CH 21 3205637 Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 26, November 2, 9, 2022.



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subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condo-minium Property Act. Pur-suant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a sur-

plus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff sall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to NOIS THE MO SOURCE, INC.; Plaintiff, all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held LINOIS MUNICIPAL COR-PORATION; STATE OF ILuntil a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: KEL-LEY KRONENBERG, P.A. 161 N. CLARK STREET STE 1600 CHICAGO, ILLIvember 30, 2022, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the of-NOIS 60601 P: 13122168828 F: (312) 277-3236 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLEC-211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following de-scribed mortgaged real es-tate: P.I.N. 05-03-107-021. ACT TION PRACTICES YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT-ING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFOR-MATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE Publiched in Commonly known as 502 East High Street, Morris, IL 60450. The improvement PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspa-

pers Wed., October 26 and November 2, 9, 2022.

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT on the property consists of OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLIresidence If a single family residence. In the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a com-MONEY mon interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee vs. MICHAEL T. ZOPP; CITY OF MORRIS, AN ILother than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down LINOIS; Defendants, 22 FC 21 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entifunds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open tied cause model dicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, No-shor 30, 2022, at the in the offor inspection. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Man-ley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. File Num-ber 22-003568 ADC IN-TERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION fice of Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, intercountyjudicialsales.co m I3205360 Published in

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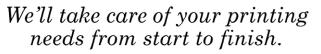
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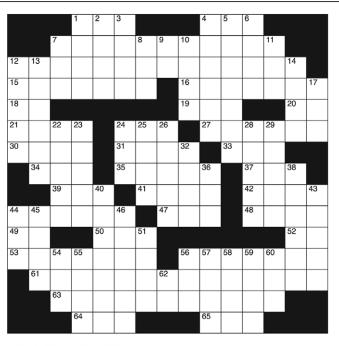
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37. White clergical vestment

44. A state that precedes vomiting

49. Anno Domini (in the year of

61. Popular R.L. Stevenson novel

50. The home of "60 Minutes"

53. Give cards incorrectly

26. Hand gesture popular on

32. Database management system

38. Providing no shelter/sustenance

44. Midcentury Asian battleground

45. Horizontal passage into a mine

social media

28. Renters have one

43. What a sheep did

51. Improper word

59. Misfortunes

60. Negative

62. Camper

55. Financial obligation

56. It can be hot or iced

57. Tough outer skin of a fruit

58. ____ Spumante (Italian wine)

29. Tubular steel column

41. Matchstick games

47. Burned item residue

48. Jaguarundi

Our Lord)

52. Dorm official

63. Attentively

65. Criticize

36. Similar

40. Death

64. CNN's founder

39. Cool!

CLUES ACROSS

1. Unhappy

- 4. Clairvoyance
- 7. One who works under you
- 12. What happens there stays there 42. Thick piece of something
- 15. Not ingested
- 16. Got the picture
- 18. One thousandth of a gram 19. Breakfast item
- 20. About
- 21. Tall deciduous trees
- 24. Safe keeping receipt
- 27. Cowardly
- 30. Pueblo people of New Mexico 56. One who is learning the job
- 31. Herring-like fish
- 33. A very large body of water
- 34. Angle (abbr.)
- 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fijian capital
- 2. Assist
- 3. Elected lord in Venice
- 4. The capacity of a physical system to do work
- 5. People of the wild
- 6. Parent-teacher groups
- 7. Midway between south and
- southeast
- 8. Moved quickly on foot 9. Handheld Nintendo console
- 10. "Top of the Stairs" playwright 46. Mortified
- 11. Electronic data processing
- 12. "Dog Day Afternoon" director 54. No seats available
- 13. Leaned
- 14. About aviation
- 17. Mountain is a popular type 22. Lake along Zambia and
- Congo border
- 23. Heroic tales
- 24. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 25. "Star Trek" villain

Illinois Democrats have millions more to spend

Speaker Chris spend in the final House Welch reported raising a whopping \$14 million in the third quarter, with almost half of that, \$6 million, coming from Gov. JB Pritzker. That gives Welch a huge cash advantage for the home stretch over his Republican counter-part.

Welch's personal campaign committee reported raising \$7 million between July 1 and September 30 and reported having \$11.6 million cash on hand at the end.

Welch's caucus committee, Democrats for the Illinois House, also reported raising \$7 million in the same time period, with \$6 million of that coming from Gov. Pritzker. The committee ended the quarter with about \$5.8 million in the bank after spending \$6.4 million.

From the start of October through October 21st, Welch reported raising another \$1.5 million for his personal committee and about \$500,000 for his caucus committee, giving him a total of \$19.4 million to

five weeks or so of the campaign if he cleans out the accounts. Welch earlier transferred close to \$10 million from his personal committee to his caucus committee. So, his available cash for the final push is likely up to \$16 million, but could be more if the need arises.

Senate President Don Harmon reported raising \$4.9 million during the third quarter for his personal committee and ended with \$13 million in the bank.

Harmon's caucus committee, ISDF, raised about \$9 million, with \$7 million of that coming from Harmon's personal committee and another \$1 million from Gov. Pritzker. It ended the quarter with \$4 million after transferring out \$4.5 million to members and

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spending \$1.9 mil-lion on polling, media production, etc. plus some overhead. reported raising another \$1.8 million Oct. 1-21 for his personal committee and \$6.1 million for CAPITOL FACTS caucus commit-

Rich Miller

Pritzker and \$5 million transferred from Harmon's personal committee. So, he's sitting on a total of \$19.9 million, plus another million or so in his other accounts.

Harmon has

tee, with \$1 mil-

lion from Gov.

his

As expected, Republican fundraising could not even come close to keeping pace with the Democrats. House Republican Leader Jim Durkin's personal committee reported raising \$820,000 in the third quarter, just 12 percent of Welch's haul. Durkin ended the quarter with \$319K, after spending \$1.8 million, including sending \$300K to his caucus committee, House Republican Majority. He's since reported raising \$1.4 million through October 21.

House Republican Majority reported raising about \$1.4 million in the third quarter, plus Durkin's \$300K. It spent \$1.6 million and ended the quarter with \$220K. It has since reported raising \$1.6 million through Oct. 21, but \$850K of that came from Durkin's personal committee.

All told, that left Durkin with about \$2.5 million to spend in the final five weeks about 16 percent of Welch's grand total.

Senate Republican Leader Dan McConchie reported raising \$2.7 million in the third quarter, with about \$2.2 million of that coming from Richard Uihlein. He reported spending \$3.1 million, with \$2.9 million going to his caucommittee, Senate cus Republican Victory Fund. He ended the third quarter with \$1.2 million cash on hand and has since reported raising \$870K.

The Senate Republican Victory Fund reported raising about \$400K in the quarter, plus the \$2.9 million transferred in by Leader McConchie. It spent \$3.3 million, and ended the quarter with \$296K. It has since reported raising \$1.3 million, with \$1 million of that coming from McConchie's personal campaign.

Total it up, and it appears that McConchie has about \$2.6 million to spend on the final five weeks – about 12 percent of what Senate President Harmon has.

Legislative caucuses, the governor and other candidates all qualify for a major postage discount by using their respective state parties to handle their mailing operations. So, looking at party spending gives us an idea of what's happening on the mailer front.

After shedding leadership that couldn't legally raise or spend state campaign funds, the Democratic Party of Illinois reported bringing in \$8.3 million in the third quarter and ended with \$5.8 million. It has since reported bringing in \$4.3 million, giving it \$10.1 million in available mailer spending during the final weeks.

The Illinois Republican Party raised \$2.2 million, spent \$1.5 million and ended with \$1.1 million cash on hand. The ILGOP has since reported bringing in \$3 million, giving it \$4.1 million for the home stretch - much less than half what DPI had.

The Democrats have zero excuses for failure.















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COMET SPORTS Comet athletes shine during fall season



ALL EYES HAVE BEEN on this year's historic run for the Reed-Custer High School varsity football team. But the district's entire population of student atletes have also acheieved a lot this fall. Those accomplished athletes include the RCHS JV football team. Members of the 2022 squad include (from left, front) Adam Bryant, Madysen Meyer, Aiden Brown, Jeff Shenk, Chris Foley, Isaiah VanOvermeiren, Landen Richardson, Donny Rice, Brock Billingsley, Lucas Thompson, Aiden Lewandowski, Brady Tyree and Tyler Weathersby. Middle row: Coach Anthony Sanchez, Thomas Emery, Dominic Alaimo, Justin Osborne, Drew Emanuelson, Scott Coronelli, Dhane Debelak, Josh Garabedian, Owen Dooley, Jacob Reardon, Mark Martinez, Dominic Eddy, Trent Lyons and Todd Lyons. Back row: Joe Bembenek, Aiden Shultz, Colton Waldvogel, Tristan Randall, Alex Rodriguez, Vinny Bollino, Clayton Perkins, Jordan Hickman, Kris Budick, Lucas Vaughn, Jeremy Eggleston, Landen Robinson and Hudson Cook.





HITTING THE BALL from the fairway at High Point Golf Course for Reed-Custer is Dakota Wilkins.

Lady Comets bow out in the first round

It couldn't have ended much closer Monday night when the Wilmington volleyball competed in the first round of the Seneca Regional.

The Lady 'Cats battled Pontiac in three games, skipping the opportunity to advance by just three points. Pontiac won it 25-21, 19-25, 25-22. the

Preceeding

Wilmington match was a battle between Peotone and Reed-Custer. The Comets lost 26-24, 25-22 to conclude their season too.

Coal City (#1 seed) was to play Peotone (8) at 6 p.m. last night while Seneca (4) will take on Pontiac in the semi-final round. The Regional Champioship will be determined Thursday at 6 p.m. in Seneca.



Photo by Zadie Sims CHOOSING A CLUB during the Reed-Custer golf meet against Wilmington is Hunter Baxter.

Photo by Zadie Sims PASSING THE BALL to her teammates is Lady Comet Halie LaGrange playing against Coal City on Senior Night.

HEADING THE BALL after it was thrown in from the sideline is Comet Logan Leckrone during a matchup verus at Coal City.



DROPPING BACK to pass for the fresh-soph Comets is quarterback Jacob Reardon. Giving Reardon extra time by blocking out Coalers is lineman Lucas Vaughn during the game on Oct. 14.

COMET SPORTS____

BY JIM SHELDON SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

In order to beat the Reed-Custer football team, you pretty much need to play a flawless game and maybe get a little lucky.

Herscher was far from perfect as they committed five first half turnovers, including four interceptions as the Comets scored 38 first quarter points and cruised to a 58-7 win on Senior Night Friday in Braidwood.

The win secured the first unbeaten regular season in school history.

"No one will ever be able to beat it I guess, unless they go to a ten-game season," said Comet coach Gavin Johnston.

They are a special group of kids and for them to have that record is pretty cool."

On Herscher's third play from scrimmage, Josh Bohac skied for an interception, the start of a huge night for him on defense.

Two plays later, Jace Christian broke free for a 46 yard touchdown run to make it

If you blinked, you might have missed R-C's second touchdown which came just 16 seconds later.

A Herscher fumble which was recovered by Gavin Bruciak led to Jake McPherson finding Bohac for an 18 yard touchdown pass, 14-0.

Bohac recorded his second interception on the Tigers' next drive and once again it was Christian who powered through for a 28 yard touchdown run, 22-0.



THE COMETS CELEBRATE their ninth victory in a row Friday after defeating Herscher 58-7 during Senior Night to improve to 9-0 overall and the #2 seed in the north bracket of the Class 3A playoffs. Enjoying the win are (from left) Gavin Bruciak (55), Quy Nguyen (24), Josh Bohac (7), Blake Clement (65) and Connor Esparza (11). The Comets will host Chicago Carver in the first round of the playoffs on Saturday at 2 p.m.

of his four carries with four tion, 30-0. touchdowns and 112 vards.

all those runs.

Peyton Bradley got in on

Christian made the most a 28 yard touchdown recep-

Christian capped off the "He was running like a first quarter with a four yard man possessed too. He broke touchdown run to make it 38one if not multiple tackles on 0, their fifth 30-point quarter of the season.

He wasn't done though, the fun two minutes later with recording a 34 yard touchdown point on his night with his score a touchdown on the Carver in the opening round.

run early in the second quarter school record third intercepfor the ninth consecutive running clock for R-C.

momentum plays early which ceptions for the season are also kind of took the life out of a school record. Herscher.

tion of the night, the last one being a pick-six for a 52-0 half-'It was good to have those time advantage. His six inter-

"It's pretty cool for him to Bohac put an exclamation break both records and to the Comets will host Chicago

record breaker," said Johnston. "He's been phenomenal all year and it was great to see him make all those plays.'

Nick Cieslak closed out the Comet scoring with a five yard touchdown run at the five minute mark of the third quarter.

The lone highlight for Herscher was a 77 yard touchdown pass in the final minute of the third, which accounted for almost half of their total vards (176).

McPherson had a very efficient night throwing the ball going 4-for-5 for 100 yards and two touchdowns.

Lucas Foote (33 yard catch, 23 yard run) and Brandon Moorman (26 yard catch, two carries for 38 yards) both had some explosive plays.

Colin Esparza added nine carries for 64 yards and Nick Cieslak recorded 45 yards on 10 rushes.

Quy Ngyuen tallied a oneyard carry as well for R-C who finished with 383 yards of total offense

Defensively it was a total team effort as Moorman, Esparza and Christian led the charge with three tackles apiece.

Bruciak, Bradley, Kody Marschner and Cieslak all recorded two tackles and Gunnar Berg and Rex Pfeifer both had 1.5 stops.

Also recording a stop were Connor Esparza, Zack Cieslak, Travis Bohac and Ngyuen.

The focus shifts to the Class 3A playoffs now where



STAYING UNDEFEATED - Reed-Custer senior Jake McPherson celebrates the Comets' 58-7 win over Herscher on Friday night.







Photo by Zadie Sims

COLIN FITZPATRICK celebrates his teamate scoring a touchdown against Herscher on Friday night.

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Photo by Zadie Sims TOUCHDOWN SCORED by Josh Bohac who ran it in Friday against Herscher. The Senior Night game for the Comets ended in a 58-7 victory.



Photo by Zadie Sims JACE CHRISTIAN doesn't let a Herscher defender get in his way as he scores one of his four touchdowns on Friday night.



Photo by Eric Fisher

DIVING FOR THE END ZONE while running the ball for the varsity Comets during a recent victory at home is Lucas Foote.

Photo by Zadie Sims STIFF-ARMING HIS OPPONENT is Josh Bohac as he runs for extra yardage against Herscher on Friday.

Comets looking to slice up Carver in playoff opener

BY JIM SHELDON SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

On paper, it looks to be quite the mismatch, the highpowered Reed-Custer football team (9-0) which averaged 59.3 points per game (the most in Class 3A) versus a Chicago Carver (5-3-1) squad which averaged 18.7 ppg, a slow quarter for R-C.

But it's the opening round of the Class 3A playoffs and stranger things have happened.

"So far I've only found snippets of film and that was from last year. They like to run the ball out of a two tight end look, similar to a Wing T set," said coach Gavin Johnston.

"They are going to try to

top with the pass.

Carver played a predominantly Chicago Public Schools schedule but they did face Evergreen Park (7-2) and lost 49-8. They faced four playoff teams and went 1-3 against them with the lone win coming against Chicago

Čorliss (5-4), a 1A team. Carver has given up only 16.1 points per game and the Comets only 5.9 ppg, which is second in 3A behind Eureka (4.1).

In two of their losses though, the Challengers gave up 48 and 38 points to their toughest opponents.

"I think it's going to be

get some guys in space and kind of lull you to sleep with the run and hit you over the the run and hit you over the life out of them early, hopefully we can get some guys out as well," said Johnston.

"But it's the playoffs and anything can happen. Thats why we play the games."

Looking ahead the winner face either 10 seed Chicago (Catalyst/Maria) or the 7 seed Pecatonica (Du-Pec).

The North half of the bracket is particularly challenging with top-seeded Princeton, Seneca (3), IC Catholic (4), Stillman Valley (5) and Byron (6).

We're pretty ecstatic with our draw. We feel like we're still the best team in the class. Our their playoff run.

"It goes perfectly with the Unfinished Business theme, but we have to keep our focus. Now is the time to go win the games.

Byron ended R-C's season last year in heartbreaking fashion 28-24 and went on to win the state championship.

The eighth seed in the bracket, Genoa-North Kingston's win over previously unbeaten Stillman Valley 32-28 last Friday helped the Comets avoid an IC Catholic or a Princeton until the semifinals which is certainly beneficial.

Game-time is 2 p.m. Saturday as the Comets start