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Early learning center set to open this month at Reed-Custer

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Plans for the Reed-Custer School District to provide on-site child care options for staff has gone from just an idea to reality in just six months.

Last month, Superintendent Mark Mitchell told the members of the board of education during their October meeting that the early learning center is expected to open this month, with an open house planned for staff.

The plan creates two spaces for the non-school aged children of staff, one at the middle school and the

other at the high school.

Infants and toddlers up to 18 months will be in a room at RCMS, while ages 2-5 will be housed in the old cafeteria at the high school.

The program is intended to provide both a service for staff as well as a potential way to retain those staff members who have young children, who may otherwise choose to stay home with their young children or seek employment closer to home.

"We have some really good staffing, we just hired an assistant director and a great teacher. We're excited about this and we're hoping that not only does it help us retain our

staff members, but it attracts some new ones. This teacher shortage is real, and this is not something that many schools have, is a spot for those young children to be when their mom or dad is at work."

The district expects to begin with about nine children enrolled, but Mitchell said the district has the staff-to-child ratio available to handle up to 20 children.

"I anticipate the program being full in a short amount of time, once the people understand how it works," he added.

One thing the program will not do—turn a profit. Mitchell noted that

the anticipated cost of the program is about \$25-\$30 per day, below operational costs. But, he added, the program was not created to be a money maker, but rather a service for employees who may need it most.

"The board has committed some money for this. There's no way it's going to fund itself. We had upfront costs, and [then] we'll have per year figures," Mitchell said.

The idea was first pitched to the board of education in March. By April, the district had already moved ahead with steps to institute the program, including staff surveys, licensing reviews, and program develop-

ment plans.

The site is licensed through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Preparations that began last spring included a 60-page application, in which the district had to map out a timeline for opening, market evaluation, review of standards and codes, application for a license, site evaluation, creation of a business plan, program development plans, and licensing. Outdoor spaces may also be available for the program if the weather permits.

The facilities will be open to staff on a first come, first serve basis.

Comets get in the groove



Photos by Zadie Sims

STRIKE UP THE BAND! The Reed-Custer Marching Band is getting in extra performances this year thanks to an unbeaten season for the football team. The Comet Band plays during half-time of Saturday's 77-24 playoff victory. The band will be back at it this Saturday at 5 p.m. when the Comets take on Pecatonica in the second round. Read the preview on page 16 in sports.



PERFORMING her routine for the half-time show for the Reed-Custer Marching band and drill team is Halayna Keymon on Saturday.



JULIA JANOPOULS performs with the band during half-time of Saturday's first round football playoff game for Reed-Custer against Chicago Carver.

Food shortages affect Reed-Custer cafeterias

Schools still able to offer variety of student lunches

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Supply chain issues have trickled down to almost every aspect of day to day life, including what's for lunch.

On Oct. 19, Reed-Custer School District Assistant Director for Operations Matt Peterson reported to the board of education that shortages have affected the cafeterias at the district's three schools.

"The food shortage continues to be a thing," Peterson told the board, gathered for

their regular monthly meeting.

District officials said those supply chain issues have affected food delivery, meaning it's been difficult to get a hold of cafeteria staples such as pork, chicken, corn dogs, and items with foil lids.

"They are doing a nice job supplementing food for third through 12th graders, they have options for a salad bar every day... and both the middle school and high school are offering a variety of sandwiches."

One thing the district will be able to provide—this year's Thanksgiving feast.

Peterson reported that kitchen staff has enough turkey to supply a traditional

SEE BOARD, PAGE 2

High school graduation rates up across Illinois

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Illinois high school students posted the highest graduation rate in over a decade.

Locally, Coal City, Reed-Custer and Wilmington high schools all posted graduation rates above 90%.

The graduation rates for Illinois high school students were announced last week with the release of the Illinois Report Card, a document published each fall by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

According to ISBE, the four-year graduation rate

across Illinois in 2022 was 87.3%, the highest rate in 12 years, and that 64% of Illinois' 2020 graduates enrolled in a post-secondary program within 12 months of graduating.

According to the data, Reed-Custer High School posted a 96% graduation rate, Coal City High School was 95% and Wilmington High School had a rate of 91%.

In a release, ISBE notes

SEE GRADS, PAGE 2



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Board

Thanksgiving meal this month. However, once that meal is served, turkey will likely not be available for quite some time.

Peterson also reported that issues with milk served in the cafeteria have been resolved.

In other business before the board of education on Oct. 19:

- Nick Cavaliere of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause delivered a report on the audit that was completed for the 2022 fiscal year, which ended on June 30.

Cavaliere said clean audit shows the district has done a good job utilizing revenue, including bonds and federal dollars, on projects that benefit the district overall.

“Your ability to fund those projects adequately has been really great, it’s a wonderful set of financial statements,” Cavaliere said.

The audit showed that in FY22, the district had \$29.1 million in revenues in the educational fund, and spent \$24.5 million from that fund. In the operations and maintenance fund, the district reported revenues of \$5 million and expenditures of \$3.7 million.

- Superintendent Mark Mitchell said the district was currently working with Braidwood Station on another long term assessment agreement.

“We are in the current negotiation phase there, and things are looking favorable for a possible [new] long term assessment agreement between Constellation Energy and all of the taxing bodies,”

Mitchell said. “I have met with the taxing bodies, I have met with Constellation, and I feel like we are definitely moving in the right direction there.”

The district is nearing the end of a seven year agreement with Constellation Energy Braidwood Station, formerly Exelon Braidwood Station,

Mitchell said he would have more information to share with the board as the negotiations continue.

- Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Danielle Valiente told the board that the district is making plans to offer a Transitional English course.

“We currently have a course at the high school called transitional math. In summary, these are non-credit bearing college prep courses,” Valiente explained. “It’s not college credit, but if a student doesn’t test into a college credit class and entry level college course, they have to take a remedial course before they can take college credit courses. We have a partnership with JJC for our math course, where if our students don’t test into dual credit math, we place them in transitional math if they’re interested. That way, they can get that out of the way in high school so when they do go on, they place into a college level course. That’s the goal. The state is finally requiring this for English, so JJC now has to work with us to get this up and running with English.”

Valiente said the course is tentative for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Valiente also reported that the district is bringing back its “teachers observing teachers” program.

“I’m very excited about that, I truly

believe that one of our best resources is us, one another,” she said. “Pre-Covid, teacher leaders had come up with this initiative to offer some professional development hours to go observe a peer, complete an observation form, talk about what you saw, what you might try to implement. So, we are bringing that back, we paused it during Covid.”

- Peterson reported to the board that new life saving safety equipment has been purchased for classrooms holding the district’s youngest students, which can be utilized as part of each classroom’s safety bucket.

“We have had, for the last year or so, a tourniquet in every classroom,” Peterson said. “But now, we did order some pediatric tourniquets to keep in the pre-K and 1 rooms, and also for the early learning centers at the middle school and high school just in case. I was recently informed that there’s a difference between a tourniquet for a little kid, at first we were told they were universal, but it’s better to have the tourniquets for kids up to 6-7 years old. So, we do have smaller ones.”

- Peterson also reported that the district’s new school buses will be here shortly.

The new buses have been built, and will undergo inspection before being delivered to the district, which is expected this month.

The buses were ordered and then built in Oklahoma before being transported to the district.

Grads

doing well based on their summative designations.

Since 2018, ISBE has issued a summative designation to each public school as a measure of progress in academic performance and student success.

All three of Reed-Custer’s academic buildings—high school, middle school and elementary schools—received a “commendable” designation.

Wilmington’s four educational centers—high school, middle school, Bruning Elementary and LJ Stevens Intermediate.

The Unit 1 School District had four of its five academic centers—Coal City High School, Intermediate, Elementary and Early Childhood Center—designated as “exemplary” schools.

Exemplary designation is the highest ranking as these schools are those performing in the top 10% statewide with no underperforming student groups.

Unit 1 was the only district in Grundy County to achieve an “exemplary” designation.

the statewide increase comes with gains in the graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students over the past four years. ISBE further reports the rate of ninth graders on track to graduate has rebounded to pre-pandemic levels at 86.6%.

Graduation rates are just a portion of the data included within the state report card that also reports class sizes, teacher qualifications, absenteeism, student mobility and retention.

What most districts are looking at is the data that shows how their students are performing academically, specifically in the areas of English, mathematics and science. And, if their students are on track for college and career readiness.

The data in those areas are expected to be reported by the individual school districts in the coming weeks, but from the ISBE data it appears all three school districts are

Not your father’s shop class

Reed-Custer’s industrial technology program fostering future woodworkers

BY DENISE WILLIAMS

In yet another sign of how times have changed, it was social media that brought Reed-Custer educator Mark Smith together with Aetna Building Solutions – the company he credits with ultimately saving his high school industrial technology program.

Jon Minnaert, president of the Maywood, IL-based building materials distributor, was on the hunt for just such a program to add to the ‘Aetna Gives Back’ charitable division.

The good-works initiative provides scholarships to local colleges, supports area youth teams and organizations, and provides giveaways during the holidays, among other campaigns. While all worthy causes, there was a strong desire to extend the company’s generosity in a way that would directly impact its core industry – preferably at the local level.

Scrolling one day on LinkedIn, one of a number of social media platforms where Smith shares his students’ undertakings at Reed-Custer High School in Braidwood, Minnaert stumbled on exactly what he was looking for.

The Evolution of Shop Class
Back in 2000, under Smith’s direction and foresight, the Shiloh campus in Hume, IL, became one of the first high schools in the United States to install a full-sized Thermwood CNC router.

In 2016, Smith began building a computer integrated manufacturing facility with another Thermwood CNC router at the center of Reed-Custer’s industrial technology program.

The purchase was a game-changer for the program, which had suffered a plight shared by similar programs across the nation.

Over recent decades, Smith explains, the ties between industry and education had unraveled quite a bit, with many career and technical education (CTE) classes taking on more of a recreational feel as a result.

Adding the CNC router, which he describes as basically a robot, represented the first step in a recalibration of the program’s focus and purpose.

The learning environment naturally began to gravitate toward engineering software such as AutoCAD, Mastercam, eCabinets, Microvellum, Cabinetvision, Carveco and more.

Additional cutting-edge equipment followed, including an automated edge bander, 3-D printers, a CNC laser, a computer lab and devices to help move materials around. Collectively, the technologies would change not only the way his students built products but what they crafted.

As the “hobby” culture faded, Smith seized the opportunity to orient his curriculum to better reflect what was actually happening in industry.

respect, the administration respects and the school board respects.

“No offense to people building birdhouses or things like that, but we’re not building birdhouses here at Reed-Custer High School.”

What they do build, as Minnaert was soon to discover, is kitchen cabinets, which they then install in an actual home at a minimal cost.

And what that also does, Smith adds, is give students a real-life taste of a career in woodworking. That’s just one reason, the teacher emphasizes, why industry involvement is so crucial.

“Between what industry is doing and how education is changing and then, thirdly, getting industry and education to work together,” he continues, “we’re really seeing a revival, a resurrection, a renaissance movement of the trades.”

This reawakening is not only bringing back interest in woodworking, Smith observes, but drawing it from untapped corners. “There was a time when, if you wanted to work in the trades, you had to be pretty strong,” he recalls.

The nature of the work has become less physical with the technological advances, and Smith believes that’s making it more appealing to a much broader base of participant – including, but certainly not limited to, female students.

Not all will head off to college when they graduate, some due to circumstances but others by choice. Smith believes the woodworking industry offers a solid career pathway for many of them, if only companies promote the selling points and opportunities in a timely and effective fashion.

That wasn’t really the case during his high school years, he remembers; otherwise he may have gone in a different direction professionally – straight from commencement to a woodworking job.

Fortunately, the next best thing for him to actually working in the industry is preparing kids to work in the industry; either way makes him happy. But others for whom college may not be a good fit might not be so lucky.

For Smith, the memory drives home the importance of companies getting involved with young people while they’re still considering their futures.

By the same token, Minnaert recognizes programs like Reed-Custer’s for their potential for industry participants to win over new entrants to the workforce.

When the two movements intersect, it creates the prospect of a promising career for students skipping the four-year college experience and a coup for wood manufacturing customers – some of which are hurting for new talent – and even distributors themselves.

A Meeting of the Minds
Minnaert was first intrigued, then impressed, by the program at Reed-Custer. He reached out in late 2020, although the ongoing COVID-19 crisis put his visit to the school on hold until later the

following year.

The eventual meeting between the industry exec, teacher and his principal turned out to be well worth the wait, however.

Minnaert recalls how Smith mistakenly thought Aetna was simply trying to sell him some plywood, but the company leader assured he was only there to help.

“I told him, ‘You’re doing some pretty worthwhile things in our industry – there’s not a lot of high schools that do this anymore,’” he says.

“You’re creating excitement and hopefully the springboard to get them into our industry. Who knows? There could be a future Aetna salesperson or future Aetna leader in there somewhere, in your shop.”

Smith, meanwhile, admits to be pleasantly surprised to learn that Aetna actually wanted to donate materials to his class and students.

He and Minnaert kept the lines of communication open, and Aetna is now in its third year of gifting product to Reed-Custer.

It’s just the kind of collaboration the nonprofit Wood Industry Resource Collaborative envisions, as described in a previous article. And, according to Smith, it rescued his program from an uncertain future.

“I was wondering how my students were going to afford their projects, when our panel products were \$60 a foot before and now some cost as much as \$180,” recalls Smith, who says he is unsure what would’ve happened if not for Aetna’s support.

That’s no longer a concern, now that the class doesn’t have to pay for the plywood and hardwood it needs. “I was worried we were going to have to start building birdhouses,” Smith suggests facetiously.

Although he wasn’t even aware that Reed-Custer’s curriculum was facing dire straits, Minnaert is thrilled by the idea that Aetna’s help made a difference.

“That’s what we wanted to do,” he says enthusiastically, and he encourages peer companies to do their part, too, if they aren’t already. “These schools are in every one of our cities,” he points out. “I don’t know how many, but they’re in every one of them.”

Smith offers some perspective: the number of industrial arts program at the high school level is, conservatively speaking, in the neighborhood of about 5,000 nationwide, according to him.

That’s down, he notes, from approximately 50,000 woodworking programs in high schools during the 1980s. The statistic only adds to the argument for industry to do more.

“The wood industry has had such a strong foothold at the high school level – although it isn’t as strong today, it still has a presence – and to let that go would be a colossal mistake,” he opines. “It would be a shame not to get involved and maintain that strategic advantage for the industry.”



RCHS’S MAKAYLA WILKINS carefully drills away at her cabinet-making job provided by the industrial technology program at the school.

Companies can be supporters in a wide range of ways, Smith notes, before naming several: technical assistance, mentoring, professional guidance through career fairs, funding for students’ trade show attendance, product donations and more.

“Nothing says this industry has opportunities for students more than industry being involved with your program and supporting you in all these ways,” he declares.

In fact, Smith has a list of 32 things industry people can do to participate at the high school level “to help affect in a positive manner how that school district views their program and the industry, in hopes of maintaining a presence that might already be there or developing a presence that isn’t there.”

In brief remarks at NBMDA’s upcoming conference, he’ll share some of those very strategies with the audience.

This article is being reprinted from Channel Connection, an electronic newsletter distributed by the North American Building Material Distribution Association.



REED-CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL’S Mark Smith visits one of his industrial technology students, Makayla Wilkins, at her part-time cabinet-making job.

Have stock questions? Let’s talk.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
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The poor of the Will County Poor House

During the holidays the famous Charles Dickens story, a Christmas Carol is everywhere and everyone with his brother playing the role of Scrooge. We see the familiar Bob Cratchit in jeopardy of losing his job, and then what was to become of his poor family.



TIME WAS...
Sandy Vasko

They would have to be sent to the Poor House. But that was in England, surely in this country there was no such institution. Wrong, not only was there a Poor House, known locally as the Poor Farm, but it continued operation well into the 20th century. We start our story long before Braidwood came into existence, in 1851. The idea came about because of the great number of immigrants who came to this area to work on the I & M Canal and found that the work was done, and no jobs were to be had.

At the time government sponsored institutions to house the poor were considered the best solution to the problem of the homeless.

For the first year (1851) expenditures the Will County Board of Supervisors only allotted \$1,546.56 (about \$52,115 today). The land and building were to be paid for on time payments of \$60 (2,022) per month.

They bought \$160 (\$5,393) worth of furniture, spent \$240 (\$8,090) on pigs, cows, chickens, wagons, and horses, and spent \$408 (\$13,753) fixing the place up and \$125 (\$4,213) on a physician for the inmates.

The keeper of the Poor House received a whopping \$200 (\$6,742) a year. Even then that was not enough to live on. Therefore most keepers had other jobs and dealt with the poor house on the side. Consequently in the first years it was poorly run and new keepers were being hired constantly.

The original idea was to have the paupers help pay for their own keep by farming. They were to grow their own vegetables, milk the cows for their dairy products, eat eggs

from the chickens, raise enough grain and hay to feed the animals and in addition have enough left over to sell for other expenses.

This method was fine as far as it went. But many of the paupers were there because they could not work, usually because they were just too sick. In fact, if a pauper was healthy they were not admitted.

Another problem was language. Of the 95 inmates listed in 1855 only 8 were born in America. We know there was a communication problem as some people on the list had their name listed as "Dutchman," "Swede woman," "stranger" or simply "unknown."

The majority of inmates were Irish or German, but there were some English, some French and even one guy from Iceland.

As for their infirmities, most are just listed as "sick." Other maladies included being crippled, delirium tremens, drunkenness, numb palsy, sore eyes, rheumatism, idiot and fits, sore legs, sun struck, frozen feet, and several were listed as just plain "crazy."

In addition to County



CAPTAIN CHARLES ROSS.

A PHOTO OF Capt. Ross, one of the caretakers at the Poor House.

money, the Townships paid a fee for each pauper they sent in. Joliet had by far the most citizens living there, but almost all of the townships had one or two.

In 1855 Wilmington had two women living there. Ann McLaughlin who is simply listed as being poor and a B. Hammond who had no sickness or country of origin listed.

I am not sure if any orphanages were in operation

at the time. At the Poor House we see that younger children were admitted with their parents. However, four children are listed as being "bound out."

This meant that they were given to people as indentured servants, in trade for money given to the Poor House. In essence they were legal slaves.

One young man, James Brady was admitted with his father, but then bound out to a Mr. Brady of Grundy County. One can only hope that this was a relative and the boy was treated well.

Felix Shoemaker came in with his dad and was bound out to an R. McFarlane of Jackson Township.

The average age of the paupers came as a surprise to me. In the report which covered Feb. 1 to September 10, 1855 the number admitted was 49.

Of those five were teenagers, nine were in their 20's, fourteen were in their 30's, and ten were in their forties.

The Poor House was not meant as a permanent place of residence. Most of them were fed, clothed, treated by a physician for what wiled them and then released.

Of those 49 above listed, only one of them was listed as still living there on September 10 - Thomas Napoleon from Joliet who was one of those listed as crazy. In that same time, only two were listed as having died there. Both of them were listed as "sick."

When Braidwood came into existence however, there seemed to be a reluctance to send anyone to the County Poor House.

The mining community took care of their own, setting up funds for families whose bread winners had been killed in the mines. I can find only few inmates from Braidwood.

I found one in April 26, 1879, we read in the Joliet Weekly Sun, "A man by the name of Hughes, a pauper from Braidwood, confined in the Poor House choked to death last Tuesday evening while eating his supper."

He was a ferocious eater, gobbling everything in a hurry, and on this occasion he crammed his mouth full of meat, and not masticating it sufficiently to swallow it, it lodged part way in his throat choking him to death instantly."

Constellation wants to extend Dresden's life by 20 years

STAFF REPORT

Constellation announced Monday it is seeking a 20-year extension of its operating license for Dresden Generating Station, Morris.

That's good news for the Coal City School District and surrounding taxing bodies who receive \$26.2 million annually in Dresden property taxes.

The company is asking the Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] to extend the licenses of Dresden's two nuclear units and those at the Clinton Generating Station.

The extension means the two plants will contribute billions of additional dollars to the Illinois' economy and continue providing enough carbon-free energy to power the equivalent of more than two million homes and helping the state meet its goal to get 100% of its energy from clean sources by 2050.

If granted, the extension would extend the life of Dresden Unit 2 until 2049 and Unit 3 to 2051. The two units can generate up to 1,845 megawatts of energy.

Nuclear facilities are initially licensed to operate for 40 years and the NRC allows company's to seek license extensions for up to 20 years at a time.

This will be the second license extension sought for Dresden, the first was approved in October 2004 extending the current life of the units to 2029 and 2031.

The news comes a little more than one year after the

plant was saved from early retirement through action by the state legislature.

Constellation said the continue operation of the plants is enabled by state and federal legislation that recognizes the unique environmental and economic value of nuclear energy.

The two generation stations, along with Braidwood, LaSalle and Byron, receive credits under state law that prevented their early closure last fall.

In addition, company officials say the federal inflation Reduction Act passed in August includes a nuclear production tax credit that will help support the nation's nuclear fleet for at least nine years. Market forces and the continuation of supportive energy policies will play an ongoing role in the ability of the plants to operate for the duration of the extended licenses.

"To get to zero emissions in Illinois and nationally, we will need to operate every carbon-free resource we have for as long as we possibly can," said Joe Dominguez, president and CEO of Constellation.

"With these extensions, Clinton and Dresden will further demonstrate the capability of nuclear assets to provide always-on clean energy when and where it is needed for decades to come, which is a testament to their unique value in addressing the climate crisis. We credit the Illinois policymakers, members of Congress and other stakeholders who worked so hard to preserve these zero carbon

resources, and who can be proud of their role in supporting clean, reliable energy and contributing to our nation's energy security."

More than 700 Constellation employees work at Dresden and the plant pays \$26.2 million in property taxes to Unit 1 School District, Coal City Fire Protection and Public Library Districts, Grundy County, Goose Lake Township, Goose Lake Road District and Joliet Junior College.

As Unit 1 School Superintendent Chris Spencer said, "this is great news for our community, county, taxpayers and school district."

Based on an independent analysis completed in 2021 when the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act was enacted, Dresden is expected to contribute approximately \$1 billion to the state's gross domestic product [GDP].

"Energy production and energy jobs are fundamental to the health of the Grundy County economy. As the sector continues to evolve and more toward carbon-free power, Dresden Station is an integral part of that successful transition. The station provides excellent employment both in direct and indirect jobs, supports our local schools and taxing district and is a huge philanthropic member of the Grundy County community. We look forward to Dresden providing nuclear power to the grid for many years to come," said Nancy Norton, president and CEO of the Grundy Economic Development Council [GEDC].

RCMS names ACE winners



REED-CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL named their Ace winners for the month of October (from left) Sophie Schroeder (7th grade), Johanna Janopoulos (6th), Collin Toller (7th), Johnny Buchanan (6th), and Brandon Edwards (8th).

Braidwood Lions to collect Christmas lights

The Braidwood Lions Club will be collecting used/non-working strands of Christmas lights starting Monday, Nov. Collection bins will be located inside Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood and Coal City until January 31.

The strands of lights will be recycled by the Braidwood Lions with proceeds to benefit the club's sight & sound services provided to the

visually & hearing impaired residing in the Braidwood, Godley and Shadow Lakes communities.

A collection bin will also be available during the club's annual Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser hours of operations. For more information call (815)791-8093 or visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

Wilmington to consider Travel Center, truck stop

Proposed site will include truck parking, convenience store

STAFF REPORT

WILMINGTON — Plans for a travel stop at the corner of Route 53 and River Road will go before the Wilmington Planning and Zoning board this week.

Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores will present plans for development of a gas station, travel center and restaurant to sit along approximately 28 acres of property at the southwest corner of that intersection.

Per the application, the developer intends to construct a 13,000 square foot convenience store and fast food restaurant, four car fueling islands, eight diesel fueling bays, a truck scale, and 62 car parking space.

The site will also hold parking for up to 71 trucks.

The builder also intends to add a propane sales island and a dog park, and add a roadway that will allow access for future develop-

ment on the site south of the lot.

The commission will consider recommendation to the full City Council approval of annexation, an annexation agreement, a variance for signage, a variance for screening between non-residential and residential zoning districts, a variance for lighting, a map amendment changing the site to B3-General Commercial, and final plat and site plan review for the property.

The developer will go before the commission on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 5 p.m. at City Hall. The meeting will also be broadcast over Zoom.

The board will hold a public hearing to consider testimony and public comment on the request. All persons interested in attending are invited to do so and will be given an opportunity to be heard.

A link to the Zoom broadcast can be found on the city's website, www.wilmington-il.com, under the Government tab, Committee and Commission Meetings.

Attorney Meents files Glester estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KAREN SUE GLESTER, Deceased; No. 2022PR629

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of KAREN SUE GLESTER, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on October 27, 2022, to Michael Joseph Glester, whose address is 89 Lawndale Court, Frankfort, Illinois 60423; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 3, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalsaid.org.

MICHAEL JOSEPH GLESTER
Independent Administrator of the Estate of KAREN SUE GLESTER, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 2022.

Attorney Meents files Hert estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DIANE FAY HERT, Deceased; No. 2022PR639

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DIANE FAY HERT, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on October 28, 2022, to Kim Schuh, whose address is 235 E. North Street, Coal City, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Meents Law P.C. 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 3, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalsaid.org.

KIM SCHUH
Independent Executor of the Estate of DIANE FAY HERT, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
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Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 2022.

Attorney Meents files Burbidge estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. BURBIDGE, SR., Deceased; No. 2022PR648

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JOHN A. BURBIDGE, SR., Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on October 27, 2022, to Kristen M. Cappello, whose address is 1448 Arrow Wood Lane, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515; whose attorney is Meents Law P.C. 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 3, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalsaid.org.

KRISTEN M. CAPPELLO
Independent Executor of the Estate of JOHN A. BURBIDGE, SR., Deceased
Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
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Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 2022.

Attorney Meents files Davis estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY JEAN DAVIS, Deceased; No. 2022PR660

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Betty Jean Davis, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on October 27, 2022, to Marlyn McWhorter, whose address is 748 Armstrong Street, Morris, Illinois 60450; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 3, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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Marlyn McWhorter
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Betty Jean Davis, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
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Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 2022.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

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

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

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

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Will hurt business

WILMINGTON—I see Illinois has dropped again in the latest business-friendly climate rankings because of the Amendment 1 "Workers Rights" on the Nov. 8 ballot. Illinois faces the worst unemployment rate in the country, its 4.5% unemployment rate is a full percentage point higher than the national average of 3.5%. With rampant inflation and the nation's highest unemployment rate, Illinoisans are among the most vulnerable should a recession occur. To make matters worse, the state's unfriendly tax environment will continue to hamstring the economy as it tries to recover. Amendment 1 would worsen Illinois' business climate by keeping commercial property taxes on the rise, something business owners and workers can't afford. Vote no to show these clowns in Springfield to get their priorities right. Instead of buttering up to the state workers union with a permanent benefit change that can never be undone, why aren't they focusing on lower property taxes and do more to fight rampant crime.

Targeting seniors

DIAMOND—If Biden's massive inflation mess wasn't bad enough, he and his radical allies in Congress are targeting senior citizens. If you worked hard, paid taxes and saved money to enjoy retirement and leave some to your loved ones you are being targeted for massive tax increases. Biden gives his wasteful spending bills nice sounding names but it's all a lie. The Corona Virus Relief Bills had almost nothing to do with relieving Covid. They sent billions to prisoners, even the 163,000 on death row and the infrastructure bill had nothing to do with roads and bridges. A few things in Biden's infrastructure bill were a commission to promote women in the trucking industry and the climate change army called the civilian corp that will cost \$132 billion. These things have nothing to do with infrastructure because their agenda has nothing to do with roads and bridges. They don't care that your taxes will skyrocket and inflation will crush your retirement and savings. They don't care if you will struggle to make ends meet. They don't care if they take the money you saved to leave to your children and grandchildren. They only care about pushing your radical political agenda and they will do anything to achieve it. We must stop them from tripling the number of people forced to pay the death tax, the destroying retirement dreams and creating a double death tax. Valid elections with integrity are the only way to stop the socialist agenda. Listen seniors, you are old enough to know better. Vote to show it. Sharon

Expose the scoundrels

BRAIDWOOD—These days we have smart phone technology we can't live without and yet right-wingers are dragging us back into the Stone Age for the purpose of destroying our election process. MAGAs, and Trump himself, have railed against computer voting machines but it's merely their twisted strategy to claim fraud no matter what the outcome of our free and fair elections. It took 5 months for the Cyber Ninjas to recount the vote by hand in Arizona after the 2020 election and they arrived at the same result as the voting machines. Furthermore, experts say that counting by hand is more prone to fraud than using machines. The bottom line is that the MAGA crowd is berating our nation's exemplary record on the election process and must be exposed for the scoundrels they are.

Wealth privilege

WILMINGTON—A caller recently complained that J.B. Pritzker was a beneficiary of white privilege and then dismissing the concept at the end of their Sound-off. Admitting white privilege is real doesn't mean you are racist. But the caller confuses white privilege with wealth privilege. Private schools and summers in Europe weren't because he was white. It was because his family was wealthy. I read that while growing up J.B.'s mother took him around the city to various events and parades so he would be aware of other races and cultures or what some call woke. In the South young men were taught that the worst white man was still better than the best black man. Even white supremacy is based on white privilege. Maybe these examples will clear it up. White people owning black people is white privilege. Separate but equal is white privilege but this next example should put things in black and white. Had Emmett Till been white he'd be 82 years old and alive today barring any health problems.

Vote for Jessica Colon-Sayre for Will County Judge

It's not very often that I write articles for our newspaper but I feel this issue is very near and dear to my heart. In my former position as your Will County Board Member, I ran as a Republican. I am endorsing and asking you to consider voting for my friend Jessica Colon-Sayre as our next Will County Circuit Judge.

I was fortunate enough to practice law with Jessica when she was a prosecutor for the Will County State's Attorney office fighting for our families and victims of crimes. I looked up to Jessica as a fellow attorney, colleague and mentor because she has the same conservative family values as our family.

I'm honored to say that Jessica married my husband John and I four years ago! Jessica, her husband Todd, and their children Dylan and Elsa are dear friends of ours and love our children as their own.

Jessica is the ONLY RECOMMENDED candidate by our peers and I would kindly ask you to vote for Jessica Colon-Sayre on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. Please reach out if you would like to help keep our communities safe! mailto:raganpattison@gmail.com 815.546.6642

Submitted and paid for by Ragan Freitag Pattison

Convicted in Michigan

WILMINGTON—Remember the Boogaloo Boys? How about the Wolverine Watchmen? These are names for the group of armed militiamen who shut down the Michigan Capitol in April, 2020 with long guns and later plotted the kidnapping and assassination of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Last week three members of this motley crew were convicted and their sentencing will be later determined. So when Trump and his Republicans blaviate about crime, we can tell them progress has been made by throwing right-wing assassin wannabes into the slammer. And it's further evidence that the statistics are correct in showing that Republican states have the worst per capita rate on crime.

Of national security

COAL CITY—Our president has been selling our oil reserves to China while his son has been involved in trying to sell our natural gas to China. And now someone should explain how this is not treason against Americans when our prices are sky rocketing because of the canceling of the fossil fuel drilling by our president. The rest of the Democrats in Washington, D.C. have stated they cannot investigate because a matter of national security. The sellout of U.S.A. by our leaders in Washington, D.C. is a matter of national security. Since the Democrats are forcing the American citizens into poverty with all the open borders and rising prices while our tax money goes to everyone but the American citizens. The politicians line their bank account while they destroy the lives of the people that pay their salaries. They're suppose to be working for us, not the foreign countries.

Some act, others whine

As election day approaches it is very clear that one of our major political parties works for our betterment while the other party whines about everything. The party that works has lowered the unemployment rate from 6.4% to 3.5% since Biden took office. That party passed the infrastructure act which will provide good jobs at union wages and much needed transportation improvements. That party also returned tax payer money to local governments. Grundy County got nearly \$10 million not counting what the villages received. Not one member of the whiner party in congress voted for it. The party that works for the people has straightened out the state's finances after four years of the disaster Rauner administration. Not one member of the whiner party voted to cap the cost of prescription drugs and the price of insulin. The whiners only accept the world of people when they win an election. The chief whiner still can't accept the fact that more than 81 million people voted against four more years of his lies, incompetence, corruption and stupidity. They whine that he got caught red handed with stolen government documents that were found in his castle in Florida. They whine about the border but I remember someone telling us that Mexico was paying for a wall that would solve the problem. They whine about kids wearing masks in school and seem to think they are smarter than the medical professionals. They whine that some people care about the environment and are concerned about the obvious effects of climate change. When the whiners can't defend their unqualified candidates they always attack their favorite target Mr. Madigan to try to distract the voters. So when you vote remember which party works for the people and which party never offers any solutions but whines about everything.

Hidden tax increase

CUSTER PARK—You don't have to be a Democrat or Republican to understand tax increase. That's what this Amendment 1 - Worker's Rights Act is, another tax increase that will only benefit state workers. The ballot should include how much more it will cost each property owner in Illinois. Of course, they left that off. Voters can't afford another bleeding, we're already tapped out. Vote no for Amendment 1 because it can't be undone.

Flippant and ignorant

WILMINGTON—OK, it isn't true. This is in response to the caller from Coal City asking about schools putting litter boxes in classrooms for quote "these idiot kids that identify as cats." The only idiot here is the caller ranting about an unsubstantiated rumor put out by the right wing media to instill fear in the crack pot morons. The truth is sadder and darker than the right want you to know. Yes there are buckets of kitty litter being put in class rooms to be used as toilets when there is an active shooter lockdown. So rather than doing anything about guns they prefer to let children use "a litter box." Shame on the caller on being so flippant and ignorant.

You've been warned

BRAIDWOOD—Are you financially able to give up your Social Security and Medicare benefits? Would you be willing to give up these benefits which you paid for throughout your working years? If you answered 'no', you need to be aware of what's at stake this election. On the ballot we are voting to send a Senator and a Representative to Washington who will decide for us whether Social Security and Medicare will continue. Various Republicans have publicly declared that Social Security and Medicare should be reviewed and possibly cut every 5 years and some say every year. This is no surprise because Republicans have threatened Social Security and Medicare since they were established and it's the reason Republicans have the reputation of protecting the rich and

MAGIC 8 BALL



neglecting the rest of us. You've been warned.

Price gouging

BRAIDWOOD—As the American people struggle with higher prices, we ask for explanations and solutions. Considering that corporate profits are at their highest rate since 1950, the explanation in its simplest term is 'price gouging'. The Covid pandemic created harsh and unique economic conditions and the path to recovery resulted in 54% fatter corporate profit margins when 11% should be the norm. So what is the answer? One possibility is a windfall tax on major corporate offenders such as big oil and big pharma. But would Republicans agree to higher corporate taxes? Almost definitely not. Instead, Republicans are mumbling about reducing Social Security and Medicare if they regain power. As usual when complaints are made against high prices, Republicans take the side of the fat cats. R. K.

Restricting women

WILMINGTON—I wish people would stop using the phrase, restrictions on abortion and call it what it really is. Restrictions on women. Penny Lane

Gutting Medicare, SS

RITCHIE—As the New Hampshire debate drew sparks, we heard what was in store for Americans in the future from Republicans like Don Bolduc who is challenging Democrat Maggie Hassan. Like many Republicans, Bolduc hopes to gut Medicare and end Social Security. And his reason? Bolduc complains that "It's been there since 1935. It's time for a change." It sounds like he's trading his old car in for a newer model rather than protect middle aged Americans during their retirement. Furthermore, he proved to be the biggest waffle in the pancake world when he declared that the election process was rigged until, and only until, he beat his primary opponent. Bolduc is not to be trusted. And especially when he wants to pull the rug out from under the feet of seniors.

Rich and the poor

BRAIDWOOD—The question is, why would voters trust the Republican Party on the economy? Former President Clinton converted the largest budget deficit in American history to the largest budget surplus and paid off the largest amount of national debt of any president. Although people still mention the sorry state of the economy after President Carter, the Great Recession of President Bush II was far worse which President Obama was forced to deal with. President Trump had no major mishaps other than his bad trade policy which cost taxpayers tens of billions in supplements to farmers and an episode of negative GDP. While battling worldwide inflation, President Biden's economy has had stunning progress with job growth, rising personal income and growth in GDP. But which party makes the rich get richer and the poor get poorer?

Big brother EVs

SHADOW LAKES—If our roads are built and repaired on fuel tax money then how is this going to work with all electric vehicles? Pay to charge? Or will the government monitor your usage? Eddie

If he runs

If Trump were to run for President in 2024 and lose the GOP nomination, would he be screaming voter fraud against the Republicans? I thought only the Democrats cheated.

Boys were tougher

COAL CITY—How about those college football games and their wimpy new rule about putting the ball up to the 25 yard line. Yeah sure, that's a fine thing, if the ball goes past the goal line. Even though that started out at the 20 yard line years ago when boys were tougher coming out of high school. But come on, five more yards. What the heck, why not just throw. College football is supposed to toughen up the players. This 25 yard line thing is unbelievable. What a bunch of weaklings, so to speak.

A good decision

HARPER WOODS—I don't want to say it but to be honest I must. I now think Justin Verlander deciding to leave Detroit to play baseball for Houston was for him the best decision. With Detroit he would have been wallowing in mediocrity, with Houston he has pitched another no hitter and played in three World Series.

Cutting our benefits

WILMINGTON—Election Day is in a week. It must be nice to have so much money as Republican politicians that they don't need Social Security and Medicare to survive. And the fools who vote for these clowns must be rich, too. Otherwise, why would you vote for someone who has promised to cut the benefits you have spent a lifetime earning?

Do what's right

Let us never grow weary in doing what is right. Sometimes the moral obligation to vote is stronger than at other times. This is especially true when pro-life people can elect, in a close race, someone who will protect the unborn, and remove from office someone who won't. Among candidates who have a strong enough base to win, we have a moral obligation to vote in such a way that will do the most to advance the culture of life.

Problematic decisions

WILMINGTON—Several Trump haters on the Sound-off page rely on name calling instead of discussing policies. It is hard to imagine how any of the current D.C. policies of high inflation with gas and food prices, open borders, out of control spending of taxpayer dollars and more problematic decisions can be accepted by anyone. Of course, the current administration tries to place blame for these failings onto others. So sad for American citizens.

At a crossroad

DIAMOND—This is our last chance to save America from pure Socialism. Every Democrat Senator and House member in DC voted for the outline of Bernie Sanders \$3.8 trillion big government socialist bill. There are no moderates left in the Democrat party. JFK could not recognize his party today. Our border is nonexistent. Well over two million illegals have crossed our southern border. We are no longer energy independent. We are now dependent on dangerous middle eastern oil and gas prices are staggering. Our brave police officers are defunded, demonized and put out to pasture. Trespassing into our homes is no longer a felony, but a non arrestable misdemeanor. Offenders are handed a paper comparable to a parking ticket. When a felony like rape or murder is committed the offender will be freed without cash bail. Crime waves are spreading like wildfire across our nation. No one is safe. Inflation has broken the dam. People are actually paid to stay home from work. Our job creators are being crushed. Big government socialism is supported by only one out of six Americans. Our socialist government will never surrender the power they have now without a brutal no holds barred political fight. The five of us who still believe in freedom must stand firm and be counted. The very survival of our republic is literally hanging in the balance. Sharon

Few accomplishments

WILMINGTON—I have a request for the Trumpies out there. Could you call in and tell us, other than the tax cuts for the rich and corporations, what are Trump's top three accomplishments? And remember campaign promises made other than the wall that the Mexicans would pay for which didn't happen.

Corporate greed

WILMINGTON—Instead of President Biden, why don't people blame inflation and high prices on the failures of free market capitalism and the greed of the corporate pigs.

Help our grandchildren

MORRIS—In our mail, recently, a senior citizen organization in Washington DC was requesting input and of course monies on their desire for sponsoring requests of Congress for another free \$1,400 government relief check for all senior citizens due to President Biden's high inflation costs. As a nation we're \$31 trillion in debt and pay enormous yearly interest payments to China and Japan. God help everyone's grandchildren if you have any. Debt will be theirs and worse. It's hard to comprehend the lack of caring for the young. Get a dog.

How sad

One-third of eligible voters do not vote. How sad is that. Yet they would be the same ones with strong political views on one party or the other or the entire political system. Millions worldwide do not have the privilege to vote only if you vote.

Corrupt Illinois

Illinois remains a state whose financial picture falls in the "worst" category. A report published by Colossicus Content and based on research by Chicago based Truth-in-Accounting Illinois ranks number three on the list of "worst 10 States Finances in USA. Illinois financial disaster has been built over years and years and continues. Illinois negative financial standing stems from diverting monies to its public pensions into other programs. The report estimates the state's overall debt \$236 billion representing \$57,000 per individual taxpayer. Hard times are coming in the form of tax increases, spending cuts, etc. Most people don't pay attention about long term financial problems for Illinois. That's why politicians continue to go down the wrong road financially. The day will come when finances must be dealt with in corrupt Illinois.

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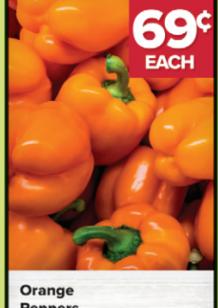
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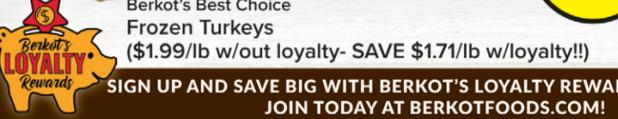
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Custer Park to host holiday tree lighting

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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A drink for a queen with a little Gin

One of the most notable events of 2022 was the passing of Queen Elizabeth II September 8 at 96 years of age, following a 70-year reign.



Dignitaries from across the Commonwealth attended her funeral services, while millions around the world that were unable to attend streamed the service. This week we will toast Her Majesty with her favorite cocktail, Dubonnet and Gin.

First, for the history buffs, a few fun facts and highlights of the Queen's 70-year reign: She was the longest reigning monarch in Britain's history.

As Princess Elizabeth, she volunteered as a truck driver during World War 2. Her reign was so long that four out of five UK residents were not alive when she ascended the throne.

Queen Elizabeth II was served by 15 different Prime Ministers, none more unforgettable than Sir Winston Churchill. She was the only person in the UK allowed to drive without a license.

The Queen had two birthdays: her actual birthday on April 21, and her official birthday held on a Saturday in June.

Upon her death, her eldest son and heir King Charles III immediately became king. His wife, Camilla, is now Queen Consort Camilla.

Prince William is next in the line of succession, followed by Prince George, followed by Princess Charlotte.

Moving on to the Queen's favorite

cocktail. Sir Winston Churchill was known to knock back the driest of Martinis, but I never figured the Queen to be the Martini type. When I read that her favorite cocktail was a Dubonnet in Gin, I had two questions: What is Dubonnet? What brand and type of gin?

We'll start with the gin. If you had more money and fame than nearly anyone on the planet, what brand of gin would you drink?

For the Queen's regular Dubonnet and Gin, the call was for Gordon's Gin. That's right, Gordon's. It's available in a plastic bottle, and it's a brand that nearly everyone can afford.

Gordon's is a staple of modern-day UK mixology, just as it has been since its introduction in 1769. The flavor profile could be described as "classic" as it possesses the right amounts of the essential gin botanicals juniper and coriander, along with a hint of citrus via lemon zest.

Don't let the price point fool you. If it's good enough for the Queen, it's good enough for me.

Seriously though, the Queen thought so highly of Gordon's that the brand was awarded a Royal Warrant in recognition of a brand that supplies goods to senior royals.

We have our gin, now on the Dubonnet. I had to look up this one as I have never had a need for Dubonnet in my home bar.

Dubonnet is a fortified wine, similar to vermouth, but with added herbs and spices. Outside of its use in cocktails Dubonnet is commonly served as an aperitif.

French distiller Pernod Ricard's Dubonnet is among the most recent companies to receive the aforementioned Royal Warrant.

Pernod Ricard's Dubonnet is available in the US, and is priced between \$15-\$20 for a 750ml bottle depending on state and local taxes.

Despite the mixture of gin and fortified wine, the Dubonnet is not an overly "strong" drink. The 2:1 ratio of Dubonnet to gin certainly calms any unpleasant qualities of an unaged 80-proof spirit.

Often times the drink was enjoyed during afternoon social events, and before meals as an aperitif. If you are a fan of French wine or vermouth, you should give this one a try.

The Queen's Dubonnet and Gin is built and served in a small wine glass, or chalice.

Combine in glass:
1 oz. Gordon's London Dry Gin
2 oz. Dubonnet
Half lemon wheel
Ice Cubes



A final note on preparation, from the final authority on the matter. Robert Large is Yeoman of the Cellars at Buckingham Palace, one of his responsibilities is procuring wine and spirits for royal meals and entertaining.

Per Mr. Large's instructions, the Queen's Dubonnet and Gin is prepared by pouring one part gin and two parts Dubonnet into a small wine glass. Add the half lemon wheel to the mixture, then top with two perfectly proportionate ice cubes, sinking the lemon into the cocktail.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Comet theatre kids craft show this weekend

The Reed-Custer Theatre Department will host a craft show this weekend, a fundraiser to support the theatre department and its programs.

Unique crafts, live performances and raffles are just a few of the highlights of the Saturday, Nov. 5 event that will take place in the Reed-Custer

Fieldhouse from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The craft show will serve as a great opportunity to get a headstart on holiday shopping and decorating, and a chance to see some great entertainment and even visit with Santa Claus.

Reed-Custer High School's

honors jazz combo is set to perform at 9 a.m., followed by the Madrigal singers at 10 a.m. and at 11 a.m. theatre students will perform songs from their upcoming spring 2023 production of "Into the Woods." The On Broadway Dancers will make an appearance at 11:30 a.m. and Santa is set to fly in

from the North Pole at noon.

Admission to the craft show is free, and the community is encourage to come out to the fieldhouse to shop the various vendors that will set up shop for the day. Those attending should enter through Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 S. Comet Dr., Braidwood.

Register for Sensory Sunday visit

A Sensory Sunday is planned at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon on Sunday, Nov. 6 from 11 a.m.-noon.

This independent program is for guests with sensory-processing needs, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and those who would benefit from a small-group experience. The center will be

open only to registered participants.

Buddy bags with sensory gadgets and a limited supply of noise-canceling headphones will be available for visitor use. Seven handheld audio units providing a narrative of the All-Persons Trail will be available for checkout for guests with visual impairments. Free, all ages. Register by Nov. 5.

Library offering trip to see the Nutcracker at the Rialto

The Wilmington Public Library District would like you

to join them on a bus trip to the Rialto Square Theatre for a performance of the beloved Nutcracker on Sunday, Nov. 27. The bus will be leaving promptly at 12:45 p.m.

There are limited tickets available, so register early. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, which includes transportation to and from the theatre.

The regular price for tickets is double what we are charging, so this is a great opportunity. Payment is due at the time of registration, and the deadline for registration is Nov. 8th. Call the library at 815-476-2834 with any questions you have.

Chamber needing Christmas elves

Elves and sponsors are needed to participate in the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and Industry Christmas Elf contest.

The contest benefits the Christian Help Association (CHA), which uses the proceeds to provide a holiday meal for the community's less fortunate families and presents for their children. The CHA will be helping approximately 300 local families this year.

Children age 5 and under, who are Wilmington residents, are eligible to be elves. They will be photographed in their holiday finery, and their pictures will

be attached to donation boxes.

The boxes are placed in sponsoring businesses and shoppers are asked to donate their change, or as much as they can spare. The three elves who receive the most donations will receive a Chamber of Commerce gift certificate.

Elf photos will be taken on Wednesday, Nov. 2. After school and evening appointments will be available.

To participate either as an elf or a sponsoring business, contact Cyndi Ragain, program organizer, right away at 815-474-7521.

ISU announces local grant winner

The Office of Student Research at Illinois State University is recognizing a Wilmington resident as a winner of the 2022-2023 Firebird and Birdfeeder grants.

Kassidy Hansen of Wilmington, is being awarded for "Phonological Awareness in Action: A Case Study" under the guidance of faculty mentor Dr. Ciera Lorio.

Hansen studies communication sciences and disorders in the School of

Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The FIREbird grants, which stand for Fund for Independent Research Experience, allows undergraduate students to work with a faculty mentor on a research project.

Summer funds (up to \$3,000) and academic year funds (up to \$1,500) may be used for student hourly wages, research incentives, supplies, or travel.

St. Rose Council of Catholic Women to hold meeting

The St. Rose Council of Catholic Women will meet on Monday, Nov. 7, in the Parish Center meeting room at 6 p.m.

The primary items on their agenda include their Christmas Party and firming up committee duties and assignments for "Sitting Pretty", our February ladies

beauty and social event.

Hostesses for this meeting are Mary Barnes and Kristi Seitz.

Delivery of the Boxes of Joy to the central delivery location is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 10. All boxes must be at the church before then.

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.

"Hallelujah" dinners return to CCUMC

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArldle Road in Coal City, is bringing back their Hallelujah" Soup Suppers on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving delicious homemade chicken noodle & vegetable beef soups. Each meal includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert.

Carry-outs are available. The cost is \$12 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 - 12; and children age 2 & under eat free. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

You don't have to be a member to enjoy the Coal City United Methodist Church's Soup Suppers.

Low water levels, barge limits impact grain shipments

BY TIMOTHY EGGERT
FARMWEEK

Illinois farmers typically hope for timely rains before harvest, when crops need the precipitation to build out high yields.

But in the latest chapter of a season that's been far from normal, the call for rain is now aimed at growing the Lower Mississippi River south of St. Louis, where water levels have become low enough to disrupt the movement of grain-hauling barges.

A crucial link in the Corn Belt supply chain, barges are being loaded lighter to avoid groundings. And shipping companies, in response to a narrower river channel, are limiting the number of barges that can be towed together.

Those changes, combined with an increasing demand for vessels as harvest ramps up, means it will continue to take longer and cost more to move less grain down the river to export terminals, according to Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition.

"The fact remains that the efficiency of this inland waterway is clearly going down and that's going to have an impact," Steenhoek said. "The lower water levels will put more upward pressure on barge freight rates."

USDA in its Sept. 29 Grain Transportation Report said as much, reporting that year-to-date downbound grain volumes on the river are 10% lower than last year, while barge freight rates are up 58% from a year ago to a record-high \$49.88 per ton.

"The tight barge supply is problematic for grain shippers heading into harvest," the report said. "Unless barge supply improves, the increased demand for barges from grain shippers during harvest will likely put even more upward pressure on barge rates."

Dry conditions alter water routes

Despite some late-summer, extreme weather events, most regions of Illinois and the states that fall within the Mississippi River and Ohio River valleys have endured abnormally dry conditions throughout the year.

According to the Sept. 27 U.S. Drought Monitor, the central part of the state is abnormally dry while a half-dozen counties in the southern region are experiencing moderate drought.

Chris Smith, director of operations for Corn Belt Ports, said the low-water situation is nearly exclusive to river routes south of Lock and Dam 26, where the Mississippi River free flows.

"The Upper Mississippi



A PAIR OF moored barges float where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers converge near Cairo. Water levels on both inland waterways have fallen enough to expose riverbed and disrupt the movement of grain-carrying vessels.

Photo by Alexis Burnett

River and the Illinois Waterway is in good shape," Smith said. "We are being informed that the 9-foot channel will remain open for the foreseeable future even with the low flows."

However, in Cairo, where the Mississippi and Ohio rivers converge, water levels were hovering about one foot above the Ohio River's official low stage of 9.4 feet. They were forecast to keep falling below that level as above-average temperatures and little-to-no rainfall patterns continue through the month.

National Weather Service data further showed multiple points along the Mississippi River south of Cairo were at or below their low water threshold.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District in a statement released Sept. 30 said it has been monitoring the levels and will deploy dredges to deepen portions of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

"We are currently at -0.7 feet on the St. Louis gauge and are preparing the channel for -7.0 feet, although as we experienced in 2012 the fate and transport of sediment gets dicey when below -5.0," said Joan Stemler, chief of water control operations. "The Missouri River cutoff, which usually impacts us in late November or early December is the next point we are watching."

What limited shipping means for agriculture

In the meantime, barge companies have both reduced how many bushels they load onto a single barge and the

number of barges they string together to move downstream.

A typical barge can be loaded with about 50,000 bushels of soybeans, but operators are cutting that total by 5,000 to 6,700 bushels per barge to avoid grounding, Steenhoek said.

And barge tows, usually arranged at 30 to 40 barges, are now down to a 25 barge-maximum to account for the narrower river channel, he added.

"It's like attaching a garden hose to a fire hydrant," Steenhoek said of trying to use fewer barges to meet demand that will certainly grow as harvest continues.

That dynamic will likely translate to weaker basis levels for newly harvested crops, as the levels historically parallel barge rates, according to Scott Irwin, Laurence J. Norton chair of agricultural marketing at the University of Illinois.

"And a wide basis is a signal to store more (grain)," Irwin told FarmWeek. "The market is saying, 'We literally can't take it right now so please store more.'"

While storing recently harvested grain rather than selling it could be "a reasonable thing to do," Irwin also said "there's no guarantee that it's going to rain more and that you'll get the river back up to more normal levels."

A spokeswoman for Cargill, which operates multiple grain terminals along the Mississippi River, declined to comment on whether the company will alter its prices in response to the shipping rate increases.

"We are working closely

with the industry, associations and government agencies to minimize the impacts and keep grain moving safely across the heartland to the river and export terminals," Cargill spokeswoman Bridget Christenson said in a statement to FarmWeek.

On top of getting paid less for their crops, farmers could also see additional costs associated with moving upstream inputs like fertilizer.

Joseph Tearney, barge and rail manager for GROWMARK, said although low water levels have caused delays moving dry fertilizer northbound, farmers shouldn't expect any issues this fall with fertilizer supply.

Tearney added that GROWMARK's fertilizer barge rates won't be impacted because the company has secured yearly contracts with its barge lines. However at least one barge line GROWMARK contracts with said it would temporarily pause its operations below Baton Rouge, Louisiana, because of the low water levels.

Spot barge rates, too, are increasing due to the heightened demand to use fertilizer barges as grain-hauling barges.

And until a significant enough rain recharges the river, farmers should expect those rates to keep rising, Steenhoek said.

"Part of the reason the Illinois corn and soybean crop is so successful is that access to the inland waterway system," Steenhoek said. "Unfortunately, when that system is not operating full throttle, the consequences can be felt by many Illinois soy and corn farmers."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

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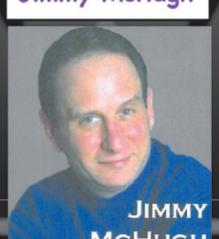
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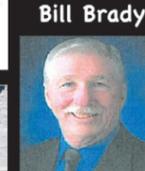




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Area gas prices rise but still below state average

While average gasoline prices in Illinois dropped 9.8 cents per gallon in the last week, local area stations are charging more at the pump than they did the week before.

Despite local increases, local gas prices are below the statewide average of \$4.10/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

The lowest price in the state on Sunday was \$3.53/g while the highest was \$5.87/g, a difference of \$2.34/g.

Locally, Wilmington stations were charging \$3.84/g to \$3.99/g Monday morning while Braidwood stations were averaging \$3.98/g. Coal City stations were priced at \$4.08/g while Morris stations were asking for \$4.13/g.

"For the third consecutive week, we've seen the national average price of gasoline decline, and while it's good news for most regions with a continued drop in prices, the Northeast is bucking the trend and seeing a noticeable jump due to tight supply," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Prices in Illinois are 3.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 61.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.39 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.28 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 4.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.72/g.

"The national average is closing in on the previous low from September, which was

interrupted when refinery issues caused prices to skyrocket in the West and Great Lakes.

"With those issues addressed, the West has seen prices plummet, including a nearly 90 cent per gallon decline in California in less than a month. Compare that to the Northeast, where prices have jumped some 10-25

cents per gallon, demonstrating there's much regionally to current gasoline price trends.

Add in diesel prices that remain high amidst extremely tight supply, and there's definitely some challenges that lie ahead."

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OBITUARIES

Gary W. Brieser

WILMINGTON—Gary Wayne Brieser, 87, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 at his home with his wife and son by his side.

Gary Brieser, a builder of not only bridges, foundations and buildings, but also a builder of relationships was born March 28, 1935 in Mineral, IL. He was a son to Marion Nathan Brieser and Elinor Hughes Drummond, and a step-son to Gerald Drummond and Ruby Brieser. Gary grew up in Alsey, IL with his mother and step-father. In the late 40's he moved to Wilmington where his step-father worked for the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant and Wilmington Paper Mill, and his mother was a short order cook. Gary attended Wilmington High School, graduating with the class of 1953, and later attended Joliet Junior College where he took drafting classes.

As a young boy Gary worked at John Dvorik Restaurant and gas station on old 66, which later became a welding shop owned by Ed Czys. After school he would set pins at the bowling alley while also working for Web Lewis at his gas station. It was in the early 50's that Gary started his career and was also a junkman. He began working for Bill Davy doing construction and after college was a draftsman at the Joliet Arsenal. For a short period of time Gary sold life insurance, but he always said his education was by doing things. On Sept. 11, 1955 Gary married Barbara Ann Southall in the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, and together they cherished 67 years.

Gary worked for Uglad Construction in Joliet while going to college, and after leaving became General Superintendent for Simpson Construction. Gary later became partners with Don Lockwood and Bernard Benson in Island Construction and went on to become a partner in company doing fine grading with lasers called Laser Methods with Harold Evans in Texas. He eventually partnered with George Bexson and Gene Wren who owned Westside Rental in Joliet.

In 1978, Gary went into business with his son, Steve and created Brieser Construction Co. Together they focused on doing civil industrial construction and maintenance in the heavy industrial markets of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and Western Indiana; specifically in maintenance, new construction projects and pipeline support. Eventually Gary and his son bought 170 acres of property and started construction on a marina along the DesPlaines River called Breezy Harbor. Gary spent a big share of his time after retiring in early 2000 developing the property into a subdivision, Quarry PUD.

Gary was an avid boater and he and his wife spent a lot of time traveling on their boats. They went from his home on the DesPlaines River all the way to Florida and then back up the East Coast through New York Harbor, the Trent Severn Waterway, and Canada. They then traveled through the Great Lakes ending back at their home on the river. Many weekends were spent on the Kankakee River where they both loved all boating activities including water skiing.

When Steve was growing up, he and Gary spent many weekends riding dirt bikes and hill climbing in the area. One of Gary's many other activities was owning and working on his antique vintage vehicles with Rich Saunderson.



collection included a Ford Model A Cabriolet, 1934 Ford Cabriolet, 1940 Ford Coupe, 1952 Ford, 1980 Shay reproduction roadster and a 1948 International M tractor which was owned by his father. He also built a 1932 Model A Street Rod for his wife.

Gary had a 1958 Hendrickson that he refurbished with the help of John Hedrick and Bull Head Motors, and he partially restored a 1945 Ford Grain truck. He loved getting together with the Model A club members and going on many tours with his old cars. In 2002 Gary's 1930 Model A appeared in the movie Road to Perdition featuring Tom Hanks.

Gary was a member of Will & Grundy Co. Contractors Association, where he served as Vice Chairman from 1986 to 1987, and Chairman from 1988 until 1989. In addition, he served on the Government Relations Committee with Will County's Building Department and Stormwater Management Committee, as well as was the Chairman of the Association's Labor Negotiations, and honored as Member of the Year in 2001. Gary was also actively involved with the Wilmington Jaycee, Wilmington Lions Club, Joliet Antique Auto Club and Marc Model A Club. He was instrumental in the founding of the Three Rivers Construction Alliance, acting as the Management Co-Chair starting in 1998. Gary also served on the Three Rivers Safety School Board from 1993 through 1998.

For many that knew Gary and his love for the community, they would hear him say: "If I had a million dollars, I would be right here today." He lived by the motto, "Give more than you get. Give the other guy what he wants. Leave things better than you find them."

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Ann Brieser, of Wilmington; one son, Steve Brieser, of Grand Haven, MI; granddaughter, Ryann (Mark) Cottonaro, of Redwood City, CA; two great-granddaughters, Elise and Lia Cottonaro; five siblings: Dianna Drummond Lindsey, of LaCrosse, WI; Janice Drummond (who he raised after their mother passed away), of LaCrosse, WI; Martha Brieser Robinson, of Temple Terrace, FL; Kathy Brieser Hessel, of Tampa, FL and Daniel (Betty) Brieser, of LeClaire, IA.; sisters-in-law: Margaret Van Dwyne, of Wilmington and Nancy (Greg) Leigh, of Avon, IL as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Elenor (Gerald) Drummond and Ruby (Marion) Brieser; one brother, William Drummond; one sister, Angie Drummond Dahl; five brothers-in-law: Vince Van Dwyne, Burnell Southall, Buck Lindsey, Warren Hessel and Bob Robinson and one sister-in-law, Bonnie Davis Southall.

Cremation rites have been accorded per Gary's wishes. The family will receive friends during a memorial bonfire at the Quarry Subdivision on October 22, 2023.

Preferred memorials in Gary's memory may be made as gifts to Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

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

Arrangements were made under the direction of Baskerville Funeral Home.

Cheryl L. Karr

WILMINGTON—Cheryl L. Karr, 75, of Wilmington, passed away on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022 at her residence with her husband by her side.

Born Jan. 10, 1947 in Joliet, she was a daughter to Michael A. and Beatrice Auten-Glenney. Cheryl was raised and educated in Wilmington. On Nov. 29, 1975 she married Gregory Karr in Wilmington, and together they cherished 46 years. Cheryl obtained her licensure in Cardiac Sonography and worked for Edward Hospital in Naperville for eight years and Silver Cross Hospital for 16 years. She was a member of the Area #1 Outdoor Club; American Society of Echo, and was a parishioner of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington. Cheryl enjoyed sewing and flowers, and was an avid art and music enthusiast.

Survivors include three children: Lisa Swaba, of Wisconsin; Michael Brown, of Detroit and Patrick Brown, of Bolingbrook; two grandchildren, Lucas and Andrew VanDuyne, of Chicago; three sisters-in-law: Trish Karr, of Springfield, MO; Paulette Gates, of Springfield, MO; Carol Distefano, of Symerton and brother-



in-law, Michael Distefano, of Mexico, MO; as well as special friends: Michael C. Terry, Sharon Mosier, April Crawford and Gath How.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Pamela Allen.

Cremation rites were accorded per Cheryl's wishes. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022 at Saint Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated, and graveside services followed in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials in Cheryl's memory may be made as gifts to the family for their distribution.

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

Cremation and memorial arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington.

Judith L. Farmer

MORRIS—Judith L. Farmer, 79, of Morris, formerly of Coal City, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022.

She was born on April 13, 1943 in Peoria, to Francis O. and Margaret E. (nee Murry) Scherer. Judith married Claude S. Farmer Jr. in 1967 in Champaign.

She is survived by her sisters, Ann Scherer Grassel, of Walnut Creek, CA; Theresa Scherer Martin and Christina Scherer (Brian) Jesiolowski, both of Ladd; her brother, Edward Scherer, of Black Canyon, AZ and her sister-in-law, Mary Farrell, of Coal City. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Claude S. Farmer Jr. in 2006; her son, Charles S. Farmer in 2002; her parents, Francis and Margaret Scherer and her brothers, Frank, William and Thomas Scherer.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private inurnment will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com.

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Edward Sistik Jr.

South Wilmington—Edward Frank Sistik Jr., 79, of South Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Aug. 2, 1943, he was the son of Edward William and Doris Elaine (nee Granger) Sistik Sr. Ed graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington High School with the class of 1961. He married Sharon Joyce Rossio on July 14, 1962 at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington. Ed began employment as an operator working for his father's construction company, Sistik's Excavating, until he started his own business in 1983, Sistik's Sales & Service which he proudly operated in South Wilmington. He was a member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church and Ducks Unlimited. He served on the board for the South Wilmington Fireman's Club and volunteered for the South Wilmington Volunteer Fire Department. Ed enjoyed duck hunting, bird watching (especially for Purple Martins), and spending time with his four-legged companion, Brandy.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Sharon Sistik, of South Wilmington; three children: Paula (Mark) Pourchot, of Gardner; Frank



(Patti) Sistik, of South Wilmington and David (Marsa) Sistik, of Braceville; seven grandchildren: Jedd (Miranda) Morris, Jillyan Morris, Emily (Jeff) Long, Amanda (Aaron) Smith, Zach Sistik, Mitch (Mallory) Sistik, and Delaney Sistik; 12 great-grandchildren: Cooper and Emmett Morris, Ryan Smith, Natalie Smith, Leah, Elizabeth, Daniel and Allison Smith, Landon and Sidney Long, Layla and Grady Sistik and special devoted niece, Mary Rossio.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Oct. 31, 2022 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington. Interment was in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to the South Wilmington Ambulance Service or Lightways Hospice would be appreciated.

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

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

Scott Robinson

PADUCAH, KY—Scott Allen Robinson, 58, of Paducah, KY, where he had been a resident for four years, passed away Oct. 25, 2022.

He was born April 4, 1964, the son of Elaine and James Robinson. He attended Reed-Custer High School where he played baseball and football. He was a laborer who loved to fish and camp at the Braidwood Recreation Club. He loved all his nieces and nephews, family and friends.

He is survived by his sisters, Vicki (Tony) Lavicka, Patricia (Tom) O'Donnell and Megan (Brad) Morgan; brother, Dwain (Shelli)



Robinson and many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his father, James Robinson and grandparents, Carl and Dee Robinson and James and Helen Perona and a brother, David Robinson, Uncles: Donald Perona, Paul Logsdon, Jerry Robinson and Marvin Tryner; Aunt, Ellen Logsdon and cousins, Danny Logsdon and Marvin Tryner Jr.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at 3 p.m. at Ignite Church on Frontage Road in Braidwood.

Linda Faletti

BRAIDWOOD—Linda Faletti (nee McCreery), 78, of Braidwood, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Oct. 31, 2022 at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox.

Born Nov. 10, 1943 in Joliet, she was the daughter of James and Martha (nee Poole) McCreery. She was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood. Linda retired from Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, following 46 years of employment. She started in nursing and while working, earned her master's degree in administration.

Linda loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed landscaping and tending to her flowers.

Surviving are her husband, Michael, who she married on Dec. 29, 1962 in Braidwood; two sons, Michael (Valerie) Faletti Jr. and Jay (Pat) Faletti, all of Braidwood; two daughters, Patty Jansen, of Wisconsin and Becky (Steve) Krabbe, of Plainfield; nine grandchildren: Lisha (Joe) Terrel, Nicole (Andrew) Cracraft, Kaitlin (Tyler) Byrd, Kristen (Kevin) Whitehead, Jordyn (Austin) Dieter, Charles (Randi) Faletti, Taylor (Madeline) Jansen, Haley Richey (fiancé Aaron



Shroba) and Tyler Richey (fiancé Jessica Kirkland); 12 great-grandchildren with triplets expected soon; two brothers, James (Sue) McCreery, of Braidwood and Charles (Kim) McCreery, of Wilmington; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins and special niece, Lori Martino.

Preceding her in death were her parents, two sisters, Martha Sue Gaston and Mary Ann Twait.

Visitation for Linda will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Thursday, Nov. 3, from 4-8 p.m. with funeral service at 8 p.m. Rev. Joshua Miller will officiate. Cremation rites will be accorded following services. Inurnment will be Friday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the donor's choice.

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

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

Chamber welcomes Wildcat Storage



THE WILMINGTON CHAMBER of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting and presented a First Dollar Award to Wildcat Storage at 131 N. School Street in Wilmington. Chamber Ambassador Stefany Gumm joined co-owners Eric Kempes (from left) Chris Alberico and Brent VanDuyne during a ribbon cutting on Friday. Wildcat Storage erected a new building with a total of 120 units, mostly 10x10 but some 10x20. For more visit wildcatst.com.

Senator Rezin seeks photos, stories from area veterans

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Sue Rezin is encouraging families of area veterans to submit a photo and story of their loved one who served in the military so they can be displayed in the rotunda of the Illinois Capitol from Nov. 10-28 in honor of Veterans Day.

"The 'Honoring All Who Served' Veterans Day Display is a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who served our country and all that it stands for," said Senator Rezin. "It's important to never forget the names, faces and stories of

these heroes who sacrificed so much to ensure that we are able to enjoy the freedoms that make our nation great."

Families are asked to submit a photo and written story (max: 250 words) along with the following information: name, military branch (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard, Navy) and conflict served (Afghanistan, Iraq, September 11, Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea, WWII, WWI, Peacetime, other). Military photos are preferred but not necessary.

If possible, please email submissions to veteransday@sgop.ilga.gov by Nov. 10 to be included in the Veterans Day Display at the Illinois State Capitol.

Submissions will be accepted through Nov. 28, and the display will be updated daily to include new entries. Submissions can also be mailed to Veterans Day Wall, 108 Statehouse, Springfield, IL 62706.

For questions, call (217) 782-0956.

MEMORIAL SERVICE and TRIBUTE

for ALICE F. FALETTI

Nov. 13, 2022 | 11:30 a.m.

Presbyterian Church - Braidwood, IL



Tarmans to celebrate 50th anniversary

Larry and Sue Tarman, of Goose Lake, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 17, 2022. They were married Nov. 17, 1972 at Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City. Larry and Sue have built a wonderful life together and have shared their love with their three children: Matthew, Aimee and Luke. They are also the proud grandparents of Tyler, Caleb, Aiden and Paiton.



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Tarman

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| Mon. 11-7 | Tues 9-7 | Wed-Fri 9-5 | Thur. 9-5 |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|

SATURDAYS 8-3

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(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

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Mt. Olivet Cemetery clean-up Nov. 6

Anyone wishing to keep cemetery decorations of any kind at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood must have them removed no later than Sunday, Nov. 6, or they will be disposed of by the caretaker, including shepherds hooks

Please note that statues of any kind are not permitted in any part of the cemetery and will be removed. Shepherds hooks may not be placed in the cemetery during winter months. Please do not put out any new decorations until the clean-up has been completed.

Slinky needs a home



MEET SLINKY, he is approximately 6-years-old and weighs only 16 pounds. He is a sweet boy who walks well on a leash and has done well with other dogs. Adoption fee includes neuter, rabies shot, distemper, microchip, heartworm test and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com.

No fake news here
Just good local journalism!



Front Row: Grace Smith, Dayna Vargocko, Samantha Olson.
Back Row: Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Sara Daniels and Kelly Olson

DR. GARRETT B. SMITH D.D.S.

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- Implant Restoration
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Illinois State Police air operations track suspects involved in shooting

Area residents looking west Thursday evening could see a pair of helicopters with bright spotlights traveling south to north.

Even though they were some 45 miles away, you could tell by the way they were hurrying some kind of chase was underway. Illinois State Police (ISP) said it was a shooting on northbound I-39 near Hope Township at milepost 40 in LaSalle County.

At approximately 8 p.m. on Thursday, State Police were provided with a general description of a vehicle possibly involved in an interstate shooting. ISP officers located the vehicle and began following it on I-39 near LaSalle at milepost 57. Around Mendota at milepost 75, a passenger in the vehicle fired multiple shots toward the ISP squad car, hitting the car. Fortunately, the ISP officer was not injured.

ISP continued to follow the vehicle further north, and after briefly losing sight of it, located it again on I-39 northbound near Monroe at milepost 112. ISP Air Operations had the vehicle in sight and ISP officers on the ground initiated a pursuit, which continued into Wisconsin. ISP provided information to the Clinton Police Department in Wisconsin, enabling them to deploy stop sticks. Ultimately, the vehicle ran out of gas and the

three suspects in the vehicle were taken into custody.

The suspects included 43-year-old Heather N. Hyatt of Sun Prairie, WI is charged with Manufacture/Delivery Fentanyl, Manufacture/Delivery Cocaine, Possession of Cocaine/Base, and Maintain Vehicle for Drug Trafficking;

Also 41-year-old Michael D. Winch of Brooklyn, WI who was charged with Probation Violation, Maintain Vehicle for Drug Trafficking, Possession with Intent to Deliver Cocaine, Possession with Intent to deliver Fentanyl, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Possession of THC.

A third suspect was Michael B. Goodman, 38, of Madison, WI, charged with Vehicle Operator Fleeing/Eluding an Officer, Reckless Driving, Failure to Stop at Stop Sign, Maintain Vehicle for Drug Trafficking, Manufacture/Delivery Fentanyl, and Manufacture/Deliver Cocaine. All three are being held in the Rock County Jail in Wisconsin awaiting a bond court hearing.

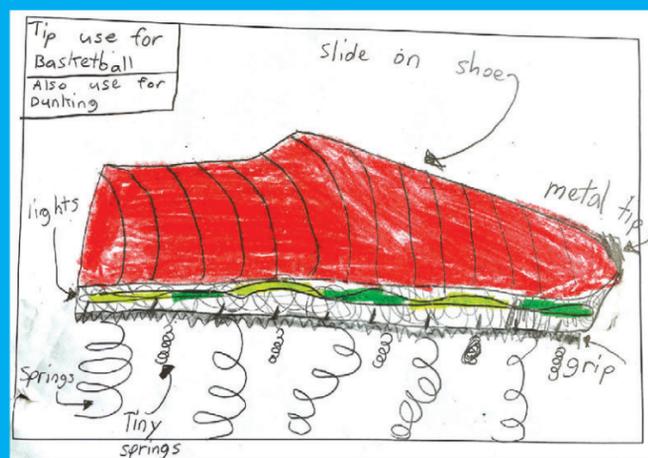
ISP officers and resources, such as Air Operations, deployed across the entire state allow ISP to respond quickly to interstate violence anywhere throughout Illinois.

Drawing by Tyler R.

Sponsored by Gymshoe Art

Goal: draw, color and create your own artwork to express encouragement, positive attitude, funny humor, or just feelings from past memories.

Email submissions or if you have questions contact: GymshoeArt@gmail.com



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11/5 - 12/17 Saturdays 10:15 - 10:45 am
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Beginner Tumbling
11/5 - 12/17 Saturdays 11:00 - 11:45 am
*No Class 11/26
\$55/session

Advanced Tumbling
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\$55/session

315 N. Water St.

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2017 Toyota Corolla LE, great condition, 41,685 miles. Newer tires. Toyota Platinum Transferable Warranty until 5/2023 with zero deductible. \$17,900. Braidwood. Call or text. 815-549-5076. cc44-45

2014 Ford Escape SE, 57,000 miles, all wheel drive, turbo. \$13,500. Wilmington. 815-274-1168. fr43-45

DUPLEX FOR RENT

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

GARAGE SALE

810 JoAnn Dr., Wilmington, Friday, November 4, 8am-3pm. Household items, baby items, Christmas items/decor, pictures, too much to list. ca44

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633. fr1fn

HELP WANTED

Window Repair Technician. We need One Person to fill one available position. This is a long-term career opportunity not just a temp job. We offer excellent starting pay commensurate to your skill set. However, we are willing to train the right person with the right attitude and mind-set. We are a Non-Smoking Company with zero tolerance for on premises smoking. There will be a drug test and a physical as well as a background check. You must have a clean driving record and a current valid driver's license. Duties include but are not limited to shop work such as cutting wood for window sashes, cutting roll formed aluminum, staining or painting window sashes. Also required will be field installations, deliveries, etc. Our shop is climate controlled and very clean; we like to keep it that way. There will be little to no supervision, we need someone who can manage their time efficiently and honestly. Experience with shop tools such as a tape measure, miter saws, table saws, drill press, planning machines is a plus but not required if you are teachable. We offer excellent health insurance, paid holidays, and paid vacation all through our parent company. Work hours are 7:30am to 3:30pm M-F with no weekends or holidays! Please fax resume and cover letter to 815-893-8001 or email to info@window-repairguy.com. cc44-52

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Wooden desk, oak finish, 68"x32"x19" with keyboard shelf, \$50. Can be seen at The Free Press, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington or call 815-476-7966. nc43-48

Craftsman 46" cut, 21 HP, lawn tractor. \$150. Call John at 815-458-6616. cr43-45

FIREWOOD, Cherry BBQ firewood \$159. Dry, seasoned, oak firewood \$139 plus delivery. Quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc37-48

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS M&T BANK Plaintiff, -v.- MICHAEL HUNSLEY et al Defendant 2022 FC 29 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 6, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on December 7, 2022, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 429 DAVID DR, BRACEVILLE, IL 60407 Property Index No. 09-26-251-016 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.csls-gal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-02947 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2022 FC 29 TJSC#: 42-2528 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 FC 29 I3206072 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., November 2, 9 & 16, 2022.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS THE MONEY SOURCE, INC.; Plaintiff, vs. MICHAEL T. ZOPP; CITY OF MORRIS, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION; STATE OF ILLINOIS; Defendants, 22 FC 21 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the office of Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 05-03-107-021. Commonly known as 502 East High Street, Morris, IL 60450. The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. File Number 22-003568 ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountryjudicialsales.com I3205360 Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 19, 26 and November 2, 2022.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff, -v.- ERIC D EVANS Defendant 21 CH 21 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 11, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on November 30, 2022, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1923 TALLER ROAD, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 02-31-478-034 The real estate is improved with a townhouse with a two car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 21-07875IL 722031 Attorney ARDC No. 61256 Case Number: 21 CH 21 TJSC#: 42-3301 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 21 CH 21 I3205367 Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 26, November 2, 9, 2022.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff, -v.- ERIC D EVANS Defendant 21 CH 21 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 11, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on November 30, 2022, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1923 TALLER ROAD, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 02-31-478-034 The real estate is improved with a townhouse with a two car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 21-07875IL 722031 Attorney ARDC No. 61256 Case Number: 21 CH 21 TJSC#: 42-3301 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 21 CH 21 I3205367 Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 26, November 2, 9, 2022.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff, -v.- ERIC D EVANS Defendant 21 CH 21 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 11, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on November 30, 2022, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1923 TALLER ROAD, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 02-31-478-034 The real estate is improved with a townhouse with a two car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago, IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 21-07875IL 722031 Attorney ARDC No. 61256 Case Number: 21 CH 21 TJSC#: 42-3301 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 21 CH 21 I3205367 Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 26, November 2, 9, 2022.

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 17315 WEST SPANGLER ROAD, Elwood, IL 60421 (Single Family). On the 17th day of November, 2022 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 3, by US Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Legal Title Trustee Plaintiff V. Kevin Carter Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 0230 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until 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: KELLEY KRONENBERG, P.A. 161 N. CLARK STREET STE 1600 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601 P: 3122168828 F: (312) 277-3236 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 26 and November 2, 9, 2022.

REAL ESTATE

suant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until 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: KELLEY KRONENBERG, P.A. 161 N. CLARK STREET STE 1600 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601 P: 3122168828 F: (312) 277-3236 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., October 26 and November 2, 9, 2022.

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Illinois still a basket case, but improving

When Emerson College unveiled its latest Illinois poll last week, its press release included three "Key Takeaways." At the very top of its list was this: "Fifty-two percent (52%) majority of voters think things in Illinois are on the wrong track, while 48% think things are headed in the right direction."

The college is based in Massachusetts, a liberal state with a popular Republican governor. A recent poll taken in Massachusetts by Suffolk University found that 59 percent believed their state was on the right track while 33 percent said it was on the wrong track.

So, while I can easily see why residents of Massachusetts would highlight an inverse opinion in Illinois as bad news, that poll result was actually pretty darned good news.

Way back in 2008, when Rod Blagojevich was nearing his fateful end, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute found that 75 percent of Illinoisans believed Illinois was heading in the wrong direction, while 12.4 percent believed it was going in the right direction.

In 2010, the Simon Institute had the wrong/right track result at 81-11 percent. In 2011, the Institute poll pegged the numbers at 75-15 wrong/right and it stayed there for a while. The Simon Poll's 2012 wrong/right results were 70-20. The 2013 Simon Poll had it at 75-16.

In early 2015, shortly after Republican Bruce Rauner was sworn in as governor, Illinoisans' mood improved a little. "Only" 63 percent said the state was headed in the wrong direction, while 22 per-

cent said it was moving in the right direction.

By 2016, after all heck had broken loose in Springfield amid Rauner's refusal to negotiate a budget until he won his war with organized labor, things got even worse. The Simon Poll found that a whopping 84 percent of the state's voters believed Illinois was off on the wrong track, while only 10 percent thought it was following the right path. The Simon Poll numbers were essentially unchanged two years later (84-9) as Rauner was finishing up his first and only term.

Illinoisans have overwhelmingly agreed on one thing over the years: Illinois sucks. It's quite a remarkable consensus.

And it isn't like people were totally wrong. We have more than our share of crooked politicians. We had three governors in a row who made a complete mess of things. Our former House Speaker had more concentrated power than anyone in our state's history, and he often used his office to play other people and institutions for sport. Issues were ignored, everything seemed to be in decay, there was never enough money to achieve basic goals.

Entire cottage industries sprang up to take advantage of Illinoisans' collective hatred of their state by giving them often-massaged data to feed their rage. Everything is bad all the time to these groups. "Death spiral," was one of



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

their favorite phrases to describe Illinois' predicament. People have been paid quite well to live in nice homes and tell everyone else that their lives were miserable because of state employee pensions, or whatever the current bogeyman was.

Then something happened which upset a lot of people at the time, but turned everything around. A supermajority of Republicans and Democrats overrode Gov. Rauner's veto of an income tax hike. Oh, there was such blinding, white-hot rage from the well-paid doomsayers at the time. But I think they knew the gig was up.

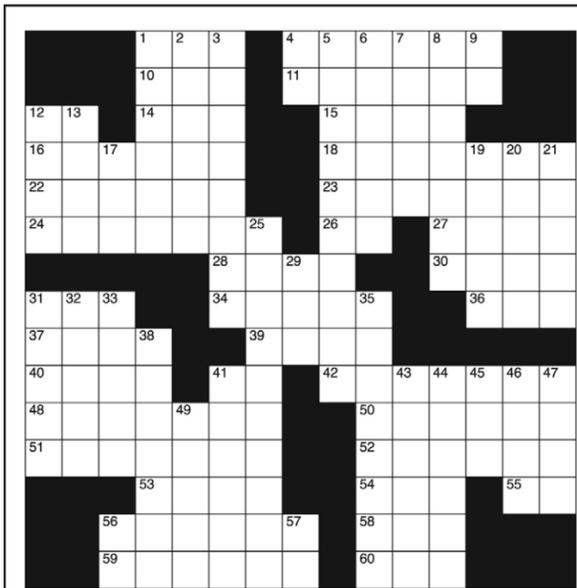
It took some years to pay off the crushing short-term debts incurred under Rauner and his predecessors, but the state started to right itself again thanks to that extra revenue. After some decent governance, the "death spiral" people have mostly moved on to opposing COVID-19 mitigations, or complaining about Critical Race Theory, or what-

ever. Because of that increased tax revenue, our pension debt, while high, has become far more manageable. Businesses and not-for-profit organizations which do much of the actual physical work of government don't have to worry about not being paid in a timely manner. Subsequent tax hikes on motor fuel and gaming expansion and legalizing cannabis have provided needed funds to fix our decrepit roads and bridges, repair our dilapidated public buildings and invest in neglected communities.

Again, I don't strongly disagree with popular sentiment over the years. Illinois has often been a basket case, even without the deliberately provocative exaggerations from the doom and gloom types. And I also agree with what appears to be current sentiment that Illinois is slightly more negative than positive. We still have a ways to go. But, at least now, the destination might possibly be in sight.

It sure would be nice to live in a more "normal" state.

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



CLUES ACROSS

- The central bank of the US
- Direct one's ambitions
- Only
- "Nothing ventured, nothing ..."
- Lead
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Indicates the pitch of notes
- Set up to blame
- States of rest
- Complete
- Be around longer than
- Instructs
- Childless (abbr.)
- Coffee machines do it
- Bowfin
- A group separate from established Church
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Mends with a needle
- When you hope to get there
- Popular 80's pop duo
- Beloved Mexican dish
- Extremely small amount
- Special therapy
- Cause to move slowly
- A person's natural height
- Elicited
- Legislator
- Baking ingredient
- Sandwich store
- Peyton's little brother
- Southeast
- Popular Mexican beer
- Baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Car body manufacturer
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Colorless volatile acid
- A way to tangle
- Jam rock band devotee
- The nation's highest lawyer (abbr.)
- Inviolable
- Collision
- Clumsy
- Bends again
- "Pollock" actor Harris
- Flew off!
- Soft creamy white cheese
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Exclamation used for emphasis
- Expel from one's property
- Philly transit body
- Small amount of something
- Retirement account
- Holey type of cheese
- Young pig
- Climbing palm
- Discomfort
- Bullfighter
- High-level computer language
- Fleshy extensions above the throat
- Request
- Equal to 10 meters (abbr.)
- Bruce and Spike are two
- Precipice
- Wombs
- A radio band
- Emphasizes an amount

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St. Rose 75th annual turkey dinner Sunday

The 75th annual St. Rose turkey dinner will be held on Sunday, Nov. 6, to give thanks and share a meal as a parish family and community.

Dinner will be served at St. Rose School, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington will be from 11

a.m. to 1 p.m., and carry-outs will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The cost is a suggested donation of \$12 (free-will offering).

Everyone is invited to attend.

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Wilmington Community Unit School District 209U files annual financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE

School Business Services
(217) 785-8779
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING
June 30, 2022
(Section 10-17 of the School Code)

SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT NAME: **Wilmington CUSD 209U** Annual Statement of Affairs Instructions **DISTRICT TYPE**
 RCDT NUMBER: **56-099-209U-26** Elementary
 ADDRESS: **209U Wildcat Ct Wilmington, IL 60481 4500** High School
 COUNTY: **Will** Unit
 NAME OF NEWSPAPER WHERE PUBLISHED: **Wilmington Free Press Advocate** Joint Agreement

ASSURANCE

YES The statement of affairs has been made available in the main administrative office of the school district/joint agreement and the required Annual Statement of Affairs Summary has been published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the School Code. (Put "X" in blue box if yes.)

| CAPITAL ASSETS | VALUE |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WORKS OF ART & HISTORICAL TREASURES | |
| LAND | 1,680,479 |
| BUILDING & BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS | 28,716,119 |
| SITE IMPROVEMENTS & INFRASTRUCTURE | |
| CAPITALIZED EQUIPMENT | 201,519 |
| CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS | |
| Total | 30,598,117 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| SIZE OF DISTRICT IN SQUARE MILES | 100 |
| NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE CENTERS | 4 |
| 9 MONTH AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE | 1,063 |
| NUMBER OF CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES | |
| FULL-TIME | 95 |
| PART-TIME | 39 |
| NUMBER OF NON-CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES | |
| FULL-TIME | 45 |
| PART-TIME | 58 |
| TAX RATE BY FUND (IN %) | |
| EDUCATIONAL | 2.642000 |
| OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE | 0.377800 |
| BOND & INTEREST | 0.929100 |
| TRANSPORTATION | 0.149000 |
| MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT | 0.023200 |
| SOCIAL SECURITY | 0.017000 |
| WORKING CASH | 0.015700 |
| FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY | |
| TORT IMMUNITY | |
| CAPITAL PROJECTS | |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION | 0.013500 |
| LEASING | |
| OTHER | 0.021500 |
| OTHER | |
| DISTRICT EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUATION (EAV) | 263,516,439 |
| EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUATION PER ADA PUPIL | 247,889 |
| TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT ALLOWED | 36,365,269 |
| TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT OUTSTANDING AS OF June 30, 2022 | 23,575,000 |
| PERCENT OF LONG-TERM DEBT OBLIGATED CURRENTLY | 64.83% |

| NUMBER OF PUPILS ENROLLED PER GRADE | |
|--|--------------|
| PRE-KINDERGARTEN | 62 |
| KINDERGARTEN | 103 |
| FIRST | 75 |
| SECOND | 94 |
| THIRD | 74 |
| FOURTH | 73 |
| FIFTH | 84 |
| SIXTH | 99 |
| SEVENTH | 100 |
| EIGHTH | 108 |
| SPECIAL (Special Ed or other enrollment not included on lines 29-38) | 0 |
| Total Elementary | 872 |
| NINTH | 106 |
| TENTH | 114 |
| ELEVENTH | 99 |
| TWELFTH | 106 |
| SPECIAL (Special Ed or other enrollment not included on lines 41-44) | 0 |
| Total Secondary | 425 |
| Total District | 1,297 |

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

| Description | Acct No | (10) Educational | (20) Operations & Maintenance | (30) Debt Service | (40) Transportation | (50) Municipal Retirement & Social Security | (60) Capital Projects | (70) Working Cash | (80) Tort | (90) Fire Prevention & Safety |
|---|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS (100) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash (Accounts 111 thru 115) | | 12,181,050 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | | 1,894,406 | | |
| Investments | 120 | | | | | | | | | |
| Taxes Receivable | 130 | | | | | | | | | |
| Interfund Receivables | 140 | | | | | | | | | |
| Intergovernmental Accounts Receivable | 150 | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Receivables | 160 | | | | | | | | | |
| Inventory | 170 | | | | | | | | | |
| Prepaid Items | 180 | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Current Assets | 190 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Current Assets | | 12,181,050 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 | 0 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES (400) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Interfund Payables | 410 | | | | | | | | | |
| Intergovernmental Accounts Payable | 420 | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Payable | 430 | | | | | | | | | |
| Contracts Payable | 440 | | | | | | | | | |
| Loans Payable | 450 | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries & Benefits Payable | 470 | | | | | | | | | |
| Payroll Deductions & Withholdings | 480 | | | | | | | | | |
| Deferred Revenues & Other Current Liabilities | 490 | | | | | | | | | |
| Due to Activity Fund Organizations | 493 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (500) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-Term Debt Payable | 511 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Liabilities | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reserved Fund Balance | 714 | 841,390 | 136,706 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | | | | |
| Unreserved Fund Balance | 730 | 11,339,660 | 1,213,497 | | | | | 1,894,406 | | |
| Investments in General Fixed Assets | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balances | | 12,181,050 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 | 0 |

| Description | Acct No | (10) Educational | (20) Operations & Maintenance | (30) Debt Service | (40) Transportation | (50) Municipal Retirement & Social Security | (60) Capital Projects | (70) Working Cash | (80) Tort | (90) Fire Prevention & Safety |
|---|---------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| ASSETS/LIABILITIES for Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS (100) for Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Student Activity Fund Cash and Investments | 126 | 379,281 | | | | | | | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES (400) for Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Current Liabilities For Student Activity Funds | | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Reserved Student Activity Fund Balance For Student Activity Funds | 715 | 379,281 | | | | | | | | |
| Total Student Activity Liabilities and Fund Balance For Student Activity Funds | | 379,281 | | | | | | | | |

| Description | Acct No | (10) Educational | (20) Operations & Maintenance | (30) Debt Service | (40) Transportation | (50) Municipal Retirement & Social Security | (60) Capital Projects | (70) Working Cash | (80) Tort | (90) Fire Prevention & Safety |
|--|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Total ASSETS/LIABILITIES District with Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Current Assets District with Student Activity Funds | | 12,560,331 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Capital Assets District with Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES (400) District with Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Current Liabilities District with Student Activity Funds | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (500) District with Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Long-Term Liabilities District with Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reserved Fund Balance District with Student Activity Funds | 714 | 1,220,671 | 136,706 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance District with Student Activity Funds | | 12,560,331 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 | 0 |

*Above should match the amounts in the Annual Financial Report (AFR) on the "Assets-Liab" tab

| Description | Acct No | (10) Educational | (20) Operations & Maintenance | (30) Debt Service | (40) Transportation | (50) Municipal Retirement & Social Security | (60) Capital Projects | (70) Working Cash | (80) Tort | (90) Fire Prevention & Safety |
|--|---------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Change in cash position | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fiscal Year 2022 - Cash and Investments | | 12,181,050 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 | 0 |
| Fiscal Year 2021 - Cash and Investments* | | 10,997,773 | 1,374,014 | 1,429,455 | 1,019,580 | 209,373 | 0 | 1,850,598 | 0 | 0 |
| Change in cash position | | 1,183,277 | (23,811) | 97,205 | (264,947) | 54,414 | 0 | 43,808 | 0 | 0 |

*The prior year cash and investments can be found on prior year Annual Financial Report (AFR) on the "Assets/Liab" tab.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES RECEIVED/REVENUES, EXPENDITURES DISBURSED/EXPENDITURES, OTHER SOURCES/USES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

| Description | Acct No | (10) Educational | (20) Operations & Maintenance | (30) Debt Service | (40) Transportation | (50) Municipal Retirement & Social Security | (60) Capital Projects | (70) Working Cash | (80) Tort | (90) Fire Prevention & Safety |
|---|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| RECEIPTS/REVENUES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Sources | 1000 | 8,925,025 | 1,337,637 | 2,550,271 | 406,955 | 509,272 | | 45,808 | | |
| Flow-Through Received/Revenue from One District to Another District | 2000 | 136,382 | 0 | | 0 | | | | | |
| State Sources | 3000 | 2,971,197 | 51,600 | 0 | 999,636 | | | | | |
| Federal Sources | 4000 | 3,555,512 | 750,000 | 21,000 | | | | | | |
| Total Direct Receipts/Revenues | | 15,588,116 | 2,139,237 | 2,571,271 | 1,406,591 | 509,272 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 | 0 |
| Rec./Rev. for "On Behalf" Payments | 3998 | 660,919 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Total Receipts/Revenues | | 16,249,035 | 2,139,237 | 2,571,271 | 1,406,591 | 509,272 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 | 0 |
| DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Instruction | 1000 | 6,655,217 | | | | 62,266 | | | | |
| Support Services | 2000 | 4,456,736 | 2,163,048 | | 1,671,538 | 392,562 | | | | |
| Community Services | 3000 | 6,418 | | | | 30 | | | | |
| Payments to Other Districts & Govt Units | 4000 | 3,313,559 | | 0 | | | | | | |
| Debt Services | 5000 | | | 2,448,975 | | | | | | |
| Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures | | 14,431,930 | 2,163,048 | 2,448,975 | 1,671,538 | 454,858 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Disb./Expend. for "On Behalf" Payments | 4180 | 660,919 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Disbursements/Expenditures | | 15,092,849 | 2,163,048 | 2,448,975 | 1,671,538 | 454,858 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Excess of Direct Receipts/Revenues Over (Under) Direct Disbursements/Expenditures | | 1,156,186 | (23,811) | 122,296 | (264,947) | 54,414 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Sources/Uses of Funds | 7000 | 27,091 | | (25,091) | | | | (2,000) | | |
| Total Other Sources/Uses of Funds | | 27,091 | 0 | (25,091) | 0 | 0 | 0 | (2,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Excess of Receipts/Revenues & Other Sources of Funds Over/Under) Expenditures/Disbursements & Other Uses of Funds | | 1,183,277 | (23,811) | 97,205 | (264,947) | 54,414 | 0 | 43,808 | 0 | 0 |
| Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds July 1, 2021 | | 10,997,773 | 1,374,014 | 1,429,455 | 1,019,580 | 209,373 | 0 | 1,850,598 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Changes in Fund Balances - Increases (Decreases) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2022 | | 12,181,050 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 | 0 |
| Student Activity Fund Balance - July 1, 2021 | | 335,819 | | | | | | | | |
| RECEIPTS/REVENUES - Student Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Student Activity Fund Revenues | 1799 | 544,231 | | | | | | | | |
| DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENDITURES - Students Activity Funds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Student Activity Fund Expenditures | 1999 | 500,769 | | | | | | | | |
| Excess of Direct Receipts/Revenues Over (Under) Direct Disbursements/Expenditures | | 43,462 | | | | | | | | |
| Student Activity Fund Balance - June 30, 2022 | | 379,281 | | | | | | | | |

| Description | Acct No | (10) Educational | (20) Operations & Maintenance | (30) Debt Service | (40) Transportation | (50) Municipal Retirement & Social Security | (60) Capital Projects | (70) Working Cash | (80) Tort | (90) Fire Prevention & Safety |
|---|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| RECEIPTS/REVENUES (with Student Activity Funds) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Sources | 1000 | 9,469,256 | 1,337,637 | 2,550,271 | 406,955 | 509,272 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 | 0 |
| Flow-Through Received/Revenue from One District to Another District | 2000 | 136,382 | 0 | | 0 | | | | | |
| State Sources | 3000 | 2,971,197 | 51,600 | 0 | 999,636 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Sources | 4000 | 3,555,512 | 750,000 | 21,000 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Direct Receipts/Revenues | | 16,132,347 | 2,139,237 | 2,571,271 | 1,406,591 | 509,272 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 | 0 |
| Rec./Rev. for "On Behalf" Payments | 3998 | 660,919 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Total Receipts/Revenues | | 16,793,266 | 2,139,237 | 2,571,271 | 1,406,591 | 509,272 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 | 0 |
| DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENDITURES (with Student Activity Funds) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Instruction | 1000 | 7,155,986 | | | | 62,266 | | | | |
| Support Services | 2000 | 4,456,736 | 2,163,048 | | 1,671,538 | 392,562 | | | | |
| Community Services | 3000 | 6,418 | | | | 30 | | | | |
| Payments to Other Districts & Govt Units | 4000 | 3,313,559 | | 0 | | | | | | |
| Debt Services | 5000 | | | 2,448,975 | | | | | | |

Wilmington Community Unit School District 209U continued

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022
Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

| Wilmington CUSD 209U School District/Joint Agreement Name | 209U Wildcat Ct Wilmington, IL 60481 4500 Address | 815-926-1751 Telephone | (M-F) 8AM-4PM Office Hours | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net. | | | | | | | | | |
| SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year. | | | | | | | | | |
| Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2022 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Educational | Operations & Maintenance | Debt Services | Transportation | Municipal Retirement/Social Security | Capital Projects | Working Cash | Tort | Fire Prevention & Safety |
| Local Sources | 1000 | 8,925,025 | 1,337,637 | 2,550,271 | 406,955 | 509,272 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 |
| Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District | 2000 | 136,382 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| State Sources | 3000 | 2,971,197 | 51,600 | 0 | 999,636 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Sources | 4000 | 3,555,512 | 750,000 | 21,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Direct Receipts/Revenues | | 15,588,116 | 2,139,237 | 2,571,271 | 1,406,591 | 509,272 | 0 | 45,808 | 0 |
| Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures | | 14,431,930 | 2,163,048 | 2,448,975 | 1,671,538 | 454,858 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Sources/Uses of Funds | | 27,091 | (25,091) | 0 | 0 | 0 | (2,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2021 | | 10,997,773 | 1,374,014 | 1,429,455 | 1,019,580 | 209,373 | 0 | 1,850,598 | 0 |
| Other Changes in Fund Balances | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2022 | | 12,181,050 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 |
| Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2022 | | 12,560,331 | 1,350,203 | 1,526,660 | 754,633 | 263,787 | 0 | 1,894,406 | 0 |

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Allen, Brittany L
Allred, Sara E
Arbogash, Jennifer M
Bailey, Stephanie L
Benson, Teesha
Carboni, Gregory
Carey, Jessica L
Corlett, Chantelle M
Corlett-Bryant, Dana
Cox, Debra L
Dale, Natalie R
Daniels, Sara
Dexheimer, Brian
Diaz, Seth
Engelman, Anthony C
Fisher, Vivian
Francis, Rita K
Fritz, Thomas A
Hatfield, Mary F
Hatten, Brian J
Hess, Neta
Holmes, Abby K
Hrvatn, Alicia
Hunter, Rachel N
Issert, Denise M
Jack, Mary M
Jarvis, Megan L
Kettwig, Theresa M
Kreutz, Heidi J
Lawrence, Tracy R
Macari, Larry E
Meskill, Jamie L
Mietelich, Sean B
Nutt, Steven
Panepinto, Anthony
Papineau, Connie
Seibert, Janet
Shewmake, Stacy L
Skole, Jack
Stickel, Stephanie M
VanDuyne, Brandy J
VanDuyne, Virginia L
VanTilburg, Michalia A
VanDuyne, Laurie
VanDuyne, Shari A
Wakefield, Laura E
Wilburn, Margaret A
Wutcher, Ginger M
Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999
Jones, Marnie M
Ruffatto, Victoria
Weich, Caitlyn
Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999
Antos, Angela L
Benson, Christi
Billingsley, Kristin D
Dillon, Lisa M
Dinkins, Kelly N
Dzulban, Nicholas M
Enz, Sarah A
Fisher, Michael
Fournier, Curtis L
Geiss, Graham D
Gilbert, Alexis E
Giroi, Tisha W
Harris, Dana M
Horton, Sarah M
Imhof, Jennifer L

Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999 cont.

Langusch, Lisa M
Lesch, Alyssa
Long, Katie A
Mata, Nola R
Meents, Jennifer M
Morris, Jennifer M
Morrison, Danell L
Orellano, Casey N
Paulsen, Ethan H
Robbins, Holly A
Seiler, Julie E
Skelly, Kimberly A
Snyder, Joseph
Stelson, Luke
Stickel, Margaret T
Stralow, Julie R
Strong, Nathan P
Tyler, Drew M
Ulz, Susan A
Walsh, Katelyn M
Wandless, Michelle M
Yergler, Rachel
Salary Range: 60,000 - \$89,999
Allred, Russell A
Barnes, Kahlon
Barnes, Meredith K
Bejlovec, Jeannine M
Bushnell, Michael
Cavanaugh, Kelly A
Cherveny, Brenda Craig
Dillon, Cory A
Dillon, Eric L
Doyle, Karen L
Drown, Stacy
Farrell, Chad
Georgeff, Ellen E
Hanlon, Ed H
Hansen, Curtis B
Horrie, Valerie M
Ivanoff, Travis
Karavites, Bill N
Keane, Brianna
Langusch, Mark W
Maupin, Amy G
McGee, William E
Miller, Warren M
Mison, Jeffrey R
Mosier, Elizabeth K
Natyshok, Lorie F
Noffsinger, Brenna J
Rink, Angie M
Smith, Tracy D
Szepelak, Lori L
VanDuyne, Tara M
Vollmer, Jody A
Walsh, Coleen A
Ward, Jina M
Wilson, Wayne M
Ziller, Christy L
Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over
Dennis, Venita M
Feeny, Kevin P
Goff, Brian
Maupin, Robert S
Murphy, Robert L
Norman, Beth R
Reents, Jeffrey J
Spicer, Adam M
Swick, Matthew W

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000

Adams, Keegan S
Allen, Alyssa
Allison, Jody B
Andrews, Cassidy
Archey, Michael
Bennett, Barbara L
Bolsar, Robert
Brainard, Alyssa A
Bublitz, Kenneth
Carver, Mary E
Cavenaille, Kevin J
Czemske, Madonna M
Dempsey, Haley G
Dingillo, Cynthia A
Farmer, Sherree D
Francis, Katherine
Goutos, BreeAnne M
Greshman, Ruth A
Guinn, Donna
Hand, Barbara L
Hansen, Olivia G
Henderson, Elizabeth
Hermes, Joseph A
Higgins, Maxwell
Hooker, Timothy K
Issert, Janet L
Izzi, Kelly M
Johnstone, Stacey E
Kats, Cynthia M
Kavanaugh, Annette L
Knight, Lori
Larson, Kaitlin
Lathus, Timothy W
McCluskey, Ronald A
McLin, Mindy
Meents, Kyle A
Melhorn, Sandy M
Mietzner, Jennifer
Momper, Janine M
Mossell, Michelle M
Nowdomski, Brittany
O'Leary, Daniel T
Ospavicius, Samantha
Peters, Bonnie S
Peterson, Andrew J
Petrovich, Logan
Plese, Maureen
Prendergast, Rachel
Prindiville, Cody
Quigley, James A
Quigley, Tracy S
Readman, Larry J
Rink, Jacquelyn

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999

Roark, Jodi M
Salazar, Kristy L
Shelton, Pamela
Sivertson, Tyler
Skole, Kimberly S
Smith, Dawn L
Southall, Barry B
Southall, Mason B
Springer, Claire
Stenberg, Nicholas
Stull, Danielle
Swisher, Jennifer L
Thompson, Katie M
VanDuyne, Robert
VanDuyne, Robert J
Wilbur, Courtney
Winker, Brittany
Yanez, Alma
Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999
Begler, Brenda C
Brandt, Jeffrey C
Finley, Ronald P
Hansen, Krista M
Kinkin, Jason M
Leterly, Joel P
Specht, Sheila A
Stanton, Andrew
Tranberg, Svend D
Viano, Valerie S
Vaillafanco, Enrique
Salary Range: \$60,000 and Over
Barnes, Nancy
Habing, James R
Hipes, Lisa M
McCormick, Michael L

LOCAL JOURNALISM

We make it our mission to keep you informed on issues that are important to your community That includes Public Notices too!

Attorney Wilson files Nelson estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY-IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RUSSELL NELSON, Deceased; No. 2022PR85

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Russell Nelson of Minooka, IL. On October 21, 2022, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued to Timothy R. Nelson, of 4607 Highway Dr., Milton, WI 53563 whose attorney is Claire M. Wilson, P.O. Box 344, Channahon, IL 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Grundy County at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St. Morris, IL 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 2, 2022, which is within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and the representative's attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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

Claire M. Wilson, Attorney At Law
P.O. Box 344,
Channahon, IL 60410
e-Mail: cwilsonlaw@gmail.com
PH: (815) 467-1184 Fax: (815) 467-1498
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9, and 16, 2022.

Petition to establish parent child relationship filed against Nathan Troy in Grundy County Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF JESSICA D. PIVONKA, Petitioner, v. NATHAN E. TROY, Respondent. NO. 2022FA41

TO: NATHAN E. TROY

Take notice that a Petition to Establish Parent Child Relationship; for Genetic Testing and for Other Relief was filed in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, for judgment against NATHAN E. TROY in favor of JESSICA D. PIVONKA. This matter is scheduled for Summons Return before the Circuit Court of Grundy County, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois Room West, on the 19th day of December, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Now, therefore, unless you, NATHAN E. TROY, appear and file an Appearance or Response on or before December 9, 2022, before the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Grundy County, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450; a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition to Establish Parent Child Relationship; for Genetic Testing and for Other Relief.
Dated: 10/17/2022.

Corri Trotter
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Nichole R. Bauer
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney No. 6280949
E-mail: nichole@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9 2022.

Attorney Meents petitions court on behalf of Estate of Harold Cunning

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF HAROLD H. CUNNING, Plaintiff, v. CUNNING PROFIT SHARING TRUST, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS AND TO ALL UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS, Defendants. CASE NO: 2022 CH 13

TO: CUNNING PROFITSHARING TRUST, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Take notice that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, to quiet the title of ownership to the following described property:
80 acres, Gardner, Grundy County, Illinois
PIN: 12-24-100-002
Legal Description: The East 1/2 of the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 31 North, Range 8, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Grundy County, Illinois
Now, therefore, to CUNNING PROFIT SHARING TRUST, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN or who may have an interest in this case you are hereby notified that unless you file an answer or response to the Petition in said suit or otherwise file an appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Grundy County, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois on or before November 19, 2022, a default order may be entered at any time after that day and Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition for Declaratory Judgment to Quiet Title.

"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 <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>."

Dated: 10/14/2022 5:50 AM
Corri Trotter
Clerk of the Circuit Court, SM

Frank J. Meents
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
Email: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 2022.

Foreclosure sale of 1923 Toller Road

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC; Plaintiff, -v- ERIC D EVANS; Defendants, 21 CH 21

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 11, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on November 30, 2022, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Lot 72, Rockwell Estates Subdivision First Addition, being a subdivision in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 31, Township 34 North, Range 7 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof recorded May 24, 2004 and filed in Plat Cabinet H, Slide 63, EXCEPTING therefrom that part of said Lot described as beginning at the Northwest corner of said Lot; thence Southerly on the West boundary of said lot, being a 60 foot radius curve, concave Westerly, an arc length of 33.72 feet to the Westerly extension of an existing common wall; thence Easterly on said Westerly extension and on said common wall and on the Easterly extension of said common wall, 102.78 feet to the East line of said lot; thence Northerly on said East line, 104.56 feet to the Northeast corner of said lot; thence Southwesterly on the North line of said Lot, a distance of 133.96 feet to the point of beginning, in Grundy County, Illinois.
Commonly known as 1923 TALLER ROAD, MORRIS, IL 60450
Property Index No. 02-31-478-034
The real estate is improved with a townhouse with a two car garage.
Sale Terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGEE (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200
Chicago IL, 60602
312-346-9088
E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com
Attorney File No. 21-07875IL_722031
Attorney ARDC No. 61256
Case Number: 21 CH 21
TJSC#: 42-3301
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 21 CH 21
13205637
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9, 2022.

Coal City Fire Protection District audit now on file

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT FOR THE COAL CITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
The Board of Trustees of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois, hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the fiscal year beginning on May 1, 2021 and ending on April 30, 2022 was prepared by our auditor, Brian Zabel & Associates, P.C., 1040 W. Route 6, Morris, IL. The fiscal year 2021-2022 audit has been filed with the County Clerk of Grundy County in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/01.01 et seq. The entire audit report and the annual statement of receipts and disbursements are available for public inspection at the Fire District Fire Station #2 located at 1455 S. Berta Road, Coal City, IL from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Coal City Fire Protection District
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 2, 2022.

Maine Twp. Drainage District to hold annual meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING MAINE TOWNSHIP DRAINAGE DISTRICT
You are hereby notified that the commissioners of Maine Township Drainage District will hold the district's annual meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., at the Maine Township Hall 4020 E. Braceville Rd., Mazon, Illinois 60444, to review the business of the district. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Bill Stahler, Chairman
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 2, 2022.

Attorney Meents petitions court to quiet title on behalf of Estate of Harold Cunning

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF HAROLD H. CUNNING, Plaintiff, v. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MORRIS, AS TRUSTEE UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 24, 1972 KNOWN AS TRUST NO. 132 ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS AND TO ALL UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS, Defendants. CASE NO: 2022 CH 15

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
TO: FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MORRIS, AS TRUSTEE UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 24, 1972 KNOWN AS TRUST NO. 132, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
Take notice that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, to quiet the title of ownership to the following described property:

TRACT ONE:
160 acres, Gardner, Grundy County, Illinois
PIN: 12-14-300-003
Legal Description: The Southwest 1/4 of Section 14, Township 31 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Grundy County, Illinois

TRACT TWO:
157 acres, Gardner, Grundy County, Illinois
PIN: 12-14-400-002
Legal Description: The southeast quarter of Section 14, Township 31 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, EXCEPT beginning at the Southwest corner of the East half of the Southeast quarter of Section 14, Township 31 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, thence East along the South section line of said section 422 feet, then North 310 feet, thence West 422 feet, thence South along the West line of said East half of the Southeast quarter of said section 310 feet, to the point of beginning, in Grundy County, Illinois.

Now, therefore, to FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MORRIS, AS TRUSTEE UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 24, 1972 KNOWN AS TRUST NO. 132, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN or who may have an interest in this case you are hereby notified that unless you file an answer or response to the Petition in said suit or otherwise file an appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Grundy County, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois on or before November 19, 2022 a default order may be entered at any time after that day and Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition for Declaratory Judgment to Quiet Title.
"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 <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>."

Dated: 10/14/2022 5:51 a.m.
Corri Trotter
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Frank J. Meents
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
Email: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 2022.

Foreclosure sale of 502 East High Street

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS
THE MONEY SOURCE, INC.; Plaintiff,
vs.
MICHAEL T. ZOPP; CITY OF MORRIS, AN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION; STATE OF ILLINOIS; Defendants,
22 FC 21

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the office of Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Lot 38 in Cunnea's Subdivision of the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 3, Township 33 North, Range 7, East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof recorded October 24, 1901, in Plat Book B, at Page 103, as Document Number 55628, in Grundy County, Illinois. P.I.N. 05-033-107-021.
Commonly known as 502 East High Street, Morris, IL 60450.
The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.
Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. File Number 22-003568 ADC
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13205360
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 26, and Nov. 2, 2022

Notice of Foreclosure of 1901 Park Lk Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FS, AS TRUSTEE OF STANDWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST J, Plaintiff, -v- ANGELA E. SPRINGER; et al., Defendants.
Case No.: 2022FC78 Property Address: 1901 PARK LK DR, MORRIS, IL 60450

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

UNIT 1901-E AS DELINEATED ON A PLAT OF SURVEY OF LOT 1 IN PARKLAKE VILLAGE UNIT ONE, A SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF MORRIS, COUNTY OF GRUNDY AND STATE OF ILLINOIS; WHICH PLAT OF SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT A TO A DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP MADE BY FORD CITY BANK, AS TRUSTEE UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT NUMBER 870 DATED JUNE 27, 1974 RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OF GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS DOCUMENT NO. 245314; TOGETHER WITH A PERCENTAGE OF THE COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT TO SAID UNIT AS SET FORTH IN EXHIBIT C TO SAID DECLARATION IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as: 1901 PARK LK DR, MORRIS, IL 60450
Names of the titleholders of record: ANGELA E. SPRINGER.
Date of the Mortgage: November 8, 2007.
Name or names of the mortgagors: ANGELA E. SPRINGER.
Name of the mortgagee: Draper and Kramer Mortgage Corp.
Date and place of recording: November 15, 2007; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Grundy County, Illinois.
Identification of recording: Document No. 484048.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before November 28, 2022, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN



GATE DROP start of an AMA race at Joliet MX.



THE LITTLE ONES getting final encouragement before loading into starting gate.

Joliet Motorsports and the religion of motocross

BY DAVID L. KUMP
DLK ON LOCATION MEDIA

Since 2000, Justin Martino has developed Joliet MX into a premier motocross facility located in Wilmington, IL on Kelly Road just off Blodgett. It is the home of the Arsenal Series, hosts

AMA District 17 races and includes three courses on 44 acres. There is a pee wee track for the little ones, a motocross course and a Supercross track for the Arsenal Series.

I visited the track on Labor day and again on October 16th to photograph the riders. Justin and his entire staff keep everything well organized and safe for riders and their families, friends and fans.

At its team core is a family effort with Justin's daughter Kelsey handling main gate duties as well as timing and scoring at the finish line during races and when I met her and her father, she was giving him a haircut on the grounds during a busy Labor Day open practice session. She has quite a resume.

Justin's son Zach teaches the art of motocross through training sessions he conducts for all different ages and class riders there.

The efforts of the Martino family and staff benefit riders from Illinois AMA District 17 and beyond, drawing riders from Indiana and Wisconsin. The October 16th races attracted 300 competitors in various classes.

Pastor Lary Dean of Extreme Church Ministries conducts 'Moto Church' there at the winners podium before track activities. He sings the praises of his messages of peace and tells stories to his faithful following.

He definitely practices what he preaches by joining them on track where he rides and races as well. Somehow he even has time to do the Joliet MX track announcing. Following him online you learn he is also singer and guitarist for the progressive metal band Trytan. Good luck keeping up with him.

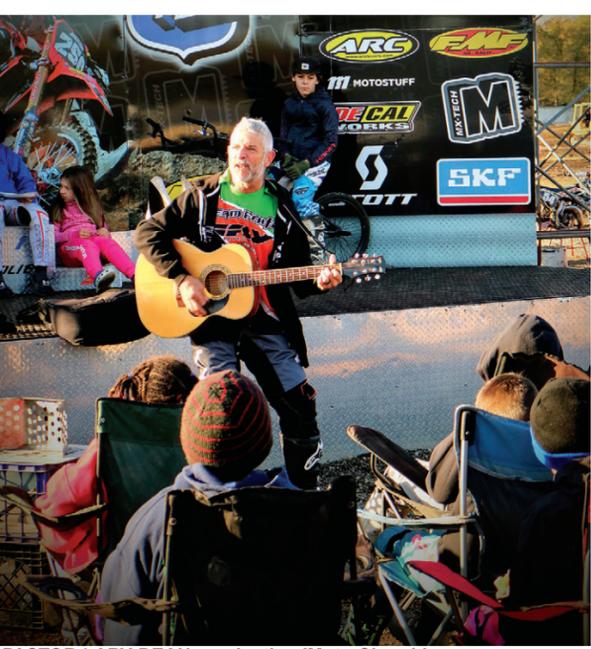
It was wonderful to see all the families involved with the young riders competing especially Mike Gritter and his 13 year old son Joshua. Mike is no stranger to motorsports, he is the Director of Track Operations at Joliet's Autobahn Country Club.

His son Joshua has gone four years at Joliet MX without missing a race. During that time, he began racing in the 50 class and then onto the 65 class where in 2021 he became Joliet MX 65 clutch class Champion and in AMA District 17 he finished 2nd place in the standings. Joshua now competes in 85 class on his new Kawasaki.

Motocross has been my religion of sorts since I was 14 and started riding trail bikes. At 18, I purchased a Suzuki RM 125 two

stroke motocross bike and quickly realized the immense skills needed to ride the machine properly.

We are the civilization of the wheel and to master two wheels over uneven earth takes great skills, courage and a supreme confidence in one's abilities. Not only a good definition of motocross but the reason I admire all of these riders.



PASTOR LARY DEAN conducting 'Moto Church'.



HUGE AIR OVER jump by Yamaha rider.

Promote your business beyond Small Business Saturday!

Run an ad in the Small Business Saturday pages (with free color) and we'll discount your ad each additional week to promote your business through the busy shopping season.

This Space
Only \$50

2nd week \$45
3rd week \$40
4th week \$35



Support *Small*
BUSINESSES

Saturday, Nov. 26

Deadline Nov. 16

Includes the
Braidwood Journal, Coal City Courant and
Free Press Advocate each week!

Call for details - 815-476-7966

COMET SPORTS

International championship title worth the wait for Vasil

It took over a year before Mason Vasil of Braidwood found out he was an international champion in the Knight's of Columbus Soccer Challenge.

The Braidwood Council of the Knights host the District and Regional soccer challenge every year for boys and girls ages 9-14.

The Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge is a precision goal kicking competition where kids kick goals from the penalty line at a soccer goal that has been divided up into 4 smaller corners and the larger center.

A ball kicked through the center is worth 5 points, the lower corners 10 points, and upper corners 20 points.

Vasil, who was age 11 at the time, was dead-on with the 90 kicks he took while advancing through four levels of competition.

Mason scored 550 points to claim the local, regional and state competitions. After the Illinois State Challenge, his scores were compared to all the other winners in the country and he beat out J. Vescovi from Brordentown, NJ for the title of International Champion for the 11 year old division.

Vasil was recently presented with his National Championship crystal trophy by Dave Wollgast, Grand Knight of the Braidwood Council 1574.

Mason has played on Reed-Custer Soccer Club teams from the spring of 2013 till present. That's 20 seasons spread over Spring and Fall schedules. He played for the Southland Strikers from spring of 2016 to winter of 2017 (6 seasons), Morris United from spring 2018 to fall of 2021 (9 seasons).



THE VASIL FAMILY of Braidwood showed up recently for the presentation of the International Championship trophy to Mason after scoring the most points in the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. At right is Dave Wollgast, Grand Knight of the Braidwood Council 1574, who presented Mason with a crystal trophy. Also pictured are his parents Aaron and Carrie (left) and Mason's sister Morgan.



MASON VASIL of Braidwood has played youth soccer for 20 seasons now. He is pictured during a recent fall match.



Lady Panther A Team easily defeats Morris

The Reed-Custer Middle School 6th grade girls basketball teams suffered a pair of losses on Wednesday to Saratoga.

The A Team Lady Panthers lost 25-4 with two points each scored by Avery Vanek and Izzy Monroe.

The B Team fell 30-6 to Saratoga. Leading Reed-Custer was Jaelynn Davis with four points while Cali Cassem chipped in two points.

A win

The A Team upended Morris Elementary 27-4 last Tuesday. The Lady Panthers used a balance attack to get the win.

They were led by Johanna Janopoulous with 8 points. Avah Thompson and Analia Edwards contributed four points each. Finishing with two points each were Aubree Bobzin, Maeley Bohac, Izzy Monroe, Mackenzie Loveland and Ava Povalish. Making a free throw was Avery Vanek.

The 6th grade B Team lost 7-2 to Morris with the only bucket for Reed-Custer coming from Cali Cassem.



CAYSIE ESPARZA (13, above) dribbles the ball past her opponent Morris at home on Tuesday. Dribbling the ball down the court is Avery Vanek (left) playing for the 6th grade A team against Morris on Tuesday's game at home.



On November 8...

Paid for by JudgeJohnAnderson.com retention committee

**Vote YES for Judicial Experience. Vote YES for Integrity.
Vote YES to retain Judge John C. Anderson**

ABOUT JUDGE JOHN ANDERSON

- 12 years of judicial experience
- Assigned to hear some of the most complex cases in Will County
- Law degrees from both Duke Univ. Law School and Univ. of Illinois-Chicago
- MBA, Univ. of Notre Dame; MS, Univ. of Illinois-Springfield; BS, Illinois State Univ.
- Former Chairman, Illinois Supreme Court Rules Committee
- Former contract attorney with Illinois Appellate Prosecutor
- Former Illinois Supreme Court law clerk
- Married and father of three children

ENDORSEMENTS

- Endorsed by Will County Law Enforcement Organizations
- Endorsed by Will-Grundy Building Trades Council
- Supported by both Democratic and Republican leaders

RECOGNITION

- Named "2018 Judicial Officer of the Year" by the Illinois State Crime Commission
- Profiled in THE FACE OF CHICAGO BUSINESS
- Named a "Rising Star" in Illinois law

2022 ISBA BAR POLL FOR JUDGE ANDERSON

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Integrity: | 92% |
| Impartiality: | 89% |
| Legal Ability: | 95% |
| Temperament: | 90% |
| Court Management: | 91% |
| Health: | 95% |
| Sensitivity: | 97% |
| RECOMMENDED: | 90% |

***All three Will County judges running for retention have been "recommended" by ISBA in 2022**

Reject the politicization of our judiciary by voting YES to retain ALL Will County Judges because YOU deserve an impartial judiciary. VOTE YES.

JOHN ANDERSON JUDGE



Record-setting Comets blitz Carver in playoff opener

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

This just in... The Reed-Custer football team (10-0) scored again.

Bad news for the rest of the 3A field, the Comets might be getting better. Saturday's home playoff opener against Chicago Carver featured some offensive numbers you had to see to believe.

R-C's starting offense ran 14 plays and scored touchdowns on seven of them, with five coming in the first quarter as they manhandled the Challengers 77-24.

The 77 points are a new school record for the Comets and also are the most in 3A playoff history besting the previous mark of 71 by Greenville.

"Our offense just executed at a high level. They were kind of giving us everything we wanted on the ground," said head coach Gavin Johnston.

"They weren't playing with many guys in the box and we just took what the defense gave us and the kids executed well."

The Comets will host Du-Pec Saturday at 5 p.m. in round two action. 29 seconds is all it took for the Comets to score as Jace Christian had a seven yard touchdown run.

A mere 20 seconds later, Brandon Moorman scooped up a fumble and ran it in 15 yards, 16-0.

Quarterback Jake McPherson then found Josh Bohac for a 12 yard touchdown reception. Two minutes later, McPherson used his legs and broke free for a 47 yard touchdown run.

Carver got on the board 53 seconds later as they broke loose for a 66 yard touchdown run to make it 32-8.

"It was a little concerning. That's a play we've seen all the time and we just had a lot of mental mistakes on that."

"Sometimes when you get in a game like that, you start peeking in the backfield instead of reading your keys."



Photo by Zadie Sims

JUMPING FOR THE BALL during a pass play for Reed-Custer is Peyton Bradley. The Comets defeated Chicago Carver 77-24 in the first round of the playoffs.

R-C would score the next four touchdowns though to put the game away early.

Lucas Foote had a pair of touchdown catches (12 and seven yards), Bohac added a 42

yard touchdown run and Christian recorded a one-yard td run.

The end result was a 63-8 half-time advantage.

"It's amazing that we can just get the ball to so many different guys and so many different guys can score," said Johnston.

"It's awesome to see how high we're executing."

Carver actually outscored the Comets in the third quarter 16-8 with a pair of long touchdowns, a 73 yard pass and a 76 yard run.

"Most of our main guys were out so it is what it is. As the defensive coordinator, I don't like it, but we'll learn from mistakes."

"We're healthy and it didn't cost us a game this week and hopefully it doesn't down the road."

Colin Esparza added a six yard touchdown run and Zack Cieslak's 15 yard td run in the fourth was the record breaker.

Christian took six carries and turned them into 107 yards. McPherson was 3-for-4 passing for 31 yards and added 78 rushing yards on two carries.

Moorman had two rushes for 69 yards, Esparza tallied 45 yards on eight carries and Cieslak had four carries for 43 yards.

Nick Cieslak recorded 20 yards, Foote had an 11 yard carry and Rex Pfeifer rounded out the rushing attack with six yards as the Comets rushed for 421 yards.

Defensively they forced four turnovers and were led by Zack Cieslak's five tackles.

Peyton Bradley (interception), Travis Bohac (interception) and Connor Esparza all had three stops.

Christian and Pfeifer both tallied 2.5 tackles and Josh Bohac, Gunnar Berg, Kody Marschner Landen Robinson and Konnor Duering all recorded two stops.

Colin Esparza and Joe Bembenek both made 1.5 stops and also recording a tackle were Gavin Bruciak, Wesley Shats, Matt Gereaux and Collin Monroe.



Photo by Zadie Sims

CLEBRATING THE WIN against Carver is Reed-Custer senior Gunnar Berg. The Comets will play at home again for the second rounds of the playoffs against Pecatonica at 5 p.m. Saturday.



Photo by Zadie Sims

REACHING THE END ZONE is Reed-Custer senior Zack Cieslak (26) while teammate Cooper Smith celebrates the touchdown during the playoff victory over Carver on Saturday.



Photo by Zadie Sims

NICK CIESLAK makes his way to the endzone on Saturday's game against Carver.

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Du-Pec will be formidable foe

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Saturday's second round game in Braidwood between the Comets and Du-Pec (8-2) figures to be a good one. Du-Pec's two losses this season were against Fulton (8-2) and Lena-Winslow (10-0), both formidable 1A foes.

Lena-Winslow has won back-to-back state championships.

"They use a lot of different formations and switch out their personnel so we can't get complacent," said Comet coach Gavin Johnston.

"They have guys moving all over the field. They want to run the ball and they will pass if needed. They are a solid team with some big linemen up front."

The Rivermen defeated Chicago (Catalyst/Maria) 52-8 last week. Sophomore quarterback Cooper Hoffman was a perfect 11-for-11 passing for 138 yards and four combined touchdowns (one rushing).

Senior running back AJ Mulcahy rushed for 97 yards

and three touchdowns and had over 1,000 yards rushing and 20 TDs during the regular season.

He was voted the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference's Offensive Player of the Year.

So containing him is job one for a Comet defense that gave up 259 rushing yards to Carver last week.

Offensively, R-C will be looking for more of the same. They have outscored their opponents 267-32 in the first quarter this season.

"Whenever we can own the line of scrimmage offensively, defenses have to add more guys to the box." "Having Jake McPherson throw the ball to Lucas Foote, Brandon Moorman, Peyton Bradley and Josh Bohac, we're just as deadly."

"Being able to run the ball and stop the run is definitely the most important thing."

The Comet offense has been led by Jace Christian who has rushed 52 times for 798 yards (15.3 yards per carry) and 19 TDs this season.

McPherson is right behind him with 679 yards on 48 rushes (14.1 ypc) and eight TDs. He's also completed 78 percent of his passes (64-82) for 1,182 yards, 23 TDs and just 2 INTs.

Foote has 46 offensive touches (23 rushes) and has scored an eye-popping 18 TDs.

Looking ahead, the winner will face either Seneca (3) or Byron (6) in the quarterfinals. They play Friday night so the result will be known to the Comets before gametime.

"I think first and foremost, our kids would like to play Byron just because they got us last year but at the same time, you know, we're making the quarterfinals so we really don't care who we're playing," said Johnston.

"We just have to give a championship effort in this game and we're in the second round of playoffs and you play the games for a reason."

"I'm sure Du-Pec is going to come down with confidence so we just have to stay focused on the task at hand."



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