

A salute to senior band members

A page of Comet sports leftovers



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Comets who excel on and off the field



RCHS NAMED All-Academic Student-Athletes for the Fall 24-25 sports season. The ICE conference award is presented to students who earn a 3.5 or better gpa while participating in a sport. Recipients include (sitting, from left) Addison Brown, Miley Morris, Makenzi Thompson, Kamryn Marschner, Ella Anderson, Hailey Compton, Harlie Liebermann, Jayden Brodinski, Leah Grace, Kirstin Klein, Olivia Esparza, Aubrey Harding, Cameron Wallace and Emma Wilson. Standing: Collin Monroe, Chandler Lowe, Ethan Hertz, Aiden Brown, Christian Mounts, Brock Billingsley, Jeremy Eggleston, Kris Budick, Drew Emanuelson, Jack Krall, Carter Jones, Wyatt Crater, Mark Martinez, Lucas Thompson, Logan Bean, Tristan Randall, Nathan Trucano, Luca Trucano, Owen Dooley, Landen Robinson, Tyson Whittum and Tyler Compton.

Area fuel stations to Bracketime Marts

BY ROSE PANIERI STAFF WRITER

Seven area Minit Mart convenience stores will soon be transformed into Bracketime Convenience Marts LLC (BTCM).

BTCM, headquartered in Houston, TX, plans to open the former Minit Mart stores in Coal City, Wilmington, Braidwood, Elwood, South Wilmington and Mazon as Bracketime Convenience Marts in November. Each of the stores will close a day or two this week as the transition is made.

Slow but sure Bret Sullivan, regional operations director for BTCM, is overseeing the transition, reassuring existing staff that their positions are safe and their loyalty appreciated.

"We have been in contact with all the Minit Mart employees," Sullivan said. "They know the store better than we do, and we will depend on them to teach us."

Initially, there will be few changes, beyond re-branding, to existing stores. BTCM prefers to move

slowly, making only positive changes.

"Minit Mart is more restrictive at the store level because they want the stores to be uniform," Sullivan said. "We don't operate like that. We want to offer more variety."

With considerable competition from businesses such as Casey's General Store and Love's Travel Stop, Sullivan realizes he has his work cut out for him. Still, he's not worried since he believes a smaller company like BTCM can offer what larger corporation cannot or will not: Local flair.

"Our operations are a little more focused on what's local than Minit Mart," Sullivan said. "Minit Mart was part of a huge corporation, we are not. We prefer to focus on what's local, and that's going to vary by town."

Micro-local offerings Sullivan said BTCM makes a big effort to be good neighbors. Therefore, store managers will play an integral part in the development of Bracketime stores.

Like all gas station convenience stores, Bracketime

will offer standard fare like food, coffee, soft drinks and cigarettes. If the existing store already offers gaming, BTCM will continue to make that option available.

However, Sullivan believes the difference between Bracketime and other markets is being a good neighbor, and making an effort to get to know customers.

"One big difference is we will look for local products to sell," Sullivan said. "If somebody has something like a regional honey, or something like that, we'd like to include it in the store's inventory."

Sullivan believes in simplicity. BTCM has no formal floor plan for stores, as BTCM prefers the stores to evolve, becoming a true part of the community served.

Again, unlike stores owned by conglomerates, BTCM has the option to break the mold by offering unique products and services.

"Customer service is also a vital part of who we are," Sullivan said. "We want to focus on and participate in community events, we want to get to

know our customers. That's how we're different."

A smaller corporation

Established in 2004, BTCM has emerged as a multifaceted enterprise, specializing in the operation and management of gas stations, food strips, ATMs, and retail strips. The corporation currently operates Bracketime markets throughout Texas, Arkansas, and Colorado, recently acquiring stores in North Dakota and Montana. The Illinois stores will be among its first acquisitions in the Midwest. With the Illinois acquisitions, BTCM will own nearly 200 convenience stores.

The area Minit Marts were among 225 stations sold in 2018 by TravelCenters of America, LLC, to the UK-based EG Group for \$305 million.

In 2023, the EG Group sold off 26 non-core Minit Mart convenience stores (12 percent of the total) including those in our area, for \$48 million, according to CSP Daily. Not all Minit Marts were acquired by BTCM. Casey's acquired Minit Mart stores in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Diamond fire claims lives of father, son

Campaign underway to help family

STAFF REPORT

A house fire in the 800 block of Crystal Lane in Diamond claimed the lives of two members of the same family on Sunday, Nov. 3.

Grundy County Coroner John Callahan's office is reporting the death of Charles W. "Bill" Tabler, Jr., 63, and his son, Alex Tabler, 26, who tragically died as a result of the blaze. Betty Tabler and Dan Tabler, were hospitalized, their condition currently unknown.

The Coal City Fire Protection District

reported that at 5:56 a.m. it was dispatched to the home on Crystal Lane.

While rushing to the scene, the Grundy 911 dispatch said it was receiving multiple calls about the fire with witnesses stating the fire was intense, with flames engulfing the structure, leading first responders to request additional support.

Crews were advised that people still in the structure were unable to get out.

In a statement, CCFPD said upon arrival, smoke and heavy fire were observed throughout the house. Simultaneous rescue and extinguishment attempts occurred. One victim was located and transported to a local

SEE FATAL FIRE PAGE 2

Reed-Custer Senior Spotlight shines on Owen Dooley

The Senior Spotlight winner for the month of November is Owen Dooley. Owen is the grandson of Gary and Lisa Basham. During his high school career, Owen was involved in Football, Wrestling, and National Honor Society.

He was also a Class Officer, Class President, a Student of the Month, a participant in the ICE Leadership Conference, Captain of the Football Team, a member of the Academic All-Conference Football team, and was on the High Honor Roll.

His future plans are to join the Army after graduating from Reed-Custer and entering the Law Enforcement field.

Here are a few thoughts from Owen's teachers.

Mrs. Meyr says that Owen is "a phenomenal young man. He is determined, hard-working, and self-motivated. Owen puts his all into everything he does and has been a fantastic aide for me. I know that his determination and self-discipline will take him far in life. Owen is strong in his beliefs and stands up for what is right. It has truly been an honor getting to know

him more this year, and I wish him much success in the future."

Mr. Wolf thinks that Owen is "an amazing young man who always finds the good in people. He has always exemplified living the right way and has been a terrific role model for younger students. I can't say enough good things about him."

Mr. Johnston appreciates that Owen is "a great leader and is dedicated to anything he tries. Owen never missed summer workouts or practices for football and always put the team first. His leadership skills are unmatched."

Mr. Graham is thankful that Owen "was the first student I connected with

when I joined the district as a new teacher. He's incredibly respectful, trustworthy, and hardworking, always bringing a great sense of humor to any situation. He will definitely be missed next year."

Mrs. Rankin believes that Owen is "an outstanding young man and a great leader in the classroom. I will miss his sense of humor and his fun conversations next year."

Mr. Cappel says that Owen is a hard-working and respectful young man who is always calm under pressure."

Mr. Kristofer thinks that Owen's "strongest positive traits are that he is hard-working, attentive to detail, and is always willing to help others."

Mr. Gleixner acknowledges that Owen is "the type of kid you would want for your neighbor. He is reliable, responsible, and an all-around great influence. Owen's hard work is the epitome of what a Reed-Custer

SEE SPOTLIGHT PAGE 2



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Fatal fire, continued from page 1

hospital, and two other victims were transported with incident-related injuries.

The coroner's office reported that Charles "Bill" Tabler died at the scene while Alex Tabler was later pronounced dead at the Morris Hospital.

The Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office, along with the CCFPD, MABAS 15 fire investigators, Grundy coroner and Sheriff's offices are investigating.

Damage estimates are in excess of \$300,000.

Coal City was assisted by firefighters from Braidwood, Wilmington, Morris, Gardner, Braceville, Seneca, Channahon, Dwight, Elwood, East Joliet, Marseilles and other EMS agencies.

Go Fund Me established

The Tabler family lost everything in the house fire and an outpouring of support is underway to help them with what will be significant medical bills, funeral expenses and more.

A Go Fund Me account has been set up. As of early Tuesday \$59,260 was pledged by donors, surpassing the \$50,000 goal.

To contribute, please visit Go Fund Me online at gofundme.com/support-the-tabler-family-after-tragic-fire.

Spotlight, continued from page 1

student should be."

Mr. Klein believes that Owen is "a great leader in and outside of the classroom. He really stepped up as a leader on the football team this season. He has been a mentor to our younger players. He always has a smile on his face and always gives his best effort no matter what the situation. He is the perfect example of what we look for in a COMET student/athlete."

Mrs. Redwitz says that Owen is a "student who has shown a maturity level, even as a freshman, that is well beyond his years. He is driven and sets goals for himself."

Ms. Zastrow is grateful that Owen "is a great kid with a good head on his shoulders! He works hard and never takes the easy way out!"

Mrs. Lee appreciates that Owen is "such a joy to be around! He is a mature, kind-hearted young man. Owen always has a smile on his face and carries a positive attitude each day. His work ethic is going to carry him far in life!"

Mr. Frieders says that "I never had Owen in class, but I did have him in CT last year. I can confidently say he is a leader among his classmates. During last year's freshman orientation, Owen set up and represented the GAVC Criminal Justice section all by himself. Having most of his gear on him or on display, Owen was knowledgeable and professional as he interacted with potential students of the course and their parents."

As a final thought, Owen's advice to younger students is, "Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. The only real enemy you will face is yourself. The work ethic to improve constantly will always make that battle easier."

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, we would like to congratulate Owen Dooley as the November winner of the Senior Spotlight.

Section 8 Housing offer on Facebook called a scam

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) is alerting households of an online scam pretending to be IHDA or a similar housing entity.

The scam is presented as a flyer posted on Facebook announcing the opening of a waitlist for specific properties as part of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).

The scam encourages residents to provide their information through a fraudulent link or to visit

the IHDA office in person. This is not an IHDA program.

A false Facebook page has also been created imitating IHDA. If individuals use Facebook for housing information, please verify you are interacting with the agency's official page by identifying the blue checkmark next to the IHDA name. Individuals who are unsure may access IHDA's Facebook page by visiting www.ihda.org and clicking on the Facebook icon.

If individuals paid a fee or gave personal information to one of these fraudulent sites, please file a police report and also file reports with the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and the Federal Trade Commission.

Never give your Social Security Number, credit card number, or other personal information out on a website you find through an online search.

Reed Township accepting election packets

PUBLIC NOTICE

REED TOWNSHIP 2024 ELECTION
Petition package for the position of Township Supervisor, Township Assessor, Township Clerk, Highway Commissioner and Board of Trustees can be dropped off at 440 N. Division St., Braidwood, IL November 12-15, 4:30 - 6:30 and with final date November 18, 4:30 - 6:30.

Thomas Nahas
Reed Township Clerk
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024.

Fentanyl suspect from Honduras set free due to SAFE-T Act constraints

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

On the evening of Oct. 24, the Grundy County Sheriff's Office pursued and arrested two individuals found in possession of 3 kilograms (6.9 pounds) of fentanyl.

Following the arrest, Grundy County officials were required by the SAFE-T Act to hold a Pre-Trial Release Hearing within 48 hours, resulting in the release of one of the suspects before details of a prior criminal record could be obtained.

Roybin Barahona, 18, and Christian Erazo-Velasquez, 23, both Honduran nationals, were arrested following a high

speed chase.

Grundy County, deputies attempted to make a traffic stop around 4 p.m. of a red 2010 Infinity with suspended plates and registration at Route 17 and Kankakee Road.

Several hours earlier, the same vehicle had managed to elude Illinois State Police on Interstate 80, according to the sheriff's office.

According to officials, the suspects sped up, and deputies deployed a tire deflation device which successfully punctured one of the vehicle's tires. The Infinity landed in a field near Route 17 and 17000 West Road in Kankakee County, where it promptly caught fire. Both suspects



ROYBIN BARAHONA

attempted to flee, but were caught and arrested.

Upon searching the vehicle, deputies discovered three kilos of suspected fentanyl. Both suspects are facing charges of trafficking of a controlled sub-



CHRISTIAN ERAZO-VELASQUEZ

stance, possession of fentanyl, and resisting arrest.

Officials held a Pre-Trial Release Hearing as required by the Illinois SAFE-T Act. Due to the nature of the charges, the state's attorney's office wanted both suspects detained.

Velasquez was detained due to an outstanding immigration detention warrant and criminal history. However, the 18-year-old Barahona was released, since no prior record was available within the required 48-hour hearing window required by the SAFE-T Act.

After Barahona was released, Grundy County officials discovered that he had been previously reported missing from California's Teen Ranch - a youth rehabilitation facility - and had a juvenile record that may have led to his detention had the information been available sooner.

In a press release highlighting the need for SAFE-T Act reforms, Senator Sue Rezin (38th District) stated

"According to the DEA, the amount of fentanyl seized in this arrest is enough to kill 3.5 million people. The pre-trial release of this suspect highlights the critical gaps that remain in the SAFE-T Act that must be addressed to ensure our local law enforcement and judicial system have all the tools they need to protect the public."

Rezin said she is looking into legislation that would make fentanyl-related charges automatically eligible for detention.



FENTANYL SUSPECTS' CAR

Donations being accepted for Shop with a Cop and Blue Santa events

The Braidwood Police Department is accepting donations for their 2024 Annual Shop with a Cop and Blue Santa events which will take place this holiday season. Cash or check donations may be dropped off at the Braidwood Police Department Monday thru Friday, between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please make checks payable to: Braidwood Police Charity Fund.

Both events assist the community by connecting police officers with children in a positive way to help provide a Merry Christmas for those who live within the Reed-Custer School District and have experienced a life changing hardship.

During Shop with a Cop, the children are paired with police officers while they shop the aisles

of Morris Walmart for toys and gifts for themselves or their loved ones.

Blue Santa takes place on Christmas Day when police officers deliver meals to families in need which are donated by Top Fuel Saloon. Gifts are also delivered to the families thanks to the monetary donations which are received.

To help raise funds for the events, the Police Department will also be partnering with Rosati's Pizza of Braidwood to hold a fundraising event on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Rosati's will donate 15% of the proceeds from purchases on Nov. 20 to the Shop with a Cop and Blue Santa events. Those wishing to participate must mention "Braidwood Police" when placing their order.

Is your town giving you proper public notice?

Public notice has been an integral part of the Illinois Compiled Statutes since statehood because it serves several purposes.

Public notice requires governmental entities to tell when hearings are to be held, how money is being spent, what laws are being passed, what property is being sold.

Public notice provides a permanent record of actions that are taken and a legally defensible notification of actions about to be taken.

Public notice is the only way that exact wording can be provided by the

entity's counsel.

Newspapers ensure government accountability by acting as an independent third-party. Government officials must ensure that the actions of the government are transparent to the general public.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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Good Times, Good Days in Custer Park

Horse Creek Dock, now known as Custer Park, was for a short time in its history, a seaport. Well, almost anyway. You could board the little steamer



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

named the "Mohawk Belle" at the landing and take it all the way to Chicago via the Kankakee Feeder Canal and then the I & M Canal. Or you could go the other direction to LaSalle, and this would take you to the Illinois River system where you could transfer to a paddle wheeler and on to the Mississippi. But after the arrival of the Wabash Railroad, river transportation died. It simply wasn't as convenient or as comfortable.

The railroads also meant growth for the little village. Eventually three icehouses were built there. The first one was thought to have been built in 1881, by the railroad on the east bank of Horse Creek, on the south side of the river. It was eventually purchased by the Knickerbocker Ice Company. It burned down in 1899 when struck by lightning.

The Anglo-American Produce Company built the second in 1892 on the north shore and in 1896 George Scroggins, a Wabash Railway station agent, built a third. Both of these were also eventually bought out by the Knickerbocker Company. The purpose of these was to store Kankakee River ice for use by the railroad. It enabled the shipment of fresh produce, such as butter, oysters, and milk.

Because the Kankakee was known for its pristine waters, the ice cut during the winter was unusually clean and pure. It was used primarily to keep produce cold during shipment by

rail, but because of its purity it was also used for household purposes. There were also ice-houses in Wilmington, Kankakee, and Channahon.

During peak operation periods, the ice-houses employed over 200 people. Some men went out onto the ice to cut the huge ice blocks out of the river using two man saws, which can still be seen in local museums. Other men towed the blocks to conveyors, which carried the ice from the riverbank to the storage house, where it was packed in straw for insulation. At night, workmen towed a block of ice back and forth between the conveyor and the harvesting area to prevent the open channel from freezing over.

To house the ice cutters, warehouse workers, and railroad employees, four hotels were eventually built. John Sword built one in 1880 on South Road now known as Church Street. It catered chiefly to permanent guests. Another known as "Little's Hotel" was built and owned by Camden Knight between 1880 and 1885. Later it was owned and operated by Arthur Shinaberger. It was finally converted into an apartment building. It came up for sale in 1980; asking price was only \$15,000 (\$56,350 today). Unfortunately, it burned down in 2012, the last of the great hotels of Custer Park.

The third hotel was located diagonally across the railroad track from the Little's Hotel and looked exactly like it. It catered to the transients such as the hunters and fishermen who came by rail and buggy. Business was looking so good that in 1894 a building and loan association was established. T.J. Neese was president and C.W. Johnson

was secretary. Total assets at the end of that year amounted to \$1,277 (\$45,700). However by 1901 its charter had been surrendered and it no longer existed.

Most people living in Custer Township were farmers, but at the end of the 19th century, there was employment for those who wanted to leave the farm. The railroad hired men to help at the pumping station. Their job was to keep the tanks full of water regardless of the weather, and to pump it into the locomotive steam engines that stopped to refuel. Other men were hired as section hands. It was their job to keep the track in their "section" in perfect order.

Telegraph operators were also in demand until the great Depression of the 1930's. After mastering the Morse code, a telegraph operator could find a job anywhere in the country. An operator who moved frequently from one railroad to another was known as a "boomer," and was somewhat of a hero to the local boys who would watch him for hours while he interpreted those mysterious clicks of the telegraph key.

Women could make a few cents selling basket lunches and dinners to the railroad workers and their passengers. Children selling their mothers specialties, such as fried chicken or meat pies, would meet each train.

However, technology reared its ugly head, and caused the demise of the ice industry in Custer Park only a few decades after it started. Inventors had been working in the refrigeration field since the mid 1880's, but made real headway after the winter of 1889-90. An extremely mild winter throughout the nation left most icehouses empty. This convinced shippers of produce that

depending on Mother Nature's bounty was not enough, and mechanical refrigeration soon took over. By 1904 all the ice-houses in the area had closed their doors.

During the 1890's a few part time jobs could also be had at the Custer Park Bowery. This was an amusement park, built by the Wabash Railroad to encourage weekend riders. It was located just east of the railroad between Old River Road and the present location of the Custer Park School. Ten-car excursion trains bearing Chicago fun-seekers, mainly from German neighborhoods, would arrive early in the morning and return to Chicago very late in the evening. There were picnic groves, concession stands, a merry-go-round, sideshows, games of chance, and a dance floor.

A German oom-pah band could be heard every weekend in summer.

Another attraction for the excursionists was a little riverboat operated by Nick White, an enterprising railroad conductor. For 25 cents, riders were given a 2-mile cruise upstream from the docks just outside the park.

After the death of the ice industry, the hotels were used less and less, the park faded away and most people in the township were employed in farming. During the Depression of the 1930's the enterprising Custer Park citizens once again turned to the Kankakee for their livelihood. They became "clambers."

Today, Custer Park stands serene and still, with the waters of Horse Creek running down to the lovely Kankakee and no one would guess that at this spot industry once thrived, and there was a boom economy.

Senior night with the band

continued on page 11.



RCHS BAND SENIOR Anthony Matke is the son of Jason and Melissa Matke and being escorted by his parents. After graduation, Anthony plans on taking some time off for himself then eventually attending an electrician trade school.



RCHS BAND SENIOR Alex Bielfeldt is escorted by his parents, Terry and Carol Bielfeldt. In the fall, Alex plans on continuing to play baseball in college and pursuing a degree in electrical distribution systems.



RCHS BAND SENIOR Clayton Perkins is the son of Erica Perkins and being escorted by his mother. After graduation, Clayton plans on continuing his education and working towards a law degree with a double major in accounting.



RCHS BAND SENIOR Alice Gruber is the daughter of Chris and Sarah Gruber and being escorted this evening by her parents. In the fall, Alice will be attending Northern Illinois University to major in English and minor in Journalism.



RCHS BAND SENIOR Lily Cardenas is the daughter of Ken and Elicia Bochenek and the late Michael Cardenas and being escorted by her mom, Elicia and stepdad, Ken. After graduation, Lily plans on attending Olivet Nazarene University where she will be studying elementary education, music and family ministry.

RCMS first quarter honor roll

HIGH HONORS

8th grade - Quinn Bandy, Logan Baumgartner, Heidi Budick, Isabella Dixon, John Dixon, Sophia Dixon, Elleanor Frieders, Faith Hathorn, Johanna Janopoulos, Mackenzie Loveland, Kennley Poole-Crites, Ava Povalish, Harper Roberts, Griffin Schmeckpeper

7th grade - Christopher Baldo, Charlotte Barry, Shelbie Bohac, Katharine Carson, Brooklynn Dante, Mollie Dockery, Lucy Esparza, Nolan Freitas, Marshall Gee, Ahna Hone, Makenna Hone, Jolene Janopoulos, Karolina Lichaj, Annalie Mendez, Brayden O'Neil, Isabella Padilla, Alli Quigley, Sarah Simonelli, Macey Steichen, Maximus Thibodeaux

6th grade - Sydney Bohac, Lucas Doolin, Cash Herbert, Shane Knych, Michael Krueger, Willa Meyer, Trong Nguyen, Alexander Thibodeaux, Lillian Trost, Paisley Wilson

HONORS

8th grade - Adalyn Alexander, Caden Atwell, Nathan Banach,

Maeley Bohac, Brandy Bragg, Collin Bryant, Johnathan Buchanan, Cali Cassem, Torian Christakes, Samuel Crotty, Griffon Davies, Anaila Edwards, April Fierro, Sophia Flowers, Mary Foley, Addison Gurney, Tyler Hammett, Kennedy Hartley, Alexander Hayes, Caydon Hoover, Jordan Howell, Kamryn Hutman, Cole Kmetz, Robert Krakowski, Laurelai Kucera, Nathan Leon, Dylan Leonard, Bryn Lestina, Jakob Lichaj, Alivia McCure, Jayden Norris, Piper Passini, Addison Peters, Charles Plummer, Dominic Smith, Corbin Stahl, Avah Thompson, Ethan Thompson, Micah Tolstych, Avery Vanek

7th grade - Lily Anderson, Maya Blish, Elaina Brick, Raegan Cesena, Kayla Condreay, Mackenzie Cosgrove, Dawson Cox, Andrea Cracraft, Maddelynn Dienes, Alaina Edwards, Ryan Haake, Teagen Hambrick, Emma Hertz, Sakura Hoffman, Aiden Jones, Taylor Kroehler, Isla Las Cola, Makayla Morris, Mia Nacey,

Marlene Ontiveros, Aryana Ortiz, Brody Osborne, Payton Pivonka, Riley Probus, Landon Reeb, Kaylee Scholtes, Adali Simpson, Gavin Spiese, Cassandra Theres, Brett Thompson, Ryland Toler

6th grade - Andrew Adams, Avaleigh Adams, Kinley Albin, Gabriella Arch, Landon Atwell, Emersyn Bandy, Tinley Bernico, Yvani Berrios, Mason Bishop, Elle Bohac, Amelia Cook, Edward Davies, Joshua Forsythe, Ryker Giffin, Ryland Glass, Braxton Grayling, Makayla Hall, Maxximus Hayducak, Selena Hoffman, Jack Johnson, Brandon Kuchar, Alexis Mallaney, Mathias Martinez, Tanum Michaels, Liam Monahan, Laila Morrissey, Connor Perveiler, Josey Pivonka, Bentley Plotts, Emily Reese, Eamon Roberts, Abel Rodriguez, Brantley Sarallo, John Savarino, Audrey Shores, Luke Soto, Zack Soto, Amelia Stephens, McKenna Sterling, Collin Storm, Paisley Sukley, Matthew Tibble, Bailey Vaughn, Emma Vicente, Gavin Vogler, Allison Widlacki

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs

Nov. 7 & 8-AARP Driver Safety, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A program for individuals 55+ to teach them safe driving techniques. Cost is \$20 for AARP members (with ID card) and \$25 for non-members. No charge for members insured by Hartford Insurance. Make checks payable to AARP. Payment is required on the first day of class. Attendance of both classes is required for a discount.

Tuesday, Nov. 12-Well-Read Book Club, 1-2 p.m. November's title: The Art Thief, by Michael Finkel.

Wednesday, Nov. 13-Crafting Gifts with Herbs, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Using herbs to create special scented and edible gifts is fun, inexpensive, and easy. In this program, participants learn steps to craft various gifts for men and women with fresh and dried herbs and other plant materials. There are culinary blends, vinegars, baking mixes, simple potpourri, cocktail ingredients, and special

scented items for fragrance or bath. Tips on gift wrapping and presentation are also included. Patrons will return home with bath salts or lotions.

Teen and Tween Programs
Wednesday, Nov. 6-Denim Deconstruction, 4:15-5:15 p.m. Bring a pair of jeans, shorts, or jacket and paint on them, put studs in them, or distress them. Decorating supplies will be provided. Unfortunately, the jean material is not provided.

Children Programs
Wednesday, Nov. 6-Chess Club for all ages. 5-7 p.m. Parents must accompany children.

Wednesdays, Nov. 6, 13, 20-Lap-Sit, 10-10:30 a.m. Let's instill a love of books in children from birth to three years old. This program is designed to introduce your child to the wonderful world of books. Caregiver participation and guidance are required as we read, sing, and do finger plays.
Thursdays, Nov. 7, 14,

21-Toddler Time, 10-11 a.m. We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us weekly to explore various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.

Thursdays, Nov. 7, 14, 21-Listen and Create Storytime, 6-7 p.m., ages 3-5. Children can explore new books and engage in a fun craft project. Please make sure to dress in clothes that can get messy, as the craft project will involve getting creative with various art materials.

Monday, Nov. 11-No-School movie Matinee: Kung Fu Panda 4 (2024), 1-3 p.m. Bring refreshments or enjoy light snacks. running time is 1 hr., 34 minutes. Registration is required for all programs at the library. For more information call 815-458-2187.

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Bad day

BRAIDWOOD—I have a suggestion for the teachers/teachers aids in the car rider pick up/ drop off line at the elementary school. If you don't like your job ask to be assigned to a different location. Yelling at a 50-year-old parent because you forgot their child is not how to end a day.

Campaign spending

WILMINGTON—The current political voting cycle has really made me realize how much better we, as a community of Americans, can better use resources. The millions and millions and millions of dollars being spent by national, state and local candidates seeking office is criminal. The average American is bombarded by election advertising for months and months ahead of the vote. Just stop and think of how we can come together to improve the daily lives of those in this country who don't have enough to eat; who must choose paying for food or paying for medications; who are trying to rebuild after natural disasters; who can't afford day care; or who can't pay their medical bills. If candidates really care about the constituents they represent, then the money they are all so eagerly willing to spend on advertising needs to be channeled differently. Maybe we should entertain the idea of a 50-50 split? For example, if a candidate wants to spend 10 million on their campaign, then they must also provide 50% of that campaign expenditure towards charities of their choice. Therefore a total of 15 million spent. Companies and individuals who donate towards a campaign would need to understand that 50% of their donation would be channeled to the candidates' charities of choice. This just happens to be one example of how we can support our neighbors. There are many other ideas of how to spend all these wasted advertising dollars. Just stop and imagine the impact. Now that type of process would be worthy of my vote.

A moot point

WILMINGTON—President Trump may fail as a speaker but is a proven businessman. His opponent is a great speaker but a poor businesswoman. I'm afraid of her leadership skills and how she looks to other world leaders. Would they be more weary of America with a strong defense and a leader who our military respects. By the time you read this it will be a moot point. Time to get back to being Americans as one people. Last and not least, we won't have to hear from one of the candidates after this as our constitution states two terms. How about term limits for every other politician? No matter which side, they forget about us and it's

Berkot's deserves it

WILMINGTON—I recently needed some alcohol for the holidays. I went to the new Jewel in Diamond and noticed they have a full selection of liquor. I purchased liquor and a few other items. The city of Wilmington lost out on the sales tax for all of those purchases. I feel our city administrators should reconsider allowing the newly remodeled Berkot's to sell all types of alcohol to remain competitive. Berkot's has spent a considerable amount of money on their store and deserves some help from our administration. We do not want our town to become a food desert.

Next for Diamond

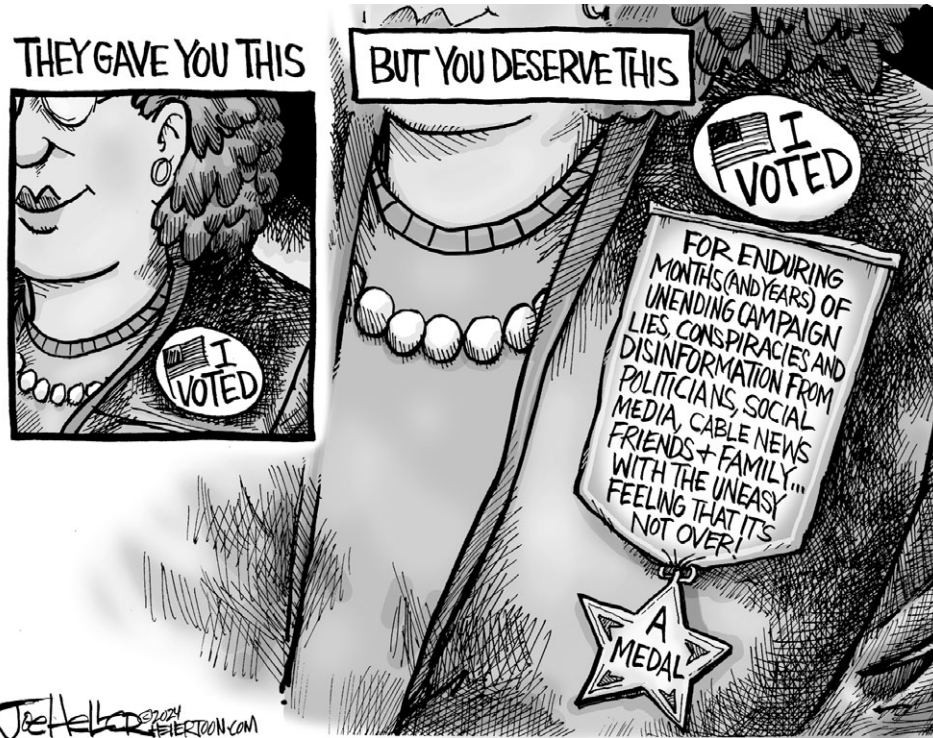
COAL CITY—The Village of Diamond's motto is "Alive and growing." Well with all the recent growth happening, it's time to cut the apron strings and grow a school and a police department just like a big city should.

Award deserved

WILMINGTON—I was not surprised in the least to read the article in the newspaper about Matt Baskerville and his funeral home receiving another award. There are no words that I could use to describe Matt. He is one of the most outstanding young men I have ever met in my life and he has helped me so much over the years. Matt took care of everything when my daughter's grave moved from Cook County to here. Matt does so much for the community, especially St. Rose, and I hope the people of St. Rose truly appreciate him. And I hope everyone in this community appreciates him. Thank you so much Matt for your caring, your kindness and your support and your amazing staff. You have the best employees in the world. I wish you continued success, happiness and good health. May God bless you, your family and your staff. Sheri Michaels.

Time's up

This is being sent in before the election results are known, and Trump is either president or filing his lawsuits everywhere. He may just surprise us all, and get on his jet and fly out of the country. With this being said I could have helped his chances of being elected. All that he and old buddy Elon had to do is donate a few million dollars to the states that were hit by the hurricanes. Just that act of kindness and generosity would have locked up the states in the southeast, because they said FEMA did not have the money to help. But what am I nuts, thinking that they would donate anything to those in need without some strings attached? God Bless our Veterans.



We are losing birds

WILMINGTON—According to scientists at Cornell University laboratories, the latest news is that our country is losing birds at an alarming rate. And just as history taught us the practice of using canaries in the coal mines of yesteryear, today's bird populations warn us of dangers in earth's biosphere in the present. And so when we might think it's a beautiful day, dangerous conditions might be threatening life around us, which must be examined thoroughly so that we have the opportunity to make corrections for all species, even our own. But what if our political leadership is more interested in profits rather than health? And so it is with Trump who gutted the EPA during his presidency, all the while pretending that our water was pure. Maybe water was pure for Trump's gold-plated faucets but not at all from the lead pipes of Flint, MI. And that's just one of the many environmental issues plaguing our nation, our continent, our planet. Of course, Trump is an obfuscated liar who would be happy should the entire world be a cesspool of carcinogenic toxins if it meant another filthy dollar in his pocket. The menace of Trump's 922 page Project 2025 threatens everyday Americans while the billionaires would be allowed to thrive. And that's why Trump should never be allowed to come near the Oval Office again. Irene

9-to-1

SHADOW LAKES—I have always thought sound off was the first amend-

ment at its finest posting things that the editor knows may not be true but it's free speech. But I find it odd a week before the election we get nine anti trump posts and one pro trump post. Odd or taking sides?

Editor's note: No sides taken. We print what's submitted without prejudice. We wondered why the Trump supporters weren't calling in too.

A big lie

COAL CITY—Every citizen should contact their senators and congressmen to file a complaint about the lies that have come out of the mouths of the public servants at the nation Personal Records Center in St. Louis, MO. The public is being told that the military records were destroyed in the fire at the National Personal Records Center in 1973. But this has been a coordinated lie for decades with the help of the VA since the military documents are recorded on microfilm, microfiche and now on electronic storage. The records from the fire were wet and freeze dried for repair. The public servants were lying just so they could be paid to do nothing. Lying, lazy tax related ploys that take advantage of Americans for their own comfort with more tax funds wasted on crooked liars. Both of these branches of government need to be investigated and every public servant held accountable for their inept responsibilities to the laws of the USA. We need a giant broom.

A close election

WILMINGTON—If God is on Trump's side why is it so close?

Commentary

The hidden costs of our dietary guidelines

BY JANET KING AND CHERYL ACHTERBERG

Whatever your opinion of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., he's the first national candidate to platform the issue of chronic disease in America. To address this crisis, for children and adults alike, our response should be bipartisan. As former members of the expert committee that oversees the science for the U.S. Dietary Guidelines, we can tell you that these chronic diseases are primarily driven by poor diet, and our guidelines are part of the prob-

lem. Published every five years by the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA), the guidelines represent more than just suggestions. They're the nation's nutritional North Star. But they've led us astray. Today, over 70% of American adults and one-fifth of children are overweight or obese. As members (and one of us chaired) the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, we aimed for the highest quality reviews. Sadly, those standards have deteriorated, leading

to a national nutrition policy that no longer reflects the best or most current science. The guidelines were controversial at the start. In 1980, the National Academy of Sciences derided the diet's foundational studies as "generally unimpressive." Despite these concerns, the guidelines were embraced by government officials for most of the next four decades -- even as the concerns of skeptics grew louder. In 2017, two landmark studies from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

delivered a critical verdict: the development process lacks scientific rigor and transparency, leading to guidelines that were not "trustworthy." The reports made 11 concrete recommendations to improve rigor and transparency in the guidelines process. Yet, shockingly, follow-up evaluations in 2022 and 2023 revealed that the USDA had fully implemented none of them. The result? Continued untrustworthy guidelines that continue to drive bigger waistlines and poorer metabolic health. Consider: Since the first guidelines were published in 1980, we've been told to fear fat and instead consume more than half of all calories as carbohydrates. This advice fundamentally misunderstands metabolism. Chronic, excessive carbohydrate consumption -- especially refined grains and added

sugars -- drives obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other metabolic disorders. The guidelines also maintain an unfounded hostility towards saturated fats, ignoring the last decade of evidence challenging their link to heart disease. Following the guidelines, Americans have increased grain calories by 28% since 1970, while reducing red meat intake equally. Butter and egg consumption dropped as vegetable oil use surged 87%. We've engineered a dietary disaster, swapping wholesome, satiating foods for processed carbohydrates that leave us hungry and sick. Fortunately, hope is on the horizon thanks to this year's farm bill. This massive legislative package, revisited every five years, could be the key to unlocking a healthier future for America.

The bill proposes crucial reforms to the guideline-development process, demanding "standardized, generally accepted evidence-based review methods" and requiring full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest among committee members. By mandating greater transparency and adherence to rigorous scientific standards, we can begin to rebuild trust in these crucial recommendations. It's an opportunity to reclaim our health, one meal at a time. Janet C. King, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of Nutritional Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. Cheryl Achterberg is a former Dean at The Ohio State University and was a member of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. This piece originally ran in The Hill.

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Large 1 Gallon Milk \$4.88	Large 1 Gallon Milk \$4.88	Large 1 Gallon Milk \$4.88	Large 1 Gallon Milk \$4.88	Large 1 Gallon Milk \$4.88
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JJC Planetarium Hosting Accessible Night Under the Stars

Joliet Junior College (JJC) is excited to announce "An Accessible Night Under the Stars," a unique event designed to celebrate disability awareness and inclusion. Hosted by JJC's Disability Services and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) offices, this special evening will take place on Thursday, Nov. 14, at the Herbert Trackman Planetarium on JJC's Main Campus. Tickets and event information can be found at: <https://jjc.edu/accessible-night-under-stars>

The event will feature an engaging planetarium demonstration and show, followed by a one-hour reception with live music, hors d'oeuvres, a 50/50 raffle, and displays of accessible technology. This inclusive event aims to provide an enjoyable and educational experience for all attendees, highlighting JJC's commitment to accessibility and community engagement. As a community college committed to making education and campus experiences accessible to all, JJC continually strives to foster an inclusive environment where every individual can thrive.

Saying what they want without consequences

As usual, plenty of false claims have been made during this state legislative election cycle. But the campaign I keep going back to in my own mind is the battle in the 97th House District.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

The race features freshman incumbent Rep. Harry Benton (D-Plainfield), a union ironworker and a former local elected official. The Republican challenger is Gabriella Shanahan, an executive assistant with the Illinois Policy Institute. Organized labor is keen on this race because the Illinois Policy Institute is known for its anti-union crusades and Benton is one of their own. The 97th District had been held by the Republican Party before the 2021 remap, so the Republicans really want to win it back. But the remap did a number on this district. Donald Trump lost the old district by 8 points in 2020 and 3 in 2016. Trump lost the precincts that make up the newly redrawn district by more than 10 points in 2020 and 6 in 2016. Every statewide Democratic candidate has won the precincts in the new district

going back to 2016 except one, appointed Republican Comptroller Leslie Munger won it by less than 4 points. The freshman incumbent and the Democrats have been playing some games there, despite having a huge fundraising advantage of close to \$2 million for Benton to \$525K for the Republican Shanahan (including a \$100,000 loan from herself on November 1) as I write this four days before the election. My associate Isabel Miller reported a while back that Rep. Benton told WSPY Radio earlier this year he was "pretty happy to see that the grocery tax is going away," after the governor proposed eliminating the tax during his State of the State message in February. Some of Benton's campaign mailers even claimed that the incumbent, "supported the elimination of the grocery tax."

But when it came time to vote on eliminating the grocery tax, Benton didn't vote either way. Benton told Isabel that some of his municipalities would lose lots of money since the one percent grocery tax was solely collected for local governments. But when Isabel asked him why he was touting a position that he didn't officially take, Benton said, "Since I didn't vote on HB 3144, people wouldn't have known my position. I wanted to let people know before anyone could misrepresent my position that while there were parts of that bill I didn't agree with, I had spoken out about cutting taxes on groceries." Um, OK. Last month, the Democrats ran a digital ad blasting Shanahan for accepting contributions from politicians who "voted to block funding for testing rape kits," among other things. That allegation was based on campaign contributions from Republican state legislators who voted against the state budget, which included funding for rape kit testing. Shanahan has indeed received money from several of those GOP members. However, wanna take a guess who also voted with those very same Republicans against the omnibus appropriations bill (SB251)? If you said, "Rep. Harry Benton," you win a prize. A person close to Rep. Benton said at the time that the freshman incumbent had no veto power over the House Democratic ads. Well, the incumbent's personal campaign fund, Friends to Elect Harry Benton, then began run-

ning a Chicago broadcast TV ad that made the same exact hypocritical charge. "Gabby Shanahan won't protect women," Rep. Benton himself said in the voice-over. "She's backed by extreme politicians who voted to block funding for testing rape kits."

In other words, he was personally, with his own voice, blasting his opponent for taking money from Republican legislators who made the same exact "No" vote that he did on the budget. Rep. Benton also said this in the ad: "I voted against a new tax on retirement savings for our seniors." No bill number was flashed on the screen as a reference, and I have no idea what the heck he was talking about. The almost comically lopsided imbalance in campaign money this year means that Democratic candidates can basically say whatever the heck they want without any sort of consequence. And the collapse of local news media in the state means that almost nobody in the district will ever hear about this and the incumbent won't be called out. The Democrats know all this, of course, which is why they do it. Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

The Reed-Custer High School Class of 1974 50th Class Reunion
Date: Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024
Time: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Venue: TOP FUEL SALOON
275 South Hickory Street Braidwood, IL (Former Knights of Columbus Hall)
TOP FUEL is a full restaurant and bar; where you will be able to purchase your own food & beverages if desired. A room with chairs & tables will be available for our class to gather, catch up and share past memories & good times with each other. No other provisions will be provided. If you have any questions, please call: Sherri Favero Lestina 815-250-8883

NOVEMBER 2024
Sat., Nov. 9, 8pm - 12am
SATALYTE GYPSIES
Rock & Roll • No Cover
Sun., Nov. 17, 3pm - 6pm
SILVERSTRINGS
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Nov. 27 • Black Wednesday
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Will gas drop under \$3/gal?

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 4.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.23/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 19.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 27.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. Micro-locally, prices are close to dipping below \$3/g. In Wilmington, you'll pay anywhere from \$3.08/g at Mohsen's to \$3.15/g at Shell. Braidwood offers gas at \$3.13/g at Casey's, up to \$3.24 at BP. Coal City Shell has gas for \$3.09/g to \$3.12 at BP. Further afield you'll find gas under \$3/g. Morris Casey's comes in at \$2.99/g with the price at \$3.19 at

BP. Across the board, Bourbonnais gas prices are under \$3/g. At Gulf, you'll pay \$2.88/g and the highest price for gas is \$2.99/g at BP. "Seasonal trends continue to push down gasoline prices across much of the country, with GasBuddy counting 26 states where average gas prices have fallen below \$3 per gallon—something that could be less than a week away for the national average," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "For now, Americans can expect the downward trend to continue in most states, while other states have seen prices jump temporarily due to a behavior we track called price cycling. We should see the number of states with sub-\$3-per-gallon prices grow as we get closer to Thanksgiving." The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.54/g while the highest was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$2.25/g.

Chamber seeks entries for Christmas parade

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce will host a lighted Christmas parade Saturday, Nov. 30. The parade will start at 5 p.m. at Wilmington Middle School and travel on Ryan to Water Street to the post office. Community groups and local businesses are invited to enter for free. This year's theme is "A Charlie Brown Christmas". We kindly ask that no entries feature no live Santa Claus as the Chamber has already received confirmation from the North Pole that Santa will be attendance. **Deadline to sign up by Saturday, Nov. 22.** Information will be sent to parade entries including map with the lineup. For additional information contact Marty Orr at wilmingtongchamberparade@gmail.com. Line up at 4 p.m. *****
Organization/business: _____
Contact person: _____
Email: _____
Phone number: _____
Type of entry (float, equestrian, walkers, antique vehicle, decorated vehicle, if other, describe): _____
Is your entry political, No - \$0, Yes - \$50: _____
Total dimensions of entry (including vehicle pulling float, trailer etc): _____
If there will be any type of sound (siren, music, horns, etc) please describe: _____

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| Raelyn Aldridge | Jack Ekstrom | Ethan Lawless | Charlotte Sassenger |
| Maverick Albin | Maura Ekstrom | Maelyssa Lawless | Henry Sassenger |
| Cody Allen | Ryker Feil | Rhett Liebermann | Sylvester Shores |
| Coltin Allen | Carson Feehan | Levi Liebermann | Audrey Shores |
| Jnae Allen | Timothy Feehan | Brooklyn Long | Autumn Shores |
| Vincent Allen | Marina Figge | Johnny Long | Sarah Simonelli |
| Laura Sue Allen | Drake Figge | Rory Loughran | Ella Spicuzza |
| Lucy Allred | Daniel Fite | Kennedy Loughran | Gionna Spicuzza |
| MyKinley Barnett | Kellen Forsythe | Brady Loughran | Jackson Steinhouse |
| Madi Barnett | Liam Galass | Evangeline Ludes | Jayne Strong |
| Bradie Barnett | Jagger Garcia | Noah Machalek | Madielyn Strong |
| Randy Bisailon | Ryder Gill | Caleb Machalek | Liam Sukley |
| Reese Bisailon | Carter Giordano | Daniel Matsko | Ryan Sukley |
| Bristol Bisailon | Maverick Glastetter | Molly Matsko | Clay Surman |
| Mollie Bohac | Brooklyn Glover | Maddox Meents | Cason Surman |
| Taylor Bova | Jett Granger | Avery Micklos | Elizabeth Vancura |
| Brinlei Bulthuis | Maryana Granger | Lydia Mikula | Will Vancura |
| Ryder Cavanaugh | Briyee Grigus | Zoei Mikula | Gavin VanDuyne |
| Johnny Carver | Charlee Hameister | Lian Miller | Gabby VanDuyne |
| Julian Carver | Mason Hansen-Strukel | Bennett, Miller | Darcy VanDuyne |
| Gianna Carver | Ellie Hansen | Kamille Morris | Dane VanDuyne |
| Vella Carver | Alden Hill | Rose Mugnolo | Madisen VanDuyne |
| Andi Chandler | Tyler Hill | Nicholas Mulvihill | Talan VandeWerken |
| Chloe Conrad | Kamryn Hutman | Zachary Mulvihill | Kaysen VandeWerken |
| Lila Conrad | Colton Hurley | Matthew Mulvihill | Kashton Vogler |
| Olive Conrad | Madeline Hutchings | Ashton Nelson | Nate Vogler |
| Avery Crisman | Cruz Islas | Natalie Olson | Gavin Vogler |
| Cole Cutter | Max Islas | Brextton Owensby | Alivia Waliczek |
| Drew Davidson | Elizabeth Jensen | Dean Penz | Trinity Whalen |
| Evrett Davidson | Oliver Jones | Cain Perry | Anna West |
| Wyatt Davidson | Cooper Jones | Alfred Perry | Abigail West |
| Hailey Dickover | Dax Kehm | Lrandyn Pierard | Gray Wetenkamp |
| Kate Dillon | Graham Kerr | Trevor Wolf | Makayla Winnie |
| Graham Dillon | Meldoy Kinder | Landon Reeb | Rose Wolf |
| Talor Dillon | Justin Kinder | Cooper Rivera | Will Wolf |
| Abigail Donnelly | Abigail Kinnett | Oakley Rivera | Mason Wolf |
| Ethan Donnelly | Ben Kintz | Whyatt Robinson | Avery Wynn |
| Aiden Dumycz | Rose Krug | Brantley Robinson | Liam Wynn |
| Izzy Edgeworth | | | Kylie Wynn |

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

- A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for 2024 will be held on November 18, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. at the District Fire Station, located at 100 Park Road, Manhattan, Illinois. Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact President William Moncrief c/o Manhattan Fire Protection District, 100 Park Road, Manhattan, Illinois, telephone (815) 478-3197.
- The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$6,765,721.00. The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$7,154,400.00. This represents a 5.74% increase over the previous year.
- The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$0.00. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$0.00. This represents a 0% increase or decrease over the previous year.
- The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$6,765,721.00. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$7,154,400.00. This represents a 5.74% increase over the previous year.

Dr. Yerkes and staff would like to congratulate all the cavity free kids for the month of March - September, 2024. Keep up the good work!

Farm community rallies around injured friend, shares message of road safety

BY PHYLLIS COULTER
FARMWEEK



WILLY VANWASSENHOVE

Willy VanWassenhove, a Kankakee County farmer and a newlywed of six months, pulled his truck and hayrack over to the side of the road when he noticed a couple of bales rocking.

And then his life forever changed.

While he was standing between the truck bed and hayrack, a vehicle rear-ended the wagon, pinning him and crushing his legs, according to a fire official on the scene. He has had 12 surgeries as of Oct. 23, including the amputation of his right leg near the knee.

One of his latest procedures was to address a blood clot on his lung. He remains at the University of Chicago Medical Center,

battling persistent infections with no idea when he will be able to go home.

"We've been through a lot," said his wife, Lisa, who remains by his side and uses Facebook to keep friends and family posted each step of the way.

"We have a huge community helping us," she said of friends, family and neighbors doing hog chores, moving hay, selling pork and raising money to

help with hospital expenses.

People in their community tell her this is their way of giving back to a family who's always been willing to help others.

The couple has been together for almost 11 years but just officially tied the knot this spring. Their happy memories of a "beautiful wedding" on March 16 help them as they struggle with their new reality.

He hopes to eventually be fitted for a prosthetic leg but will also have a very long road to recovery. He has started physical therapy to strengthen his upper body, and when ready he will move to the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago, she said.

The priority of his family and friends is to help take care of the daily tasks on the farm until he recovers. But they are also prioritizing sharing the importance of road safety and awareness of farm vehicles.

VanWassenhove was parked on the side of the road, with flashers on, and displayed a slow-moving vehicle sign when the vehicle crashed into him from behind.

"This accident is a prime example of the importance of farm safety awareness and has impacted families across Illinois and all the way to Kansas," said Halie Kohl, a youth he inspired through his volun-

teer work with livestock.

"Willy has played a monumental role in my livestock show career and has been a great, selfless role model to look up to," said Kohl, an Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader who wanted to do something to help the farmer who was inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame in 2023.

So, she designed a T-shirt featuring an orange, slow moving vehicle sign with the words "Save a Farmer + Slow Down" on the back and "Willy Strong" on the front. She is selling them online at stores.inksoft.com/willy-strong until Nov. 1 with \$5 from every shirt going help the family.

Many people know the Kankakee County Farm Bureau member, who raises and breeds Berkshire hogs, has a hay business and sells pork, because VanWassenhove was also so active in the dairy and pork industry. He assists youth with their projects across Illinois, is the Kankakee County Fair Livestock Auction Committee chair, and co-superintendent of the Swine Barn. "During the Illinois State Fair, he can be found volunteering to serve ice cream near the butter cow in the dairy building," Kohl told FarmWeek.

"With the support of the 4-H and farming communities including Cabery, Campus, Cullom, Herscher, Kempton and communities including Ashkum, Chebanse, Clifton and surrounding areas, along with family and friends from several states praying and sending their care and thoughts, I have no doubt my husband will pull through this and come back out on top," Lisa said. "He's a fighter."

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.

American Legion to hold Poppy Day this Saturday

The poppy serves as the nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice honoring American men and women who served and died for the country in all wars.

The Wilmington American Legion will hold its annual Poppy Day fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 11 a.m. to noon, at the corner of Baltimore Street and Water Street. The money that is collected is to support Be The One Suicide prevention part of the American Legion.

If you are a veteran with PTSD or depression and would like to talk with a Wilmington veteran, who has lived through this, call 779-206-8391. For the veterans crisis line dial 968, press 1.

Wilmington VFW holding kids coloring contest

The Wilmington VFW is holding a Veteran's Day coloring contest for children through the sixth grade.

There will be three age categories judged with the youngest being pre-kindergarten through 1st grade; 2nd through 4th grade; and 5th through 6th grade.

Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each age group.

Participants can stop in the Malcolm J. Mayo

Post at 557 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington and color a picture they select. On the back, they write a couple sentences (mom and dad can help the youngest group) on what a Veteran or Veteran's Day means to them.

VFW members will judge them leading up to Veterans Day deadline on Nov. 11. This is being sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. All entries will be displayed on the walls at the post.

Knights of Columbus to hold raffle

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus 1574 are raffling off \$1,000 in prizes. All proceeds benefiting the Veterans home of Manteno.

Tickets are \$5 each or six tickets for \$20. A single ticket has a chance to win five different prizes. Winners will be drawn on Nov. 30 on the Braidwood KofC Facebook page on live stream.

Tickets can be bought from any KofC member, by calling/texting John at 815-651-1963, or by email at kofcbraidwood@gmail.com

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OBITUARIES

Mary M. Beldon

MORRIS—Mary M. Beldon, 74, of Morris, passed away Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, at Morris Hospital. Born on Dec. 8, 1949, in Morris, Mary Madeline was a daughter of Francis E. Sr. and Frances Agnes (Adams) Halpin. She grew up in Gardner, where she graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School. With a passion for helping others, Mary pursued her education in nursing at St. Joseph College of Nursing.



Throughout her career, Mary initially working in hospitals before transitioning to skilled care facilities, where her compassion and dedication shone brightly. A devoted member of First Baptist Church in Morris, Mary found joy in her faith and the community she cherished. Beyond her commitment to nursing and church, she had a passion for collecting porcelain dolls and enjoyed watching NASCAR, a love she shared with her late husband, Dan. Above all, Mary was a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her family was her greatest treasure, and she cherished time spent with them. Survivors include her two sons, Aaron Wendel, of Morris and Adam Wendel, of Oglesby, IL; five grandchildren: Aaron

Wendel, Madeline Wendel, Anna Wendel, McKenna Mae Wendel and Matthew Wendel; one great-grandson, Sylas James Wendel; one brother, Francis "Frank" (Debra) Halpin, of Gardner and her sister, Donna (Bill) Wethington, of Coal City, as well as several nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, Robert "Dan" Beldon. The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 E. Washington St., one block east of IL Route 47 in Morris on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, from 11 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12 p.m. Pastor Steve Larson from First Baptist Church of Morris will officiate, and burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris. Mary will be laid to rest with her late husband, Dan. Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Mary's memorial page online through social media. Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Morris.

Suzanna Frederiksen

COAL CITY—Suzanna Frederiksen, "Sue," 75, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024 at Morris Hospital.



Born Feb. 17, 1949 in Joliet, Suzanna was a the daughter of Anton and Gladys (Argyle) Togliatti. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1967. On Nov. 1, 1969, Sue married John Lee Frederiksen at the Coal City United Methodist Church, and together they would share 55 years of marriage and call Coal City their home. As a young woman, she operated her own cake baking business out of her home, providing excellent wedding and birthday cakes to all of her customers. Sue later attended Governors State University to complete her Bachelor's Degree of Science in Education and achieved her Master's Degree from St. Xavier College. She began her 27-year career as an educator with the Coal City School District in 1991 teaching science. Sue loved opening young children's minds to the wonders of science, and was particularly proud to sponsor the gardening club at the school to give students hands on experiences. She was a member of the Illinois Science Teachers Association and looked forward to the Illinois Science Teachers Convention every year.

Sue was an active member of the Coal City United Methodist Church and was a part of the Sunshine Circle there. She had a great appreciation for the outdoors, enjoying camping trips to the Coal City Area Club as well as family trips to explore the country, particularly their trip to Yellowstone National Park. Sue took pride in her garden, carefully maintaining her beautiful flowers and cultivating her vegetable garden. She was an avid reader and life-long learner with a passion for history, particularly learning about Abraham Lincoln. Sue loved being with her family and raising her children, becoming a big fan of the University of Illinois football and basketball after her all her children attended college there. She was a social person with

a sharp wit, elevated by her sarcastic nature, which she passed on to her children. Sue undoubtedly was at her best when she was with the people that she knew and loved, celebrating the moments and memories she made with them throughout her life. Survivors include her three children: Amy Borchelt, Amanda (Steven) Burns, and Erik (Alanna) Frederiksen, all of Coal City and one son-in-law, Tom Borchelt Jr. of Morris; five grandchildren: Jacob and Natalie Borchelt, August and Victoria Burns and Nolan Frederiksen; two brothers, Dave (Donna) Togliatti, of Coal City and Mark (Merikav) Togliatti, of Morris; her brothers and sisters-in-law: Maryann (Jimmy Dean) Krug, of Coal City; Doug (Cheri) Sutton, of Texas; Cinda (Michael) Conroyd, of Arizona; Lark (Deb) Frederiksen, of Verona; Leann Havekost, of Florida and Michelle (Don) Wilson, of Channahon and numerous nieces and nephews. Sue was preceded in death by her parents and her husband; mother and father-in-law: Earl and Lois Frederiksen; one brother-in-law, Vince Hodgson; two nephews, Kevin Togliatti and Craig Holmes and her life-long friend, Linda Odo. The family will receive friends for a visitation at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdele Rd., in Coal City on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024 from 3 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 6 p.m. Reverend Jay Regennitter will officiate, and cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral service. Inurnment will follow at a later date in Braceville Gardner Cemetery. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Sue's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com, upload photographs, and share Sue's memorial page via social media. Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

Susan E. Lindsey

CUSTER PARK—Susan E. Lindsey, "Gal," 81, of Custer Park, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024 at her home.



Born on Aug. 5, 1943 in St. Louis, MO, she was the daughter of Jarvis and Marie (nee Alms) Nolan. She married Basil L. Lindsey and together they made their life and raised their family in Custer Park. After 30 years of employment as a packer she retired from Personal Products/Johnson-Johnson in Wilmington. She was a member of Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington. She enjoyed crocheting, planting flowers and making home made candies. Most of all Susan loved spending time with her family. Surviving are her daughter, Terri L. (Charly) Wilson, of Gardner; son, Thomas

L. Lindsey; seven grandchildren: Jeremy, Nichole, Matt, Adam, Lindsey, Brandy and Tommy Jr.; nine great-grandchildren; sisters: Patricia (Gerald) Scheidt, of Cairo, IL; Judy (Bill) Guthrie, of McLeansboro, IL; Norma (Melvin) Wike, of Indiana; Phyllis Sampson and Carol (Phil) Adams; best friend, Louis Scott; special niece, Tanya Gurnitz and many numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents, Jarvis and Marie Nolan; husband, Basil L. Lindsey (7-6-2013); daughter Tina L. Stewart; brother, Phillip Nolan; and sister, Sharon Zbasnik. Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements have been entrusted to R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

Deadline one week away to file for Grundy County Consolidated Election

Lunch at school

- Mon., Nov. 11:** No school
- Tues., Nov. 12:** hot ham & cheese on bun, cheese hash browns, strawberry applesauce and milk
- Wed., Nov. 13:** walking taco, roasted mexican corn, salsa, mixed fruit and milk
- Thu., Nov. 14:** cheese pizza, romaine garden salad, orange sherbert, pears and milk
- Fri., Nov. 15:** spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic toast, peach cup and milk

Grundy County Clerk, Kay Olson reminds residents the following offices are up for Election in the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election are:

- MUNICIPAL – Mayor or President, Aldermen, Commissioners or Trustees
- PARK DISTRICT – Commissioners
- LIBRARY DISTRICT – Trustees
- REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOL – Trustees
- SCHOOL DISTRICT – Board Members
- COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – Trustees
- FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – Trustees

The County Clerk's Office handles petitions packets for school boards only, including Coal City

Unit 1, Gardner 72, South Wilmington 74, Braceville 75, GSW High 73 and others.

Candidates may also download the packet from the County Clerk's website at: www.grundycountyil.gov, under 'Elections' then under upcoming Elections', and may also request a petition packet by e-mail, by contacting the Clerk's Office at: elections@grundycounty-il.gov.

All other candidates filing for the Consolidated Election, must file with the board/district in which they are seeking office.

Petitions may be filed in person by the candidate, or a candidate representative, beginning Tuesday,

Nov. 12th thru Monday, Nov. 18, 2024.

The Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will be open until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of filing. Petitions may also be filed by mail, by mailing to: Grundy County Clerk, 111 E. Washington St., Room 12, Morris IL 60450; however, they must be returned by Monday, Nov. 18th. Petitions received before the first day of filing cannot be accepted.

Please note that the County Clerk and staff cannot provide legal opinions regarding petition papers. Prospective candidates are encouraged to consult their own legal advisors on questions related to their petition packets.

Once petition papers are filed, they cannot be changed or amended. Please note that a candidate's nominating papers are subject to legal challenge by qualified objectors.

The 2025 Candidates Guide and the 2025 Abbreviated Calendar are available online, at the Illinois State Board of Elections website at elections.il.gov.

For more information, please contact the Grundy County Clerk's Office at (815) 941-3222, Option #1, or elections@grundycounty-il.gov.

Local zip codes added to list of children at increased risk of lead poisoning

Children in Braidwood, Braceville, Elwood, Gardner, Coal City, and Wilmington may be at higher than average risk of lead poisoning.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has announced an expanded list of high-risk ZIP codes, increasing mandatory testing for lead exposure of children who live within those areas. 148 new zip codes, including our read-

ership area, have been added to the list, bringing the total of high-risk ZIP codes to almost 1,200.

"There is no safe level of lead in the blood," said IDPH Director, Dr. Sameer Vohra. "To better serve our children and build brighter futures for all of our residents, IDPH is acting to ensure that more children have access to the testing and interventions necessary to decrease the potential serious physical and developmental health concerns linked to lead exposure."

Under Illinois law, any child residing in a high-risk ZIP code is to be tested automatically at 12 and 24 months. All children six years of age and younger are required to be assessed for lead exposure through the use of a questionnaire administered by a pediatrician.

In addition, children who fall into other risk categories spelled out in the questionnaire are also tested.

High-risk ZIP codes are determined through an algorithm that assesses a number of different risk factors. The department has been expanding that list of ZIP codes gradually and expects to implement universal testing for lead exposure across all Illinois ZIP codes by 2026. The expanded list can be found

at: [Pediatric Lead Poisoning High-Risk ZIP Code Areas \(illinois.gov\)](http://Pediatric Lead Poisoning High-Risk ZIP Code Areas (illinois.gov)).

Under current Illinois law, blood tests which come back with lead levels in excess of five micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) require a public health intervention.

This includes a home inspection to determine

the source of the lead contamination. If lead is found, the inspector will work with the homeowner to remove the sources of lead.

In addition, there will also be a visit from a public health nurse who will educate the family on ways to protect children from the harmful effects of lead.

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Month Nomination form

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and Industry sponsors an Employee of the Month award each month. The public is invited to make nominations of an employee in a local business who is courteous, attentive, sincere and makes it a pleasure to patronize that business.

Send nominations to Chamber of Commerce Ambassador's Committee, c/o Chamber of Commerce, 616 Davy Lane, Wilmington, IL, 60481, or email info@wilmingtonchamber.org

I wish to nominate this individual for Employee of the Month:

Name: _____

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Comments: _____

Your name (optional): _____

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Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive Thanks A Million For Your Contributions

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 would like to thank all of the merchants and members of our communities for their donations to our drive to assist people with Intellectual Disabilities. We would also like to thank all of those who helped in any way to make this past year's program successful. Thanks again for the help. We especially thank the following Businesses for their support. The dates were Sept. 13, 14, and 15, of 2024.

Merchant Contributors 2024

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The effects of "greening" Antarctica

Dear EarthTalk: Is the so-called "greening" of Antarctica as its ice melts actually helping to prevent climate change given that plant life absorbs and stores carbon?
- W.P. Smith, via email



As Antarctica warms due to climate change, an unexpected phenomenon is occurring: the "greening" of the continent. As ice melts, certain areas once covered in snow and ice are becoming hospitable to algae and other plant life. A

key question arises: Does the increased carbon capture from this greening offset or help prevent climate change? The "greening" of Antarctica primarily refers to the growth of green snow algae, which thrive in the increasingly warmer temperatures of the Antarctic Peninsula. As temperatures rise slightly above freezing, especially in coastal regions, these algae blooms are expanding significantly. These blooms are acting as carbon "sinks," absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2) through photosynthesis, which reduces greenhouse gases. According to a study by the University of Cambridge, green snow algae in Antarctica capture approximately 479 tonnes of CO2 annually, and their growth

is expected to increase as the snow melts and more land becomes suitable for these blooms. While the role of algae as a carbon sink is positive, there are several limitations to its impact on mitigating climate change. First, the scale of the carbon sequestration is relatively small when compared to global CO2 emissions. The estimated 479 tons of CO2 captured by Antarctic algae is just a fraction of the billions of tons emitted annually worldwide, rendering its contribution minimal in the grand scheme. As a result, while algae may contribute to reducing atmospheric CO2, it does not provide a large enough offset to make a significant dent in global warming. Moreover, the overall ecological and climate

impacts of Antarctica's greening are most concerning. The melting of Antarctic ice is leading to rising sea levels, which far outweigh the benefits of carbon sequestration by its algae. And this global sea level rise threatens coastal communities and ecosystems around the world. Additionally, the introduction of plant life into Antarctica's fragile ecosystem may create new environmental challenges, disrupting existing species and possibly causing further ecological shifts that could have unforeseen consequences. While Antarctic algae blooms represent an interesting phenomenon, to combat climate change effectively we need to focus on reducing our carbon footprint through renew-

able energy, supporting reforestation projects, advocating for strong climate policies, and reducing waste.
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Grundy Bank urging high school seniors to enter contest for \$21,000 in scholarships

Grundy Bank is participating in a scholarship competition that enables Illinois high school seniors to enter a statewide essay-writing contest. It is all part of a program sponsored by Illinois community banks and the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking to increase public awareness of locally-owned banks and their contributions to the community. Grundy Bank is a member of the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) which formed the Foundation in 1996. A monetary award in the amount of \$1,000 a year for up to four years of higher education will be award-

ed to the author of the best essay submitted to the CBAI Foundation by a participating Illinois high school senior. Up to 11 additional first-place \$1,000 awards and 12 second-place \$500 awards are available in each of the regions of the state. An additional \$500 will be awarded to the high school of the overall winner. The bank is working with Wilmington, Coal City, Reed-Custer, Morris Community, Minooka Central and Seneca high schools for student submissions. The length of the essay is not to exceed one page on the theme; double-

spaced, using Times New Roman font, and 10-12-point size. Information on the contest is available at the bank and the schools. Essays must be submitted to the bank by Wednesday, Feb. 26. The bank will then submit selected essays to

the CBAI Foundation to be eligible for the statewide competition. Based in Springfield, CBAI is a professional association that represents nearly 300 Illinois chartered banks and thrifts throughout Illinois.

Braidwood Lions Club will be selling Christmas trees

The Braidwood Lions Club is holding its annual Christmas Trees Sale fundraiser beginning Monday, Nov. 25. The club's stand is located in the Whitmore Ace Hardware parking lot in Braidwood. Balsam trees ranging in height from 6 to 9 feet along with small and large size decorated wreaths, grave blankets, small & large size grave pillows, and various artificial greenery decorations will be for sale. Lions club house brooms, heavy duty brooms and whisk brooms will also be available for purchase. Hours are Monday thru Friday from noon - 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while supplies last. Sales

will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 for Thanksgiving and will resume Friday, Nov. 29. Purchase a Christmas Tree from the Braidwood Lions and receive a voucher for a free 6 feet Ace brown indoor extension cord, compliments of Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood, while supplies last. All proceeds from the tree sales will go back into the community in the form of the various community activities and humanitarian services that the Braidwood Lions Club provides throughout the year. For more information please call (815) 791-8093 or visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org

Women of the Moose 781 having casserole cook-off

WOTM 781 of Wilmington Moose Lodge is sponsoring a casserole cook off on Sunday, Nov. 10, from noon to 4 p.m. Enter a 9x13 casserole or larger and give a donation of one toy for children at Mooseheart (babies to teens or a donation for their needs). The general public is invited to pay \$1 per tick-

et to taste the casserole and proceeds from the tickets will go to veterans. The top three casseroles will be given a prize. It will be held at the Moose Lodge at 32050 W. River Rd., Wilmington. It is open to the public. For any questions call Janice at 815-922-9039 or Traci at 815-405-8063.

Immaculate Conception to host night at the races

Braidwood's Immaculate Conception Church is hosting a night at the races Saturday, Nov. 9. Doors open at 5 p.m. First race is at 6:30 p.m. Come join us for a night of horse racing, raffles, food and fun. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for \$10 each (with \$10 in play money). Grab your partner, put on your favorite western outfit and come on over for a high spirited good time. Call Sara at 815-341-5946 or Tami 815-405-0982 for tickets. Must be 21 to attend. Cash bar and food will be available.

Braidwood Knights offer breakfast to veterans

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 will be serving a free breakfast for Veterans on Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 1180 W. 1st, in Braidwood at the (Ignite Church). A free-will offering for all non Veterans.

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VETERANS DAY
Fundraiser
Saturday, November 16th, 2024
3:00 PM
American Legion Koca Post #39
553 W. Kennedy Road, Braidwood
FOOD • MUSIC • RAFFLES • GUN RAFFLE
PULL TABS - SILENT AUCTION - 50/50
ENTRY FEE:
ADULTS: \$20.00 CHILDREN: 3 TO 12 YEARS \$10.00 2 AND UNDER ARE FREE
Proceeds to benefit: OUR VETERANS in distress, Reed Custer High School Scholarship Program, and The Veterans Fund
For more information, call (815) 216-2570

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DUPLEX FOR RENT

Duplex for rent in Diamond on 1 acre lot. 2 bdr, 2 bath, 1 office. Hardwood floors, laundry room. Lg deck, outdoor shed. \$1,700 mo. No pets, No smoking. 630-854-7300 cc45-46

HOMES FOR SALE

For sale by owner in Wilmington. Ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 full baths, living room, family room, open concept kitchen & dining room with center island and quartz countertops. Back patio and beautiful deck with a gorgeous view of the Kankakee River. Call 815-405-8038. ca45-46

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DUPLEX FOR RENT

3-Bedroom Duplex, Diamond, IL. Ranch style, attached garage, concrete drive, washer/dryer hook-up. Year lease, credit check, no pets, no smoking \$1,250 per month, security deposit, plus utilities. Call 815-351-2494. ca43-46

GARAGE SALE

Wilmington, 3 Family Sale. 991 E. Kahler Road. Friday, November 8, 9am-4pm and Saturday, November 9, 9am-1pm. Home decor, kitchen, holiday, outdoor, tools & tool storage, collectibles: Elvis, Lucy, M&M's, sports. Lots of misc. way too much to list.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Commercial buildings for rent or sale in Essex. 815-405-5020. ch43-50

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



WANTED

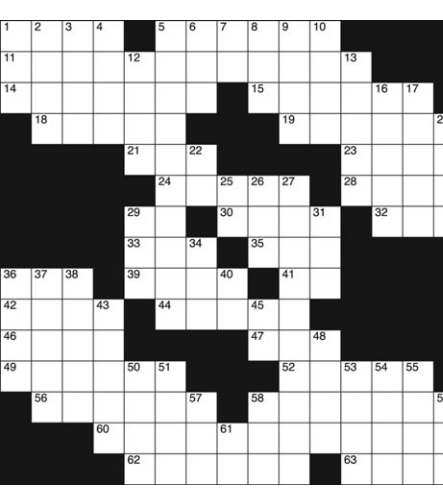
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			2			
		4				
9	7	1		6	4	5
		9			5	7
	9	6	7			
					1	
5	6			2		9
8		5			7	1
4				8		



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Absence of effort
 - Preserve a dead body
 - Gratitude
 - The act of coming together again
 - Simpler
 - Visionaries
 - Large, fish-eating bird
 - Indicates near
 - Former CIA agent and critic
 - Icelandic poems
 - Pop
 - "Hammer" is one
 - Senses of self-importance
 - Thyrotrophic hormone
 - Not around
 - Electronic data processing
 - Laid back
 - Jeweled headdress
 - In slow tempo
 - ___ Falls
 - Assertions made again
 - Periods of history
 - Hyphen
- CLUES DOWN**
- Body part
 - Mimics
 - Expel large quantities rapidly
 - Sea eagle
 - A type of subdivision
 - Variety of Chinese
 - Mr. T's name on "The A-Team"
 - Consumed
 - Chinese dynasty
 - NFL great Randy
 - Ireland
 - Palm trees with creeping roots
 - Fungal disease
 - Impressionable persons
 - Affirmative! (slang)
 - Instinctive part of the mind
 - "The First State"
 - A way to develop
 - Fraternities
 - Woman (French)
 - Sunscreen rating
 - Beer
 - Spiritual leader
 - Indigo bush
 - Burn with a hot liquid
 - Junior's father
 - Ray-finned fishes
 - Morning
 - Line passing side to side through the center (abbr.)
 - Double curve
 - A small bundle of straw or hay
 - Got older
 - Crater on Mars
 - Humanities
 - Relating to the ears
 - "To the ___ degree..."
 - Residue of a burned product
 - It cools a home

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. 7800 E. Goodfarm Rd., Gardner, IL (One mile south of RECOS Road House) Estate of Jerry & Barb Bryant

GO TO AUCTION ZIPCOM I.D. 9525 FOR LISTING AND PHOTOS Two story Home, 5 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 plus car garage on 3 acres. Contact auctioneer Bob Hintze to view home 815-228-7634.

Larry Wharrie Attorney For Estate HINTZE AUCTION SERVICE INC. LIC# 440000682 • PHONE 815-228-7634

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MORRIS \$289,900 Beautiful 3BR home west of downtown with new kitchen, bathroom, vinyl windows & more. Shawn 815-474-6670. JW760	VERONA \$215,000 Approximate 6 acre parcel w/farm buildings, silo, detached garage and home which is a tear down. Call/Tam 815-368-5330.	MORRIS \$215,000 Charming 3BR home located in a country subdivision just minutes from downtown Morris. Shawn 815-474-6670. DS3605	COAL CITY \$195,000 Well cared for 3 BR, 1 BA ranch home. This home has a deep lot with 1.5 car detached garage. Theresa 815-735-8494. TB560
MORRIS \$224,900 Adorable 4BR Cape Cod with hardwood floors, updated bath, fenced yard & two garages. Shawn 815-474-6670. BK828	MORRIS \$169,000 Spacious 4-5BR, 3BA home w/ oversized 1 1/2 car garage in prime location near downtown Morris. Shawn 815-474-6670. NC206	PRICE REDUCED	



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.

2	9	9	8	6	8	1	7
1	7	8	7	9	6	2	8
6	7	8	7	1	7	8	9
8	1	6	8	7	2	9	2
7	8	2	7	9	8	6	1
7	9	9	1	8	6	2	8
5	2	7	9	8	1	7	8
9	6	1	9	7	8	7	8
8	8	7	6	2	7	9	1

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continued from page 3

Senior night with the band



RCBS BAND SENIOR Halayna Keymon is the daughter of Brandon and Jessica Keymon and being escorted by her parents. In the fall, Halayna plans on attending JJC to work in the Culinary and the since the options are endless, she has considered becoming a tattoo artist as well.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Jack Krall is the son of Abby Greiter and Ben Krall and being escorted by his parents. After graduation, Jack plan on continuing his education and working towards a degree in mechanical engineering.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Kellan Schott is the son of Ellis and Robyn Schott and being escorted by his parents. In the fall Kellan plans on attending JJC and working on an associate in applied science then work as an electrical technician.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Jadyn Walsh is the daughter of Justin and Julie Walsh and being escorted by her parents. In the fall, Jadyn plans on attending a college in the warm state of Florida to work towards a career in Interior design.



RCBS BAND SENIORS Emily & Katelyn Wietting are the daughters of Matt and Jen Wietting and being escorted by their parents. In the fall, Emily plans on attending JJC to continue her education.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Carter Jones is the son of Tom and Heather Jones and being escorted by his parents. After graduation, Carter plans on attending JJC and working towards a career in industrial maintenance.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Storme Lipinski is the daughter of Andrea Perez and Ken Lipinski and being escorted by her parents. In the fall, Storme plans on working towards a career as an ultrasound technician.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Sarah Schulte is the daughter of Bryan and Krista Schulte and is being escorted by her parents. All though undecided, Sarah would either like to work towards becoming a vet tech at Mizzou in Missouri or working in the world of social media and continuing her YouTube channel.



RCBS CHEER SENIOR Madelyn Brown is the daughter of Holly Brown and Mike Esposito and being escorted by her parents. In the fall, Maddie plans on attending esthetician school.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Emma O'Neill is the daughter of Kim Treglio and Brian O'Neill and is being escorted by her parents. In the fall, Emma plans on attending Illinois State University to major in Elementary education and minor in music performance.



RCBS BAND SENIOR Lily Basgen is the daughter of Michael and Carrie Basgen and being escorted this evening by her brother, Kyle Byerley and sister in law, Ali Nance. After graduation, Lily plans on attending Olivet Nazarene University to study Environmental Science.

Delinquent Property Tax List for Custer and Reed Townships PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intended Application for Judgment for Sale of Properties Upon which Real Estate Property Taxes and Special Assessments are Delinquent. List of delinquent properties with owner names and amounts for Custer and Reed Townships.



CARRYING THE BALL for the Comets is Brady Tyree.

Photo by Angela Rose



COMET THOMAS EMERY catches a pass from Comet quarterback Jacob Reardon.

Photo by Angela Rose



DEFENDING THE back court for the Reed-Custer varsity volleyball team are Jayden Brodinski (left) and Morgan Toler.

Photo by Eric Fisher



DEFENDING THE right side for the Lady Comets is junior Kamryn Marschner.

Photo by Eric Fisher

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A QUICK FLIP! Sophomore setter Kirstin Klein looked as though she was going to set the ball but instead flipped it backwards over the net for a quick point.

Photo by Eric Fisher



SERVING THE BALL for the varsity Lady Comets is junior Ella Anderson.

Photo by Eric Fisher