



RC honors students of the month

Gamboa encourages female wrestlers



BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL.com

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Comprehensive plan open house slated for this month

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

It was January 2022 when city leaders in Braidwood were first informed that the city would receive technical assistance creating a new comprehensive plan.

Now, with public comments and survey results in hand, the city is ready for the next steps, starting with an open house and discussion at the end of this month.

Last year, the city of Braidwood was awarded assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for creating a new comprehensive plan, a process equivalent to roughly \$150,000. The new plan will replace the city's previous comprehensive plan, which was passed in December 2004 and is long out of date.

Following a survey period early last year, the city held an informational meeting in February 2022, where city leaders, representatives from CMAP, and members of the community put pen to paper to kick off the process.

A comprehensive plan is a long term plan designed to help guide development and growth, while maintaining what the community deems to be "good qualities" of the city.

Such plans serve as a framework for city and community leaders, residents, local business owners, and potential investors on the vision of the community.

A comprehensive plan can help the residents and business owners in the city make informed decisions on land use, transportation issues, infrastructure, and capital improvements.

Of the public input so far, revitalization of downtown has been a big issue for residents, as well as commercial or industrial business development on the city's outskirts. Residents who responded to that initial survey noted they would like to see the addition of a bank, more

business variety, and more family friendly businesses.

Survey participants also said they'd like to ensure Braidwood is safe for walking, biking and driving.

Additional items on the survey including a desire for additional community events and events for families and teens. Maintaining the small town feel of Braidwood—including keeping the crime rate low, creating a community center, enforcing local ordinance laws, and keeping Braidwood from becoming more like bigger cities such as Joliet—were all on the list of things responders wanted to see out of the plan.

To move ahead in the process,

the city has set a date of Nov. 30 for an open house. The event will take place at the Fossil Ridge Public Library from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

While the survey portion of the planning process has long been closed, residents can still participate in some aspects online. An interactive map where residents can drop a pin onto a site in Braidwood and comment on what they would like to see improved, added, or even remain the same is available as part of CMAP's official page on the project. As of Tuesday, there were 24 total pins dropped on that map, noting areas

SEE CMAP, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

OPENING BUNTING HARDWARE WAS the fulfillment Jack Bunting's lifelong dream to own his own business. The portion of Reed Street at Comet Drive where that business stood until Jack Bunting passed in 2000 has now been dedicated as Jack & Karen Bunting Memorial Drive.

A lifetime of dedication honored

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

To anyone just passing by, the lives of Jack and Karen Bunting may have seemed like typical small town faire in Braidwood in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Like so many others from the area, Jack worked at Caterpillar and Karen raised the couple's four children, Liz, David, Matthew, and Jacqueline.

But the Buntings did much more than lead a quiet life in the country.

The couple's years of service and dedication to the city of Braidwood and its residents were recognized over the summer with the official dedication of an honorary street in their names.

"My Mom and Dad were very civic minded," Liz Bunting Dixon said of her parents. "Her grandpa was the mayor here and police chief here and several other things,

so she got that from them. Dad just got it, I think he got it from Mom. That was his mission. To live with him, his mission was to make sure that Braidwood was the best thing."

Dixon said her Dad getting involved with the community took on a bit of a snowball effect as the children grew.

"When my brothers were younger, he coached little league," she said. "And Dad would go pick kids up in the back of the pickup truck to make sure that they got to the baseball games because their parents weren't home or didn't have time. And if they didn't have a baseball glove, he'd go find a baseball glove. He wanted those kids to do this, and if they wanted to do it then they were going to do it."

After little league, it was Cub Scouts. And from there, it was on to the school board.

"His first political posi-

tion, if you want to call it that, was school board when it was still two separate school districts and he ran for the Braidwood schools," Dixon said. "He was on there and Custer Park was struggling. And, I'm not saying he did it all by himself, but he was instrumental in saying that we need to combine these school districts, because if we combined them then the tax dollars will be used better and Custer Park will be served better. So, he worked on that and they got that done. He was president for two or three terms on the consolidated board."

Dixon's father was also part of the board when they built the high school.

Next, he served on the Wilco Board as President for one term and Vice President for several terms, back when Wilco was held at Joliet Central High School.

"He stayed there long

enough to make sure they got a new building," Dixon said.

Jack Bunting also served with the Rotary Club, acting as president for a few terms and serving as the Interact leader. Interact is Rotary International's service club for youth ages 12 to 18.

"They put basketball teams together and they went to a conference and they won first place in the conference," she said. "He was really proud of that."

Shortly after that, a seat on the City Council opened up due to a resignation, and Bunting was appointed as finance commissioner. He filled out the remainder of that term, then ran for his own term, winning that election.

On the council Bunting helped secure funds for a new water tower by approaching the school district. In exchange for the district

SEE BUNTINGS, PAGE 2

No injuries in Custer Township structure fire

STAFF REPORT

Just one month into its new agreement to provide fire and EMS services to Custer Park, the Braidwood Fire Department got its first call for a structure fire in the rural township just to the east.

On Nov. 2, the members of the Braidwood Fire Protection District (BFPD) responded to a call at 19247 Bauer Rd. of a structure fire.

The call came in around 12:30 p.m.

BFPD Chief Chris Jude noted in a press release that district personnel were on scene of an unrelated ambulance incident at the time of the call.

The response was upgraded based on information provided by dispatch. While en route to the scene, the BFPD were informed that animals may be trapped.

"Firefighters arrived on scene and were faced with a fully engulfed pole barn, that was unattached from the

home," Jude said in the release. "Arriving firefighters immediately began fire suppression and observed several animals in the vicinity of the fire. The animals were quickly cooled with fire hoses and remained safe in their pen. No animals were injured."

Firefighters secured rural water operations for water supply, and continued with extinguishment efforts until the fire was declared under control.

There were no civilian or firefighter injuries as a result of the fire.

The homeowners were not home at the time of the incident, and the fire was discovered by a passerby.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Braidwood Fire Protection District and the MABAS Division 15 Fire Investigation Team.

The Braidwood Fire Protection District was assisted by several other area fire departments.

Autumn burning returns to Midewin

STAFF REPORT

Residents should not be alarmed if they spot smoke and fire inside the confines of Midewin while traveling north.

The USDA Forest Service will be conducting prescribed burning throughout Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie during the fall of 2023 and the spring of 2024.

Because of changing weather conditions, Midewin officials note that it is difficult to say exactly what days burns will be conducted. In many cases the final decision cannot be made until the day of the burn.

All prescribed fire projects will be conducted in accordance with an approved burn plan to ensure the safety of people and property in the area. Burn plans describe the specific conditions under which burns will be conducted including the weather, number of personnel, and

opportunities to minimize smoke impacts.

Visitors are asked to avoid areas where prescribed burns are being conducted. As a result of the burns, some residents and visitors may see or smell smoke. People should not be alarmed; the fires will be carefully monitored.

Local authorities will be notified prior to burn days and kept informed throughout burning operations.

Prescribed fire provides the following benefits:

- Reduces hazardous fuels
- Minimizes the spread of plant and animal disease
- Removes invasive species that threaten species that are native to an ecosystem

SEE BURN, PAGE 2



SALE VALID 11/9-11/15/23

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272
COAL CITY 815-634-4224
BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD AT
BERKOTFOODS.COM

Berkot's Digital Coupons- must clip coupon at BERKOTFOODS.COM

Best Choice Salted or Unsalted Butter Quarters- 1 lb
Reg Sale Price: **\$2.99**

Flora Bath Tissue or Paper Towels- 6-12 Roll
Reg Sale Price: **\$4.99**

Nabisco Oreos- 7.9-14.03 oz
Reg. Sale Price: **\$3.99**

DIGITAL COUPON

\$2.49

when buying 2 with \$1 digital coupon

DIGITAL COUPON

\$3.99

with \$1 digital coupon

DIGITAL COUPON

\$2.99

with \$1 digital coupon

Buntings

assisting with those costs, the city renamed the roadway in front of the school as Comet Drive.

"He could finagle. He was a very good politician," Dixon joked.

Bunting also served on the Braidwood Police Department from 1966 until 1974, first as a patrolman and later as chief, back at a time when community policing meant something different.

"I can remember them standing down in the kitchen, the whole police department, there were five of them," she said. "And they said, we're out of money, what are we going to do? And Dad said, we're going to keep policing the streets, we're not going to let the city go just because the city is out of money. In my Dad's head, you just didn't do that."

Sometimes, having the de facto police station in your living room could mean a little drama as well.

"The things that happened when I was growing up with the police department being at our house," Dixon laughed. "We were having a birthday party and suddenly there was a knock at the door... and it was one of the kids in town," she said, adding that the teen was likely drinking and was there to complain about someone, and pushed his way into the house.

"Dad was backing up, and his gun was in the closet in the living room. So, he was backing up. The kid said, you get your gun, but Dad said no. Instead he grabbed his handcuffs and was trying to handcuff him," she recounted. "And all of a sudden my grandfather was there too, and he was

standing there yelling 'you don't do this at my granddaughter's birthday party!' It was something."

Dixon said people would always be at the house because back then anyone from lost kids to crime victims to the town drunk would and could show up asking for help. Jack Bunting ultimately resigned from the department after some disagreements over officer safety with the police commissioner.

But he certainly wasn't done serving the city.

In 1982, Bunting became Mayor, winning the election by three votes.

As mayor, Bunting insisted that elected officials be reachable, so he put a sign up at City Hall where his and all the council member's names and home phone numbers were listed.

Bunting also initiated a local program to fingerprint area youth so their parents had their prints on file.

"We didn't have to spend a whole Saturday doing that, but he said, this needs to be done," Dixon said.

At Christmastime, he set up a toy drive each year with the school district.

He also conducted regular city business, getting roads paved and paying the bills.

Bunting also worked with the all-volunteer Braidwood Fire Department during all this time, serving from 1961 to 1982. As a member of the department, Bunting helped build the new fire station along with other volunteers who raised funds and helped provide labor. He was a fireman and a paramedic, back when an ambulance was actually a converted hearse, and then later helped secure the purchase of a mobile home that was also used as an ambulance. He also helped to start the cadet program, and



HONORARY ROADWAY — Jack & Karen Bunting Memorial Drive was officially dedicated in August. The honorary stretch of road is on Reed Street in Braidwood.

he was the first local CPR instructor.

Dixon said radio calls for police and fire often came directly to their house on Center Street, where she and her mother would actually do the dispatching.

Not to be outdone, Jack's wife Karen Bunting also spent all those years as a public servant alongside her husband.

Between 1968 and 1982, Karen was one of the founding members of the Braidwood Fire Sirens, helping other members to raise the funds needed to build the kitchen at the fire house.

Not just a siren, Karen was actually a firefighter herself. As a CNA she spent much of her time in the fire service in the ambulance, and even once helped deliver twins.

"She rode in the ambulance, so she was one of the

first female firemen in town, and probably anywhere within a 20 mile radius besides Joliet, because there just weren't any females back then," Dixon said. "Also, because my Dad [as police chief] said there was no way he would let men frisk women, he deputized my mother. So she was a cop! That was the only thing she did, but she was a Braidwood police officer."

Karen also co-founded the Braidwood Area Historical Society, which held meetings at the library before successfully lobbying the city to use the depot as its museum. Karen Bunting and those BAHS members were crucial in getting the city to secure possession of the depot, move it across the tracks, and set up the museum that is housed there today at the corner of

Main and Center Streets.

"She was up there all the time, making sure that everything was where it needed to be and all the history of Braidwood was correct," Dixon said.

Karen also served as president of the PTA, and on Fridays she and the other PTA members would make barbecue sandwiches for students, before there was a cafeteria at the schools.

She also served on the Oakwood Cemetery board of directors, where she kept tabs on the tombstone of Braidwood founder James Braidwood to make sure it was clean and presentable.

"Her family is deep rooted here," Dixon said, noting that her mother's family settled in the area back in the 1830s. "They helped found the Presbyterian church, so that

was hers, she helped with fundraising to keep that open."

After 33 years at Caterpillar, Jack finally retired and opened up Bunting Hardware, fulfilling his life-long dream of opening his own business.

"The hardware store was more than a hardware store," Dixon said. "He kept coffee and beer and the old guys would come in and they'd sit and they'd talk. It was more to him than just a store, and it was more to the people in town than just a store. They knew that the could go in there and Dad would do whatever, if they needed to sit and talk, they'd talk."

Even after Jack Bunting passed away in 2000, people still dropped by just to talk or to drop off something to be fixed, hoping for some conversation and company. The Buntings served as Summerfest Grand Marshals weeks before his passing in August in 2000.

Karen is currently living in assisted living, and Dixon says she's very happy, enjoying the days at this stage of life.

The sign for Bunting Hardware remains at the Corner of Comet Drive and Reed Street, the stretch of road that is now officially Jack & Karen Bunting Memorial Drive.

Dixon approached the city regarding the dedication last winter, but the sign was officially placed in late August.

"There was always a cup of coffee, a story, or just an ear to listen. He was always ready to lend a helping hand. You couldn't ask for a better mentor to learn from than my father. That's what we lived, Dad doing for everyone," Dixon said. "It sounds like I'm bragging, but I'm not. They just did so much."

CMA

that are desirable for residential, commercial and retail development, highlighting roadways that need to be addressed, and recognizing some of Braidwood's assets including Old Smokey City Park and the Braidwood Area Historical Society's depot museum.

The comprehensive planning site for Braidwood can be found online at www.engage.cmap.illinois.gov/braidwood-comprehensive-plan

New pins are still accepted in the interactive map. A pdf of the survey results is also available.

A comprehensive plan is a policy framework, but is not a legally binding document.

The project focuses on key topics, including:

- Encouraging land uses that are appropriate to different areas of the city, which will

also leverage the existing transportation network for the best opportunities at economic development while also preserving the quality of life.

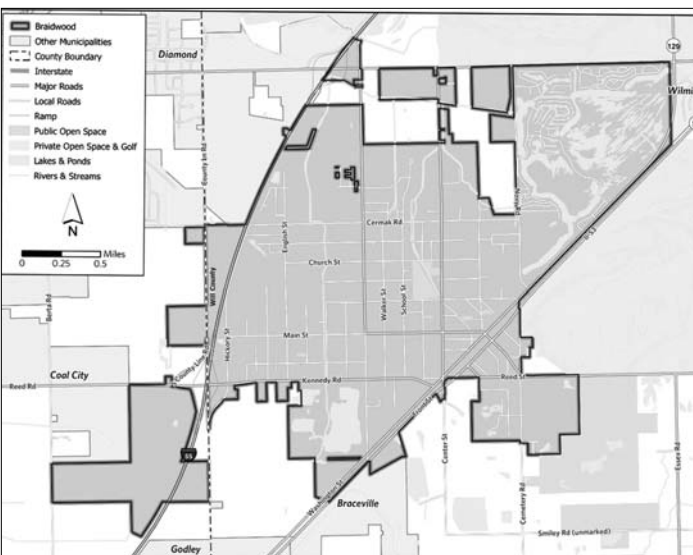
- Ensuring that Braidwood provides housing options that meet the needs and preferences of current and potential residents in the future.

- Enhancing Braidwood's walkability and smaller scale commercial areas through placemaking and streetscaping improvements that can further strengthen both Braidwood's accessibility for non-vehicular modes, including residents with disabilities, and the appeal and economic viability of its commercial and residential areas.

Communities that have an updated comprehensive plan are also in a stronger position to apply for county, state, or federal grants.

CMA's role in the creation of the comprehensive plan is to listen to feedback to help craft a plan tailored to the city's needs.

CMA is the regional

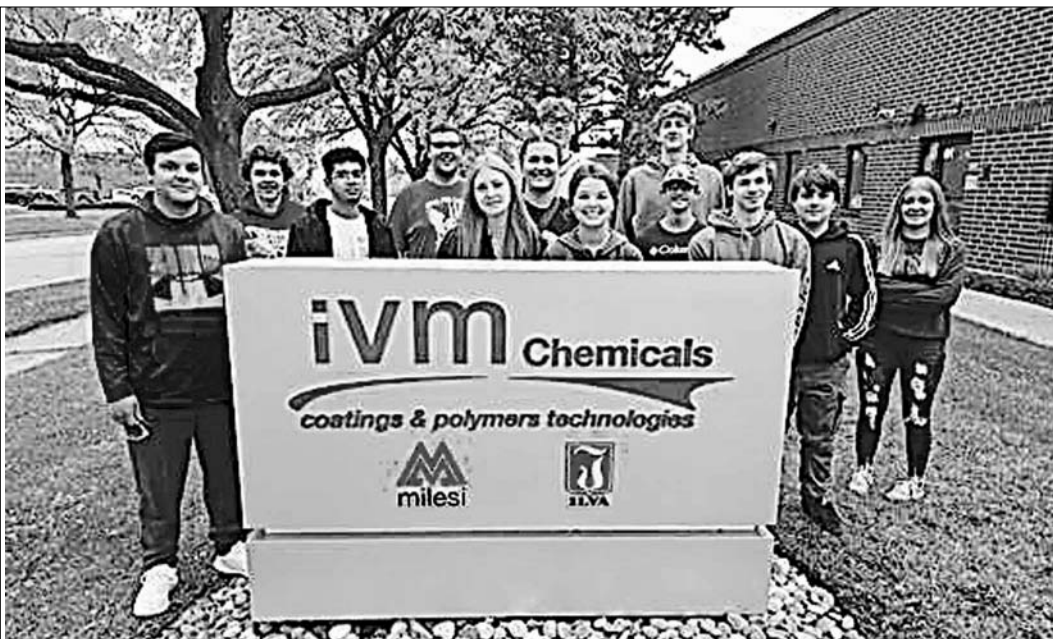


CMA'S ONLINE MAP OF Braidwood also provides an interactive section where residents can drop a pin and describe what they would like to see changed, improved, or left alone in the city. An open house regarding the Comprehensive Plan process is scheduled for Nov. 30.

planning organization for the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. CMA represents 284 municipalities in the region.

CMA operates under the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund of the state's Finance Act.

Reed-Custer students learn from professionals



Courtesy photo
IVM CHEMICALS supports Reed-Custer High School's Industrial Technology Program with at location field trip. Students include (from left) Hunter Baxter, Giovanni Baldo, Kaylee Weaver, Beth Crater, Seth Billingsley, Tyler Miller and Addison Hartman. Middle row: Aiden Shultz, Micah Crisp, Jessica Janopoulos and Brayden Johnson. Back row: Logan Leonard-Linkus and Jacob Reardon.



Courtesy photo

FIREFIGHTERS CONDUCT A prescribed burn at Midwestern National Tallgrass Prairie. The park notified the public this week that prescribed burns are expected to take place throughout this fall, and again in the spring of 2024.

Burn

- Provides forage for animals
- Improves habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Recycles nutrients back to the soil and promotes the growth of forbs, tallgrasses, wildflowers and other plants.

Since 1996, volunteers and staff have been working with over 275 native Illinois prairie plants to restore and enhance natural areas.

Approximately 3,000 acres of land are actively undergoing restoration or enhancement, and several tools are necessary to attain restoration goals. The use of prescribed fire is among the most effective and necessary pieces of the restoration process.

Don't let politics drive your investments. Give us a call.



Dean A. Shepherd, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
311 W Baltimore St
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-6856

Member SIPC
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

PERSONAL INJURY

Block, Klukas & Manzella & Shell, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Michael D. Block • Elizabeth A. Klukas • Thomas J. Manzella
Bryan L. Shell • Aaron B. Morrow • Kyler W. Juckins

"Local lawyers with big city results"

Free Initial Consultation • No Fee Unless Successful

815-726-9999

19 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432 • Across from the Courthouse

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Coalition to meet to pack food donations

The Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition will hold its November meeting in person at the BAHCC office, 465 E. Reed St., at 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 13. Members will be bundling Thanksgiving Blessings Side Dish Packages which will be donated to those in need. All are welcome to participate.

Award Winner
The Braidwood Journal
USPS No. 550-940
Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
Periodicals postage paid at Wilmington, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
The Braidwood Journal, 111 S. Water St.;
Wilmington IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$43 Grundy & Will counties; \$50 other Illinois counties and \$57 out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:
• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002.

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

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

©2023 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G-W Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G-W Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

This month in Braidwood, 149 years ago

Almost a century and a half ago, Braidwood was a thriving place. Today we look at the first three weeks of November 1874 to see what Braidwoodites were up to.

A correspondent for the Joliet Signal from Braidwood wrote this description printed on November 3. "Our coal trade is good, the last remnant of last summers' unpleasantness is swept away, and busy industry is the rule. Mechanics find plenty to do, building is brisk, and the general impetus is toward improvement."

"Merchants are busy, with fine prospects for a good winter's trade. All the leading firms are getting on large stocks. Probably never in the history of the place has trade been on a firmer or better basis; there is less credit, and more cash. Trade prices are sensibly lower than heretofore, all of which tends to relief of those who suffered most from the late strike. The shafts are all running, except King's, and work



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

is going on to put that shaft in order for raising coal."

"Church sociable, festivals, and all the various means of amusement resorted to in a small towns are in order with us, and the time slips merrily by."

"This afternoon, we have the first indication of approaching winter, in the form of a light snow storm; the ground is white for the first time since April last. But little business is being transacted in our local courts. Our citizens are honest enough to pay their debts, and too much disposed to peace and good order to quarrel; hence, a justice-ship is a poor office with us."

"Considerable interest is manifest in the approaching election. We have in the township about eight hundred voters; the most of these it is expected will be out. Most of the candidates for office have paid us a visit. The two residing here have not been idle, so it is but fair to presume that we are pretty well worked up; the finishing touch is to be given Saturday by the Republicans."

"An accident occurred at King's shaft while hoisting the smoke stack, one of the workmen, M. Daily, was hurt about the head and neck, and had his collar bone broken. The accident is attributed to the carelessness of the party injured. He is doing well under the care of

Doctors Backus and Gale. Last week at the E. shaft, two men were hurt. One had an arm badly fractured, the other had a leg broken."

The Wilmington Advocate also had a Braidwood correspondent and we read the following during the second week. "Some sixteen young men in Braidwood gave a complimentary hop on Tuesday evening at the Odd Fellow's Hall in that city. The affair was largely attended and proved quite enjoyable. We expected to see Squire Mooney and Journal (Braidwood) man "do" a rattling jig, but alas, for human expectations! They remained passive observers. Much credit is due the young men identified with getting up the affair. We learn that there are more such entertainments in store. So, mote it be."

During the third week we read in the Joliet Signal, of the almost fatal accident. "S. S. Kayler, a farmer residing in the town of Reed, three miles from Braidwood, having spent the day in the city looking at property with the intention of purchasing and settling here, he repaired to the Mansion house and put up for the night, retiring about 9 o'clock."

"Rather late the next morning, a smell of gas was discovered issuing from his room, and upon the door being forced open, Mr. Kayler was found lying in his bed, his limbs contracted in a horrible condition, entirely unconscious. Dr. Casey was called immediately, and

after considerable exertion on the part of those attending him, he recovered partially, and was able to recognize his wife who was telegraphed for and arrived in the afternoon."

"The unfortunate man had not been reared in cities where gas was used, and on going to bed it seems that he blew out the light the same as if it had been a tallow candle; the result has been stated above. On Saturday evening Mr. Kayler had so far recovered as to return home."

"Sleighs are seen in our streets today for the first time this season. The snow put in an appearance about three o'clock yesterday afternoon and fell to a depth of about six inches. The day is clear with a prospect of melting snow for a few days."

"The coal trade is not so brisk as might be wished, yet it insures a promise of revenue which gives a good impetus for general business. The 14th was pay day at the several mines. The C. & W. paid \$40,000 (\$1,063,000). Some estimate the monthly pay of the other companies swells the pay roll at all the mines in and about Braidwood to \$80,000 (\$2,125,800) for the November pay. This seems a rather large estimate."

Next week we will continue our look at November 1874 during the 4th week, which as we all know, means Thanksgiving festivities.

Reed-Custer students recognized for character, hard work



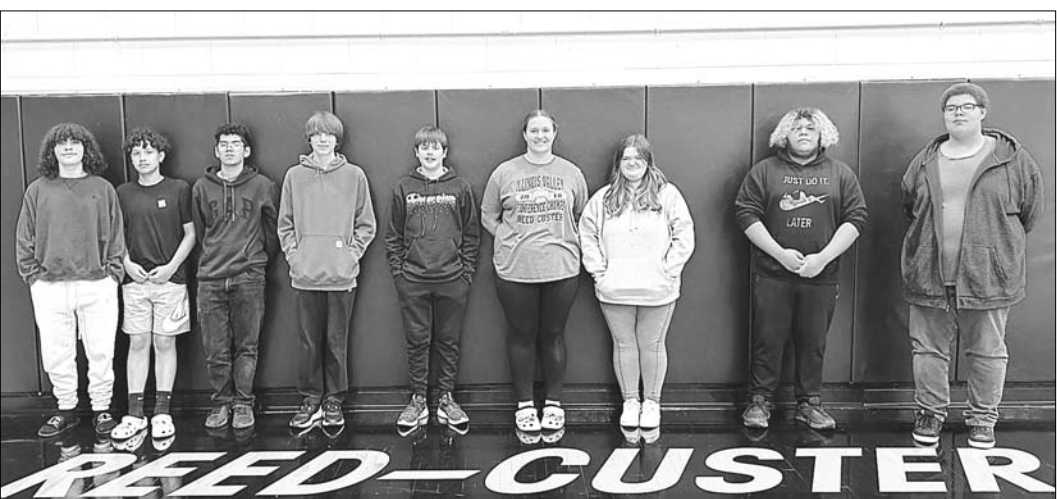
Courtesy photo

RCMS October Ace winners were named, students include (from left) Caidence Kuchar (8th grade), Maggie Whittum (8th), Caden Atwell (6th), Nolan Frietas (6th) and Caden Kursell. Not pictured: Jocelin Garcia (7th).



Courtesy photo

REED-CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL announced the students of the month for October. The characteristic that was focused on was Respect, students include (front, from left) Tallis Kuchan (7th grade), Johnathan Buchanan (7th), Kenny Hopf (8th), Elliana Chavez (7th), Braydon O'Neill (6th) and Dolyn Grant (7th). Back row: Eleanor Frieders (7th), Cloey Herbert (8th), Isaac Knight (8th), Nathan Vogler (8th), Raegan Cesena (6th), Macey Steichen (6th) and Riley Probus (6th).



Courtesy photo

RCMS proudly named the students of the month for October. Each department of teachers selects one student. Students include (from left) Anthony Guerra (Sr.), Ethan Segoviano (Fr.), Giovanni Baldo (Jr.), Tanner Gehris (Soph.), Nathan Trucano (Fr.), Jessica Janopoulos (Sr.), Addyson McCollum (Soph.), Lalo Angulo (Jr) and Dion Grangent (Soph.).

Veteran's Day breakfast in Braidwood

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus #1574 are having a Veterans Day breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. 1st Street in Braidwood.

The breakfast will be free to all veterans and by free-will offering for everyone else.

There will be a knife raffle to help the veterans at the Manteno Veterans home.

Veterans dinner at New Hope church

Coal City's New Hope Presbyterian will be hosting a Veteran's Day Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Pick-up, carry-out or dine-in will be at 80 N. Garfield Rd in Coal City. Veterans eat free and it will be \$9 per dinner.

Attorney Berardi files Goyco estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL
COUNTY, ILLINOIS -
IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of
RENE GOYCO, Deceased.
Case No.: 2023PR595

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Rene Goyco of Lockport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued as Independent Administrator on Sept. 19, 2023 to Gilberto Goyco whose address is 2709 Great Meadow Drive, Joliet, IL 60432; whose attorney is Berardi and Associates, LLC, 14919 Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before May 8, 2024, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, 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 to the representative and to the 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 <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>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Gilberto Goyco,
Independent Administrator
for the estate of Rene Goyco.
Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law,
Attorney No.: 6305463, 14919 Founders
Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491. (708)
942-8030 Email: mark@berardilaw
office.com
Published in the Braidwood Journal
on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 15 and 22, 2023.

Attorney Schmidt files Bawcum estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE TWELFTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN PROBATE 2023PR00061

In RE Probate Estate of
DWAYNE BAWCUM,
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Dwayne Bawcum, whose address was 35047 Cemetery Rd, Braidwood IL 60408. Letters of office were issued on October 31, 2023 to Sandra Bawcum, 35047 Cemetery Rd, Braidwood IL 60408 as independent administrator, whose attorney is Charles Schmidt, 117 W. Washington St. Morris IL 60450.

NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES. Notice is hereby given to Dwayne Bawcum and all unknown heirs or legatees whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate that an order was entered on October 31, 2023 admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the date of admission, you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence as provided in §6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You will also have the right under §8-2 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/8-2) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after the admission of the will to probate. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under §28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Court Clerk.

CLAIM NOTICE. Claims against the estate may be filed within 6 months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed within 6 months from the date of first publication or claims not filed within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432, or with the representative through her attorney, or both. Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative within 10 days after it has been filed with the clerk.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, 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>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Published in the Braidwood Journal
on Nov. 8, 15 and 22, 2023.

City of Braidwood files annual treasurer's report

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2023

	General Corporate Fund	TIF #3 Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Custodial Funds	Debt Service Funds	Enterprise Fund
Beginning balance	\$ 1,644,433	\$ 1,164,981	\$ 1,608,801	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ 24,145,602
Total revenues	5,166,933	214,418	1,035,059	11,550	-	3,609,461
Less expenditures	(3,600,067)	(122,188)	(787,444)	(11,285)	(118,821)	(2,528,292)
Other sources (uses)	-	1,800,000	-	-	-	-
Ending balance	\$ 3,211,299	\$ 3,057,211	\$ 1,856,416	\$ 4,015	\$ (118,821)	\$ 25,226,771

REVENUE:
Cannabis Tax 10,405, Donations 11,550, Fines/Fees/Forfeitures 308,048, Franchise Fees 54,808, Garbage Collection Fees 706,206, Grants 536,960, Hotel/Motel Tax 17,939, Income Tax 1,219,682, Interest Income 118,407, Licenses 53,110, Local Use Tax 253,989, MFT 320,793, Miscellaneous 94,564, Permits 92,113, Property Taxes 1,965,077, Reimbursements 180,078, Replacement Tax 33,232, Revenue Sewer 1,995,032, Revenue Water 896,142, Sales Tax 720,222, State Gaming Tax 73,156, Telecommunications Tax 62,811, Utility Tax 313,097, and bond proceeds 1,800,000.

EXPENDITURES:
Action Truck Parts: 3152.38, Alan Environmental Products, Inc: 3126.35, All Traffic Solutions, Inc: 10905.73, Amazon Capital Services: 8965.59, Aquafix Inc: 2896.68, Axon Enterprise, INC: 11369.78, B&F Construction Code Services, Inc: 47394.12, Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL: 288505.82, Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire Inc.: 15083.11, BP: 29146.23, Braidwood Fuel Inc: 12431.56, Burke, Warren, Mackay, Serritella, PC: 10000, Cargill, Inc: 67536.9, Casey's General Store, Inc: 16419.1, Cinta Fire: 3679.32, Cintas First Aid & Safety: 3082.81, Circle K: 13989.42, Comcast Business: 6324.63, Commonwealth Edison: 65304.36, Constellation Newenergy Inc: 164674.97, Core & Main LP: 48093.05, Corra Post Sales, Inc: 3231.38, Cummins NPower LLC: 8843.27, De Lage Landen Public Finance LLC: 9868.04, Ditch Witch Midwest : 7200, Diversified Investment Advisor: 101997.82, D'Orazio Ford: 66785.28, DTW Inc.: 14338.71, E2i: 4627.5, Environmental Recycling & Disposal: 186924, EVT Tech: 6268.95, Fastenal: 2799.33, Fatlan Trucking: 4316.03, Federated Bank Bond Dept: 137082.45, Fisher Auto Parts: 8804.46, Flock Safety: 11400, Free Press: 3675.60, Gasvoda & Associates Inc: 2614, Gerdes Outdoor Power: 55000, Grundy Redi Mix Company: 3004, HACH Company: 4569.19, Hall Mark Corporation: 2797.11, Hall Signs Inc: 5011.66, Hawkins Inc: 9618.22, Heritage FS Inc: 21576.76, Holt & Sons, Inc: 10978.59, Humana Insurance Co.:20801.10, Illinois EPA Fiscal Services: 700484.18, Illinois Public Risk Fund: 46124, J & R Service Center, Inc: 15225.09, Jacob & Klein, Ltd.: 5230.55, JCF of Lockport Inc: 26960, JCM Uniforms: 7893.3, Jetco Ltd: 17362, John Kasperek Co. Inc: 79732, Kankakee Truck & Equipment Inc: 17409.33, LAI, Ltd: 44897.5, Liberty National: 14043.78, Lockwood Furnace Company: 30489, Mahoney Silverman & Cross LLC: 54921.3, Menards: 13809.02, Midwest Industrial Tire LLC: 8138.6, Midwest Public Safety LLC: 2661.99, Midwest Salt: 131616.62, Midwest Valve & Controls, Inc: 2956.84, Mississippi Valley Pump, Inc.: 2695, MOE Funds: 195207, Newcastle Electric, Inc: 21400, Newterra Corp Inc: 28144, Nicor Gas: 33478.87, Paycor Inc: 9234.25, Peerless Network, Inc: 18195.30, Police Pension Fund: 270701.44, Policemen's Benevolent Labor Committee: 5166, Polydyne Inc.: 31423.52, Pomp's Tire Service Inc: 3226.07, Postmaster: 10390, Quality Iron Design: 3300, R & P Carriers: 15350.88, Rachke Piping & Mechanical, Inc: 22039, Ritchie Bros: 18700, RMA: 246332, Robinson Engineering: 238393.79, Sensus Metering Systems: 3899.88, Sherwin Williams Co: 7485.41, Sistek Sales Inc.: 3993.77, Springbrook Software LLC: 29603.29, Stewart Spreading, Inc: 42977.40, Storino, Ramello & Durkin Law Office: 11112.19, Subsurface Solutions: 18387.76, Suburban Laboratories Inc: 6093.08, The Economic Development Group: 21899.95, Thompson Electric Company: 4241.36, Twin Supplies, Ltd: 5604.60, Union Membership Dues: 15807.78, United Rentals: 25000, University of Illinois: 6300, US Bank: 49792.08, USA Blue Book/HD Supply: 12787.53, USA Containers: 19875, Verizon Wireless: 11806.10, Viking Chemical Company: 14163.93, Vohne Liche Kennels Inc: 16166, Vortex Technologies Inc: 4410, Waste Management of Illinois: 432002.25, Water Solutions Unlimited: 6506.5, Water Well Solutions Illinois LLC: 163542, Wescom: 117210.31, Whitmore Ace Hardware : 7261.63, Will Co Governmental League: 5380.45, Will County Center for Economic Development: 3000, Will County Children's Advocacy Center: 2669, Will County Treasurer: 12114.67, WIPFLI LLP: 29500, Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc: 67651.09, Illinois EPA Fiscal Services Section: 17500, Jeffrey Bexson: 2950, Pamela Hysel: 18115, Yolanda Acosta: 6000, Expense Disbursements Under 2500: 87280.02

PAYROLL:
\$25000 and Under: Atherton, Tari L.; Bettenhausen, Gary; Bishop, Diane M.; Bolatto, Richard S.; Boyer, Gregory; Bunting, Edward; Cockream, Ronald S.; Colavecchi, Michael J.; Collins, Cora J.; Coronelli, Richard; Dell'Aquila, Peter A.; Doogan, Raymond; Earling, Kimberly; Guistat, John; Holst, Glenda; Howenstein, Barbara J.; Jasper, Ted C.; Jones, Robert W.; Kocak, George; Linneman, Kathleen P.; McShane, Raymond; Michalec, Tonya M.; Mikel, James E.; Mlyniec, Frank T.; Money, Douglas M.; Moore, Shirley J.; Pastick, Lawrence; Pittman, Mary; Ritz, Anthony J.; Smith, Fay; Wietting, Warren; Wojnarowski, Thomas J.
\$25000 to \$49999: Bohac, Hillary; Flint, Todd W.; Frideres, Michelle L.; Geissen, Donna J.; Helsing, Jeremy; Locascio, Barbara A.; Millerin, Michael W.; Reed, Vernard; Salazar-Woods, Shree; Weaver, Sarah M.; Wood, Nichole L.
\$50000 to \$74900: Causer, Gerald D.; Dyer, Dakota; Grivetti, Matthew S.; Grygiel, Nicholas A.; Howard, Scott K.; Lefko, Gabrielle; McCasland, Jack F.; Odom, Kristine; Phebus, Gary A.; Richmond, Carol A.; Waszkiewicz, Matthew A.; Weaver, George D.
\$75000 to \$99999: Beaty, Adam M.; Coronelli, David S.; Glisson, Aubrey; Grivetti, Robert J.; Peterson, Jeffery R.; Tyree, Phillip M.
\$100000-\$124999: Altieri, Antonio M.; Altieri, Christopher M.; Goodwin, Bret A.; Lyons, Todd W.
\$125000 and Over: Savarino, Douglas

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the City of Braidwood for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023, that it was filed with the City of Braidwood Clerk on October 31, 2023, and that it published in the Braidwood Journal Newspaper on November 8, 2023 as required by Section 3.1-35-65 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/3.1-65-65).

s/s Sarah Weaver
Sarah Weaver, City Clerk

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

s/s Sarah Weaver
Sarah Weaver, City Clerk

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

SHADOW LAKES— I remember when I was a young girl, in grammar school, I would visit my Aunt. We would often discuss, current events, we heard on the radio or seen on TV. This was the 1950s. We often talked about Russia and how they would use the Adam bomb to destroy us. And how we would see this big mushroom cloud in the sky. And how we should hide under our desk in school to protect ourselves. Here it is some seventy-three years later and now we are talking about the same thing. “No matter how things change, they always remain the same the same.” Obediently yours, Margot Lane

Save our nation

COAL CITY—It is crucial that we as a society confront the ongoing gun violence in our country. It is my belief that shootings in grocery shops, schools, government buildings, and malls have numbed our nation. After a fatal shooting, everyone is distressed but a week or two later, everything is forgotten and life resumes as usual. Rather than advocating for legislation that can put an end to these tragedies, we just sit around and wait for the next one to happen. Social media, newspapers, and local news outlets, in my opinion, ought to

be the driving forces behind the much-needed changes to the nation's gun regulations. The media and news outreach groups have a duty to reveal and expose all gun manufacturers and dealers who are selling firearms to civilians without a universal background check. It is equally crucial that we attend town hall meetings and inform our state and local elected representatives that we will not vote for them unless they endorse and approve of strong gun control legislation. It is up to us to safeguard this country. If these politicians refuse to work on our behalf, it is time that we fire them and elect the right politician to work in our favor. Please write your local newspaper, visit news station, and plead with them to help save this nation, our children, and our loved ones. Let us safeguard this United States of America country, a nation under God.

Failed us all

BRAIDWOOD—So the City of Braidwood had some blacktop work done and it just so happens that the city administrator had the driveway of the house he is building on Main Street black topped the very same day and then was at the house while it was being black topped during city working hours in his city vehicle. Not saying it was paid for by the taxpayers but sure looks fishy to me. So Mayor Hart you nicely fire the police chief that the taxpayers wanted for the city but you allow the city administrator that none of the taxpayers wanted and allow him to do whatever he wants on our dime. This is the worst administration we have had and that is hard to do. Can't wait for next election. You have all failed this city.

Stand together

BRAIDWOOD—The speech JFK would have given the night of his assassination: “Neither the fanatics nor the faint-hearted are needed. And our duty as a Party is not to our Party alone, but to the nation, and, indeed, to all mankind. Our duty is not merely the preservation of political power but the preservation of peace and freedom. So let us not be petty when our cause is so great. Let us not quarrel amongst ourselves when our Nation's future is at stake. Let us stand together with renewed confidence in our cause -- united in our heritage of the past and our hopes for the future -- and determined that this land we love shall lead all mankind into new frontiers of peace and abundance.”

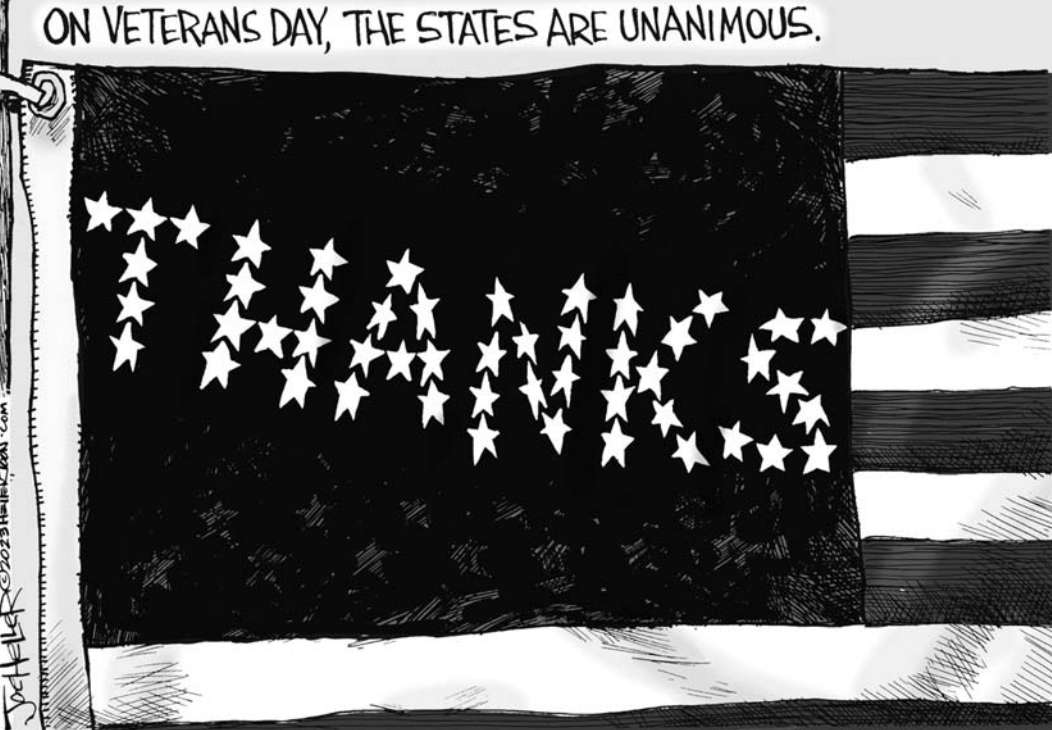
Had no other choice

BRAIDWOOD—The same clowns are running our city once again. They bragged about Ultimate Rides coming but there's nothing happening. They started a building but stopped. Also what happened to the car dealerships? Again they boasted about them but not even one inch of movement on the property. Hog Wild closed. Not that great of food. Same said for the other restaurants. Top Fuel Saloon food is pretty good though. Now there's talk about low income housing apartments being built on the Tryner Farm land. Just what we need. Everyone better lock your cars and homes. Can all you people who were foolish enough to vote for Altiery's group last time wake up if you already haven't and get some decent people in office. We the more intelligent people voted in Mr. Earley. Because the commissioners wouldn't work with him and only against him he had but no choice to resign.

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.



Shame on them!

Money won't solve it

MORRIS—The mayor of Chicago and several other major cities went to Washington to ask the president for more money to help the migrants. Why don't they have the guts to tell the president to close the darn border, that will solve the problem. They're going to be getting 20,000-30,000 migrants every year and all they want is money. Money won't solve the problem. Close the border. President Biden can come to Chicago five or six times in a year to ask for money and talk about nothing but he can't go to the border and so can the vice president that's suppose to be in charge of the border. She can't go. And also if the Morris High School has a referendum on the ballot to raise taxes for a new high school I'm voting no. I will always vote no on raising taxes. Then the teachers will want more money. All they want to do is raise taxes. I'm a senior citizen. Me and my wife are on a fixed income. We're 80-plus years old, we can't afford to pay more taxes.

The tiresome squawker

WILMINGTON—As the courts pursue Trump's children for fraudulent practices in their management of the Trump Organization, Trump says to 'leave his children out of it.' But we say 'it's about time' because Don Jr., Eric and Ivanka were adult executives in the company and must be held accountable. And just like her counterfeit father, Ivanka pretended she couldn't appear in court because she couldn't find a baby-sitter. The judge didn't buy it for a minute because the reputation of Donald and his family is to deceive, fabricate and deceive again until the cows come home. So Donald Trump can whine, blubber and moan all he wants just like he did while he was president, but it only serves to show the fussy yammerer he is.

Irene

Mind altering drugs

WILMINGTON—In answer to “Guns are the problem” in sound-off recently, there is much concern that the prescribing of psychotropic drugs for mental problems may be more of a problem than guns. These types of drugs are prescribed sometimes for children in grade school who have been labeled as ADD and ADHD. Most often they are boys. Some continue through their growing years and adulthood with more drugs. How often is mental health mentioned when the news tells us of another mass shooting? This topic needs to be examined very closely. For some reason it isn't. Yes, mental health is a problem in the rest of the world where mass shootings do not happen, but are these mind altering drugs used extensively in the rest of the world?

Point of views

SHADOW LAKES—I looked into this because history is now a point of view in college, not a fact. Israel was a Jewish home land one thousand years ago before Palestine. That is history. This took me 10 minutes to look up. Eddie

A time out?

SHADOW LAKES—I bet when we landed on D Day Hitler was thinking let's call a time out. A cease fire because I don't want the people that voted for me getting hurt.

Been off track

GARDNER—Unfortunately, what happened at the previous Board of Education meeting at Gardner Grade School is nothing new. Until the people who are in charge of making decisions for Gardner Grade School change, the lack of respect will remain the same. Foul language and cursing should never be used in this type of atmosphere, let alone with students in attendance. It speaks volumes that an audience member had to remind the board members children were present. Did the Superintendent not see an issue with this situation? Instead of realizing they are in the wrong when being reminded of their language, they immediately become defensive, which is why the culture is the way it is. The vote for a track was not on the public agenda. Why a vote was taken is beyond me, but that is something they actually got right. A practice track is not necessary, and it would be on the Gardner Village property. Many schools do not have a track available, and have to run on roads to prepare. They have done this for years at Gardner Grade School, and it has worked just fine. I couldn't agree more that this is sad to see from leaders of a school district and the behavior they display in a public forum.

Another one resigns

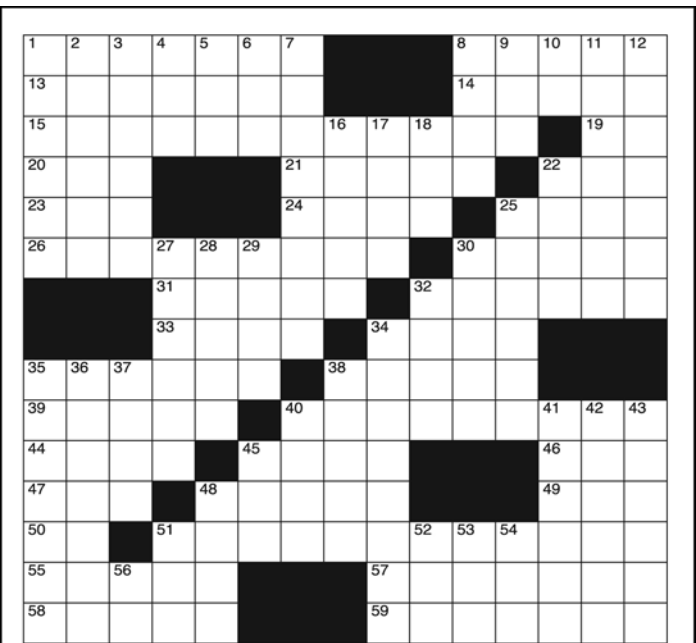
BRAIDWOOD—So when is the city of Braidwood going to announce the fact that the police commissioner resigned. Are you planning on replacing one of the best council members we elected that you ran off or is the city administrator going to keep empty so he can continue to control what he wants.

The morning race

MORRIS—I wish the Grundy County Sheriff's Department and Morris Police Department would do something about the speeding and reckless driving between Southmour Road and the Illinois River Bridge on Rt. 47 coming into Morris between 6 and 7:30 in the morning. It's like a race track out there. Cars are going between 15-20 mph over speed limit following too close, weaving in and out and driving with their lights off. I wish they would do something about it. Maybe they are waiting for a real accident to happen. I just hope it's none of my family members or anybody that I know but something is going to happen and I can tell them that I told you so. Also, Joliet Catholic, beat Morris.

Not No. 1

Here's a fun fact. When it comes to mass shootings, the USA is ranked 67th out of 100 nations worldwide. Nothing to be proud of but we are nowhere near number one. Just letting you know. Please drive safely. God bless America.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Happen again
8. Large flightless birds
13. A type of account
14. Beyond what is natural
15. Beloved comfort food
19. Rural delivery
20. Belonging to us
21. Typical
22. Pie ___ mode
23. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
24. Not us
25. Discharge
26. Made empty
30. Fishing net
31. Fast-moving, harmless snake
32. Analyzed into its parts
33. In a way, chilled
34. Hindu queen
35. Circles around the sun
38. Used for emphasis
39. Reactive structures
40. Recommendations
44. Feel intense anger
45. Puke
46. Rural Northern Ireland community
47. Naturally occurring solid material
48. British watch brand
49. Toddler
50. Integrated circuit
51. Being revered
55. “Pets” you can grow
57. Continual
58. Puts together in time
59. Houses temporarily

CLUES DOWN

1. Vital public document
2. Disinter
3. Musical performances
4. After B
5. Every body has one (abbr.)
6. Utilize
7. In a way, disproved
8. Fisherman's tool
9. Of she
10. Trauma center
11. Commercial flyer
12. Administered medicine to calm
16. Popular R&B performer
17. Regretted
18. Leg (slang)
22. “Night Train” author
25. More supernatural
27. Baltimore ballplayer
28. Shoe parts
29. Scores perfectly
30. More lucid
32. Trim by cutting
34. Disreputable people
35. Dramatic behaviors
36. Disorder
37. Private box in a theater
38. More dried-up
40. Raw
41. In operation
42. Pillager
43. Butterflies with brown wings
45. Disallow
48. Own up
51. Hungarian city
52. A way to condemn
53. Tax collector
54. Lease
56. Not out

LIMITED TIME OFFER...

Get **HALF OFF** new AC with a new furnace install!

0%

Financing

Payments as low as **\$50/month**

Prep your furnace with a tune-up



BREEZE-AIR
Local, Trusted Company
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Call (815) 476-6615

ACCREDITED BUSINESS
BBB Rating: A+

Something to smile about



\$500 OFF

implants/dentures

New patient visit
50% off

COAL CITY DENTAL
Our priority is to provide comfortable, quality dental care!

- Dentures • Implants • Extractions • Nitrous Oxide/Sedation Options
- Evening Availability • Whitening/Cosmetic Procedures
- Work with most Insurances and more

Phone: 815.634.4999

Coal City Dental, Still Catering To The “Dental Coward” After All These Years!

645 E. Division St. (Rte. 113), Coal City | www.CoalCityDental.com

Stock Up For the Holidays with Berkot's!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!

Experience the Berkot's difference
Fresh. Friendly. Focused on you.

Sales valid 11/9/23-11/15/23 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM

ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

PRE-ORDER FRESH ROSEBUD
WHOLE TURKEYS \$1.99/LB & TURKEY BREASTS \$2.99/LB
VISIT BERKOTFOODS.COM TODAY TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!

\$1.99
LB
-\$1.50
LB
49¢
LB
with loyalty & \$35 Purchase
LIMIT 1*

\$3.99
LB
-\$3.00
LB
99¢
LB
with loyalty
LIMIT 1*

Jennie-O or Best Choice Frozen Turkeys

Berkot's Fresh, All-Natural Pork Tenderloins

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY *Excludes Turkey, Alcohol, Tobacco, Gift Cards & Lottery
*1 permitted per loyalty account, limit 1 transaction per loyalty account per ad week.

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY *1 permitted per loyalty account, limit 1 transaction per loyalty account per ad week.

CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY

FREE 2 Piece Chicken Meal
for all Veterans or current military members with proof of service
Available at all locations. See store for details.

NOV 11, 2023
11 AM - 7 PM

Fresh Produce at Hot Prices!

\$1.49
PER LB

\$1.99
PER LB

2 FOR \$3

88¢
EACH

Crisp and Juicy Honeycrisp Apples

Farm Fresh Express Asparagus

Ruby Red Raspberries- 6 oz

Extra Large Red or Yellow Peppers

Berkot's Digital Coupons- must clip coupon at BERKOTFOODS.COM

Kellogg's Cereal- 10-13.7 oz
Sel. Var.
Reg. Sale Price: \$2.99

Nabisco Oreos- 7.9-14.03 oz
Reg. Sale Price: \$3.99

Funables Fruit Snacks- 10 ct
Reg. Sale Price: \$2.99

Townhouse or Club Crackers- 9-13.8 oz
Reg. Sale Price: \$3.99

Bear Creek Soup Mix 7.9-11.5 oz Sel Var.
Reg. Sale Price: \$3.99

Kellogg's PopTarts 8 ct
Reg. Sale Price: \$3.49

Best Choice Salted or Unsalted Butter Quarters- 1 lb
Reg Sale Price: \$2.99

Flora Bath Tissue or Paper Towels- 6-12 Roll
Reg Sale Price: \$4.99

Minute Maid Orange Juice 59 oz
Reg. Sale Price: 2/\$6

Great Grocery Deals to Fill Your Basket!

7 Up Family Soda 2 L

Nabisco Premiums or Toasted Chips 7.1-16 oz

Papa Charlie's Italian Beef 4 lb

Sargento Shreds 5-8 oz

Chef Boyardee Pasta 14.5-15 oz

Ice Mountain Spring Water 24 pk .5L btl

Snack Pack Pudding or Gelatin 4 pk

Tropicana Orange or Red Grapefruit Juice 52 oz

Prego Pasta Sauce 23-24 oz

Brew Pub Pizza 20-26.82 oz

Yoplait Yogurt 4-6 oz

Yellow Squash

7 DAYS OF LOYALTY SAVINGS

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY
30 lbs permitted, limit 1 transaction per loyalty account per ad week.

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY
6 bags permitted, limit 1 transaction per loyalty account per ad week.

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY
4 gallons permitted, limit 1 transaction per loyalty account per ad week.

2 FOR \$5
with loyalty
LIMIT 4*

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

*Share Loyalty Phone Number at Register. X Packages/LBs/etc. permitted, limit 1 transaction per loyalty account per ad week.

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Baptist church to host Alzheimer's support

If you or someone you know is caring for a loved one with memory problems, you are invited to attend a caregivers support group that meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Route 113 in Coal City.

This meeting is for caregivers only. For additional information, please contact Becky Haldorson at 815-791-2658.

Alzheimer's caregiver support groups have many benefits for both caregivers and patients. Caregiving takes a heavy toll on the caregivers' mental and physical health and the health of the patient

with dementia is directly related to the health of his or her caregiver: the healthier the caregiver, the healthier the patient, and vice versa.

Support group participants, value support groups as a place to learn more factual information about dementia. Increased education about dementia makes caregivers more effective: they are better able to respond to patients' needs when they understand and can anticipate them.

Furthermore caregiver depression decreases as caregiver education about dementia increases, and when caregiver depression decreases, patient outcomes improve.

I told you back in January that if Gov. JB Pritzker Managed to help convince Stellantis to reopen the Belvidere auto assembly plant and even expand, "he'll have overcome some gargantuan hurdles."

Credit where credit is due. Pritzker helped the United Auto Workers Union and the White House put together a deal with Stellantis to reopen the shuttered plant and expand it. According to Crain's Chicago Business, the UAW told its members the company would spend \$5 billion on the project. It's not clear as I write this how much would come from the state.

It's plainly obvious to anyone that overcoming the state's lousy reputation with manufacturers is a monumental task. All any CEO has to do is turn on one of the business cable TV stations to see the Illinois-bashing in full glory, even though it's often based on outdated claims from groups which make money from bad-mouthing the state's reputation.

But the state incentives contained in Pritzker's Reimagining Energy and Vehicles Act were instrumental in attracting the massive Gotion electric vehicle battery plant to Manteno.

At the same time, the state has also tried to help build a supplier and training infrastructure for manufacturers - which it calls an "eco-system." More than two years ago, for instance, the state helped open an EV worker training program at Normal's Heartland Community College as EV-maker Rivian scaled up its production.

The REV Act's income tax credit program was since expanded to 75 percent of state payroll taxes, and to 100 percent for "underserved areas." The REV Act was also expanded to include smaller companies with a minimum \$2.5 million in capital investment.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

Pritzker deserves credit for

That latter expansion was key to bringing Decatur a new electric compressor manufacturing facility as a major component of the city's TCCI Electric Vehicle Innovation Hub the governor unveiled in August.

An innovation and research lab and a worker training facility at the local community college (and in potential partnership with other higher education institutions) will also be part of the new Decatur hub.

Just last month, Netherlands-based EVBox announced it was establishing its new US headquarters in Lake County. The company makes fast-chargers for EVs and hopes to build thousands of charging stations per year.

"We have got the parts suppliers, battery manufacturers, EV infrastructure suppliers and there are more to come," Pritzker said at the EVBox announcement, according to NBC Chicago.

The Stellantis plant deal is huge. The state has been working with the company since well before the automaker decided to put the plant on pause earlier this year. Because EV assembly plants usually need a nearby battery facility, the state optioned 250 acres of land across from the Stellantis plant, dangling the prize as just one more incentive to reopen and expand. The revitalized plant will likely build a light truck, and include a battery plant as well as a parts distribution center.

The UAW has had strong reservations about EV manufacturing because it requires fewer workers, and many cars and batteries are being made with non-union labor (including, so far, at Gotion's future Manteno facility). But the union leadership insisted that reopening the Belvidere plant was a top priority during its bargaining with and subsequent strike of Stellantis. The White House was reportedly heavily involved as well.

Crain's also reported that the revitalized plant could employ as many as 5,000 workers, which is far more than the 1,200 laid off in February.

If Illinois' earlier failures fed off themselves in a vicious cycle, the hope now is the recent successes will lead to even more gains as corporations see that Illinois isn't what they may have thought it was.

The idea has been to provide "white glove" concierge service to corporate execs through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The governor's office claims companies can easily and quickly obtain information and assistance from DCEO about their investments. DCEO also offers the companies help with permitting to cut through state and local red tape.

The governor himself has

also taken a very active role, his office says, running down leads and making and fielding countless inquiries. He's also positioned himself as the state's top economic cheerleader.

This sort of "all hands on deck" approach appears to really be paying off. And it's been darned impressive to watch. Everyone, including the General Assembly, deserves credit.

So maybe now the state can use this template to tackle some other problems, like high property taxes (business development is a big key, but not the entire solution) and the functioning of some notorious bureaucracies, including DCFS.

Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter,

warrencollisioncenteril.com

- ✓ Finest quality warranted collision repair
- ✓ Rentals available
- ✓ Certified technicians
- ✓ All insurance accepted
- ✓ Completed in a timely fashion

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

HANSEN'S
WINDOW COVERINGS & FURNITURE UPHOLSTERY

FREE
in home
measuring
& selection

**Keep the sun at bay with
GREAT PRICING
on Energy Saving
Window Coverings.**

Come visit us at our Bradley & Mokena Showrooms!
200 North Washington • Bradley
(815) 935-0010
19827 South LaGrange Rd. • Mokena
(708) 479-6600

HunterDouglas
Frankfort (815) 469-6610
New Lenox (815) 485-2058
Orland Park (708) 403-1110
Joliet (815) 722-0011
www.HansensWindowCoverings.com

Saturday, November 11, 9pm - 1am
BOTTOMZ UP
NEW BAND - ROCK & ROLL
No Cover • Drink Specials

Saturday, November 18, 8pm
COMEDY NITE
\$18 PER TICKET AT DOOR • NO PRESALES THIS TIME

Every Thursday, 7pm - 11pm
Karaoke MIKE MARGRAF & UPBEAT EVENTS

Like us on!

Check out our website

TOFFY'S
WILMINGTON, IL

A Class Act
Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment
1099 S. Water St. (Rt. 102), Wilmington • (815) 476-2700

Mobile food pantry in South Wilmington

On Monday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Road in South Wilmington, in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

Participants are asked to

stay in their car. Mobile Food Pantries use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle.

It is open to anyone.

Backup power supply thanks to solar

ComEd provides a very reliable grid, but if a recent storm knocked out your electricity and made you wonder if you should get a generator, here's an alternative idea offered by Will County Green. A solar-powered lithium-ion battery system.

They are emissions free, silent, and unlike gasoline and diesel powered generators, can be used inside the house. They are small solar powered

devices that can keep your laptop, cellphone, and WiFi running with a price tag around \$100.

But if you want to keep the refrigerator going, you may need something bigger, costing over \$1,500 but still shy of a full blown rooftop array. Of course, the large array can keep your whole house running or simply help the grid when you're not using it.

No fumes, no noise, just power

Electronics dropoff event Thursday

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Nov. 9, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette

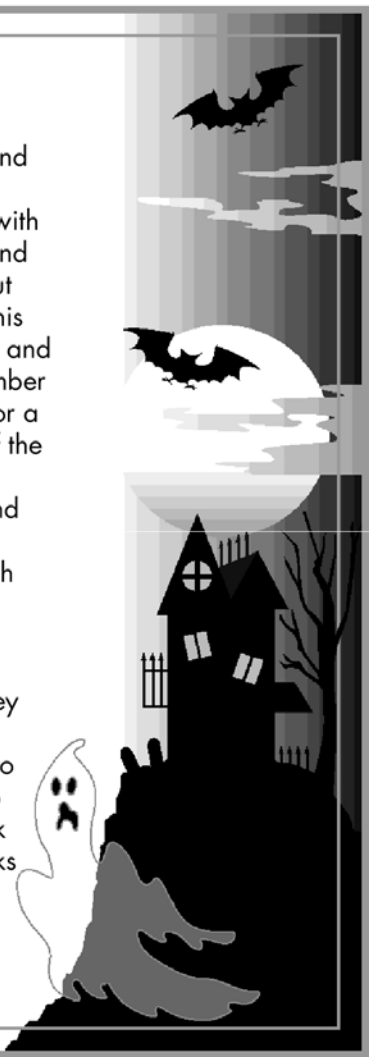
recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

THANK YOU

The Wilmington Lions would like to express gratitude and thanks to a few community organizations, groups and families for their talents and dedication in assisting us with another a successful Spook Hike held on the North Island last month. Lions could not continue what we do without your help. City of Wilmington for allowing us to hold this annual event each year. The Free Press for advertising and documenting with photos our events. Wilmington Chamber for including our event online. Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community for Leadership and being a part of the event volunteering as a youth is how we can grow volunteering as adults. Hopkins Towing for installing and removing the vehicle for impact of texting and driving. Wilmington Fire Protection District for your walk through of Hike to ensure a safe time for all. Wilmington Police Department for keeping Us and all the Props and Equipment Safe with extra drive throughs of the North and South Islands. We welcome the 4 H Hustlers as they assisted us with set up, tear down and Haunting our cemetery. ESDA as always safeguarding the entrance to the parks as guests made the trek by foot or hayrack to the Spook Hike. Last, but not least, we welcomed back the Butcher Family and team with Tractors and Hayracks to add to the ambiance of the night. A sincere Thank you to all who attended the Hike to support your local Lions. WE SERVE.



I would like to thank everybody who came Sunday to Gary's Celebration of Life Bonfire. We lucked out with the weather. It was a beautiful perfect day. We had to make some adjustments Sunday morning. Also, the popcorn machine did not work so we were not able to have one of Gary's favorites "Popcorn". I think I was able to see and speak with everyone. My only regret was not being able to spend more time with you. Thanks to everyone who helped me make this event happen. I could not have done it on my own. I also wish that special guy was with me here on earth instead of up above watching me.

GIVE MORE THAN YOU GET. GIVE THE OTHER GUY WHAT HE WANTS. LEAVE THINGS BETTER THAN YOU FOUND THEM.

Love, The Gary Brieser Family

Chili and 100 turkeys

Fundraising supper going to make a lot of people happy

The Gardner Fire Department will hold its biggest fundraiser of the year on Friday, Nov. 17 with a new twist. If you come eat a bowl (or two) of chili, odds are you may head home a winner of a turkey.

That's because 100 frozen turkeys will be raffled with a new winner announced every 10 minutes starting at 6 p.m.

"The last chili supper we had was in 2019. The chili supper went on hiatus for a few years because of Covid restriction and changes in the department. This year we brought it back and the department and community members both are very excit-

ed," said Amanda Fagan, Acting Deputy Chief.

"This is our first ever turkey raffle and we are so excited for it. We have to thank Berkot's for helping us securing the turkeys and storing the turkeys for the big day. We wanted to do something different with the relaunch of the chili supper."

The chili supper will be held at the Gardner American Legion Hall, 426 Industry Dr, with doors opening at 4 p.m. There will be lots of raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for a four-burner Blackstone grill.

For \$10 adults, and \$6 for senior citizens and kids under age 12, each person can have their fill of chili, drink, dessert and all the fun to be had.

The most important part of the chili supper is just having a community event where neighbors can come out and be neighbors.

"It seems like it is the talk of the town for a few weeks after and throughout the year we are always being asked about the next chili supper coming up, Fagan commented. "People who have moved out of the state, come back just for the event. It also shows the community that the fire department is here for them. We love being a part of the Gardner community and it is an honor to serve the residents and visitors. We are just in awe every year of the amount of people that come out and support us."

Gardner Fire Protection District must follow the same standards and regulations as a big fire department, like Chicago Fire Department. It periodically has to replace firefighting gear, air packs and tools because everything has an expiration date. Proceeds from the chili supper help off-

set those costs.

Next year the department has to replace nine sets of gear and make sure it has gear for the new people as they come into the department. The average cost of set of turnout gear is approximately \$3,500. This adds up quickly.

"We utilize every funding opportunity available to us and having events like the chili supper really helps us in so many ways," Fagan added.

GFD is a part-time/combination department staffing two people in house 24 hours a day and have paid-on-call responding from home to supplement staffing.

"The people that work for the department are amazing. We have been in a rebuild for the last year and have had an 40% increase in staffing. This is truly amazing because there is national shortage of EMS and fire service personnel. Illinois has been hit especially hard. All of the members of GFD have been working hard at recruiting, training and developing creative ways we can serve the community," she said.

So support these dedicated first responders by eating some chili. And if you're lucky you'll have your Thanksgiving turkey to take home too.

Masons craft table for Riley's Garden



RILEY'S GARDEN in Northcrest Park, Wilmington will have a new picnic table thanks to a handful of volunteers from the Wilmington Masonic Lodge. The Wilmington Garden Club reached out to the one of the Masons who is skilled in woodworking, requesting a 6 foot table to replace one that had rotted. The Masons made one and donated it for the public park. Delivering it are (from left) Masons Ken Oathoot, Lee Springer and George Roesel.

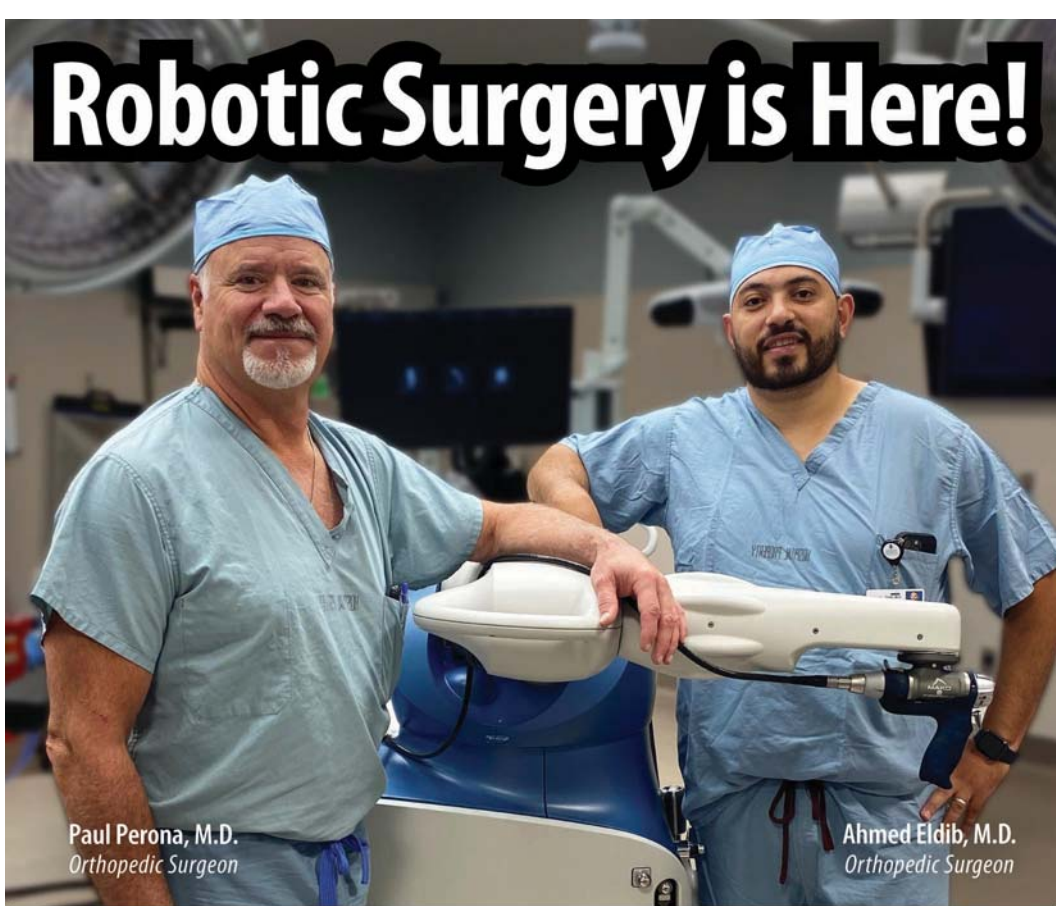
Garden Club to meet Nov. 15

The Wilmington Garden Club will be holding its monthly meeting at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

The garden club meets monthly at the Wilmington Park District, 315 N. Water St.

Meetings are open to the public so come along and bring a friend.

It is open to anyone who has a strong interest in gardening.



Paul Perona, M.D.
Orthopedic Surgeon

Ahmed Eldib, M.D.
Orthopedic Surgeon

Mako™ Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgery is an innovative treatment solution for painful arthritis of the knee or hip. The advanced surgical technique has been associated with **less pain, less need for pain medications, reduced hospital length of stay, and improved knee flexion and soft tissue protection.**

The addition of Mako SmartRobotics™ at Morris Hospital follows the recent opening of a new state-of-the-art surgical suite featuring new operating rooms and new outpatient surgery rooms, with new GI and bronchoscopy procedure rooms, surgical consult rooms, and a new dedicated surgical waiting room opening soon!

To learn more about robotic-arm assisted surgery at Morris Hospital for hip and knee surgery, go to morrishospital.org/robot.



Veteran's Day Spaghetti Dinner

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City will be having a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 4-7 p.m. The dinner will include spaghetti, Italian bread, lettuce salad and dessert. Beverages will also be served for those dining in.

The cost will be \$9 per meal. All Veterans' meals will be free to show our appreciation for their service. The dinner will be served dine-in, drive-thru and carryout. All proceeds will go towards the third phase of our raise the roof fund.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

State Farm

INSURANCE

INSURANCE

"Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years"

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond

(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

WE HAVE A WINNER!

\$50,000 Instant Ticket

Come try your luck at Wee Sip's

WEESIP LIQUORS

Bud Reg/Light Miller Lite Coors Light \$10.49 12 pk btls/cans	Cruzan Rum (Any Flavor) \$200 OFF 750ml
Effen Vodka or Deep Eddy Vodka (Any Flavor) \$200 OFF 750ml	Hornitos Tequila \$200 OFF 750ml
Apothic Wine (Any Flavor) \$200 OFF 750ml	Carolans Irish Cream (Any Flavor) \$1.00 OFF 750ml \$200 OFF 1.5L
Makers Mark or High West Bourbon \$1.00 OFF 750ml \$200 OFF 1.75L	LIL VEGAS 6 Machines Private Room COME TRY YOUR LUCK! Must be 21 yrs or Older

Offers good through Nov. 14, 2023.

1099 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-2764

**5 MONTH
CD SPECIAL
5.10% APY***



Bank of Pontiac

Pontiac • Odell • Dwight • Forrest • Fairbury • Coal City
Minier • Delavan • Bloomington

Toll FREE 855-844-6151 | www.bankofpontiac.com

Member FDIC

*Annual Percentage Yield accurate as of 8/31/2023; \$5,000 minimum deposit;
Rates subject to change without notice; Penalty for early withdrawal.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THANK YOU!

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

HAPPY
VETERANS DAY



NOVEMBER 11th



THE FLOWER LOFT

221 N. Water St., Wilmington
(815)476-5638 (LOFT) • www.tfloft.com





Thank You, Veterans!

We salute your service, and
wish you a happy Veterans Day.

BOB'S

ADVANCED AUTO
& TIRE, INC.

60 E. Chestnut, Coal City • 815-634-0004
Complete Auto & Truck Repairs



HAPPY
VETERANS
DAY

With
Respect,
Honor and
Gratitude
Thank You
Veterans

BIG

STORAGE
SOLUTIONS

460 NORTH 5TH AVENUE, COAL CITY
815-201-2232

Today...and every day...
we are grateful for
our military service personnel, past
and present, and the families
who supported them.

Thank You
Veterans!




1099 S. Water St.,
Wilmington
(815) 476-2700
Check out our
website

TUFFY'S


WILMINGTON, IL

Wilmington's
Neighborhood
Drinking
Establishment






HAPPY
VETERANS
DAY

Thank you for
your service!



ARNIE BAUER

CHEVROLET | BUICK
GMC | CADILLAC

ARNIEBAUER.NET

SERVING YOU WITH TWO LOCATIONS
WILMINGTON, IL
815-476-3300
MATTESON, IL
708-720-2000



VETERANS DAY



THANK YOU TO ALL
MEMBERS OF OUR MILITARY
IN ALL BRANCHES
PAST AND PRESENT
LIVING AND DEAD

F

Ferrari

FUNERAL SERVICES

1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City
(815) 634-4040



Countless
Thanks to
Our
Veterans





Coal City Bank

Branch of Bank of Pontiac

85 S. Broadway Street, Coal City • 815-526-4001
www.bankofpontiac.com

Member FDIC

Proud to support our Veterans!



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.

220 S. Main St. • Wilmington
815-476-9715

- 29 years of gentle family dentistry -

WE KEEP OUR PATIENTS SMILING
WITH TRUSTED FAMILY DENTAL CARE



Thank you
VETERANS

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Free Speech
We couldn't be living it day
to day without the freedom
you have given us. To all the
men and women who serve,
we thank you!

The




FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS

111 S. Water St., Wilmington • 271 S. Broadway, Coal City

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

 *Thank You* 
TO OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS



GRUNDY BANK  120 S. Main St., Wilmington (815) 476-7460
201 Liberty St., Morris (815) 942-0130
grundy.bank  

Thank You Veterans
for your service and sacrifice



1095 S. Broadway, Coal City
815-634-2544




Normington's General Store salutes all veterans and present military men and women for their sacrifice and service.

My dad Bill Echterling (the original owner of AAI) was a Korean Vet. My husband and current owner Al Normington served as a medic in Vietnam.

Again, thanks to all who give us our freedom.

Normington's General Store

 924 S. Water St., Wilmington • (815) 476-7588

Just two simple words...

Thank You!

*On Veterans Day
and always, we remember
your sacrifices and
honor our freedom.*



Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd.

Morris 815/942-2500
Coal City 815/634-2125
Gardner 815/237-2526



Baskerville Funeral Home

Wilmington
815/476-2181
www.reevesfuneral.com

**Honoring All Veterans
on Veterans Day**
**We thank you for your
service and sacrifices.**
We are forever grateful.

237 N. Front St.
Braidwood
815-458-9850



1025 E. Division St.
Coal City
815-518-5389

1105 S. Water St., Wilmington 815-476-7731

**THANK YOU
VETERANS
FOR YOUR SERVICE**



It is our pleasure and privilege to serve and salute our local veterans. To the men and women in our community and around the country who have sacrificed to protect our freedom, we thank you greatly for your service.
Happy Veterans Day!



FM
FISHER MEENTS LLC

207 S. Water St., Wilmington
815-476-7635



RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive
FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!



(888) 274-6381 • www.surfbroadband.com

Grundy Bank hosting food drive

Community and social groups, as well as businesses, often come together to help fill local food pantry shelves in time of need.

The holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas are just one month apart, and is a time when the donations are particularly high in demand.

When Kuzma Care Cottage, located in Wilmington, found themselves in need of supplies, Grundy Bank was happy to step up and host a food drive in the bank's lobby.

"Having a dependable food pantry in our community is vital to the local residents and communities who at times may find themselves needing to utilize these services. We are committed to making an impact during this food drive to bring us closer to ensuring that no one is left hungry this holiday season," said Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales

Director of Grundy Bank.

Grundy Bank is collecting non-perishable food in the form of canned fruits, vegetables, soups, pasta & pasta sauces, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, tuna, beans, oatmeal and rice, as well as dry paper goods like hygiene and household items.

With the holidays approaching, consider donating special items like stuffing, cornbread mix, potatoes, cranberry sauce and gravy. Your donations will help make a difference in the lives of those in need during this special time of year.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to give back to our community and are looking forward to seeing the impact that this partnership with Kuzma Care Cottage will have.

Let's come together this holiday season and show that the power of kindness and generosity can truly make a difference in someone's life," said Stefany

Mickelson, Branch Manager/Assistant BSA Officer.

Kuzma Care Cottage is a non-profit organization that is committed to providing emergency food to local residents who find themselves in need. Their services are particularly important to families in low-income brackets, as well as those on a fixed income.

Every year, hundreds of families, veterans, and homeless individuals in the 60481-area code rely on their services. For more information on Kuzma Care Cottage visit their website at kuzmacarecottage.org.

All donations can be dropped off at Grundy Bank located at 120 S. Main St. in Wilmington during bank hours.

Wilmington branch hours are Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sat. from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For questions regarding the food drive, please call (815) 942-0130.



NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY members trick-or-treated for canned goods in the Water's Edge subdivision on Sunday, Oct. 29. (Front row, from left) Izzy Rivera, Brittany Horton, Bryn Bianchetta, Ella Banas, Hannah Basinger and Kylee Knowles. (Back row from left to right) Sara Falcon, Alyssa Johnston, Clara Smith, Emma Grace Strong, Kyle Farrell, Reid Juster, Cade McCubbin, Reese VanDuyne, Paige Eighner, Berkley Rink, and Brooklyn Flores. They collected about 250 items which were then delivered to Kuzma Care Cottage, the local food pantry.

Not so secret Senior skip day

BY LILY TURCANY
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

The infamous Senior rituals may not be as discreet as one may think. Millions of American high school seniors participate in famous activities every year. The best known include "Senior Prank" and "Senior Skip Day."

Although seniors may see these events as a rite of passage or their last hoorah, it is not as secretive as it is made out to be. At Wilmington High School the senior Prank is usually during Homecoming week.

Although the underclassmen are full of suspense to see the infamous stunt, the high school staff is already in the know. Nation wide harmless Senior pranks are executed, while select schools have seniors barred from graduation due to their destructive pranks.

Many principals are fine with Senior pranks, but they draw the line at vandalism.

Another popular ritual of "Senior Skip Day"

is very much not a secret.

With all the talk and excitement between Seniors as skip day approaches, high school staff is well aware of the upcoming event. Although there are still rules of "Senior Skip Day."

Parents must call in their child like any other school day, otherwise the absent will remain unexcused and consequences will result. Also if you are in a sport or other activity, you must be in school for half the day in order to practice or play.

Seniors would rather rebel for their final months of high school, while administration has their own traditions in store. WHS, for example, holds Senior Dinner, Awards/Scholarship Night, Prom, and each graduating class designs a T-shirt.

While the famous Senior rituals are not encouraged, they are accepted as long as there is the proper considerations. What does the class of 2024 have up their sleeves?

PEO to meet for dinner, nut packing

The PEO Wilmington Chapter GK will meet Monday, Nov. 13 at Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington.

Members will pack nuts for the annual fundraiser from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.; dinner will be shared from 6-7, followed by a meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Job openings

Nationally, there are nearly 800,000 open jobs in the manufacturing industry, including tens of thousands of available jobs in Illinois.

SANTA
IS COMING TO
ARNIE BAUER
CHEVROLET GMC.

Enjoy cookies and milk with Santa along with kid-friendly christmas activities, free professional photos, and much more!

****ALLERGY FRIENDLY OPTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE****

DECEMBER 16TH
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

TOY DONATIONS WELCOME
**GENTLY USED OR NEW TOYS WILL BE DONATED TO LOCAL KIDS IN WILL/GRUNDY COUNTY

ARNIE BAUER
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-567-8922

ARNIE BAUER
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-567-8922

ARNIE BAUER
CHEVROLET | GMC

901 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington • 815.476.2826
www.arniebauer66.com

Gardner Fire Protection District's Annual Chili Supper & Turkey Raffle

November 17, 2023

Turkey Raffle
100 Frozen Turkeys
Raffle starts at 6:00 pm

Raffle Baskets

\$1.00 Drafts

4 Burner Blackstone Grill Raffle

50/50 Raffle

Adults \$10.00
Seniors & Kids under 12 \$6.00

Gardner American Legion
426 Industry Dr.
Gardner
Doors open at 4:00 p.m.

Godley Park's CRAFT Show


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 9 AM - 1 PM

JEWELRY, HOLIDAY CRAFTS, SOAPS, LOTIONS, CANDLES
HANDMADE CROCHET & SEWN ITEMS
OUTDOOR GOODS, PAINTINGS, AND MUCH MORE!

Godley Park District 500 S. Kankakee St, Godley (815) 458-6129
www.godleypark.com

OBITUARIES

Dell Raridon Jr.

 WILMINGTON—Dell Raridon Jr., 94, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Oct. 31, 2023, at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He was born on July 2, 1929, in Pontiac, IL to Dell Sr. and Pearl (Lighty) Raridon. Dell was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He touched the lives of many with his kind heart and cheerful disposition. Dell grew up in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1945. After completing his education, he dedicated himself to serving his country. Dell served in the United States Air Force from 1950 until honorably discharged in 1955. He carried the values instilled in him during his service throughout his life. It was also during that same year he entered into the service that Dell married Joan Parkinson on Dec. 27, 1950 in the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. Together they made their home in Wilmington and raised their two children.

In his professional career, Dell worked as a Mechanical Technician and held positions with Argonne National Laboratory and General Electric before retiring. His expertise and dedication were greatly admired by his colleagues. Dell's passion for mechanics extended beyond the workplace; he could fix almost anything with his skillful hands, and was often fondly referred to as "Mr. Fix-It." Dell was a dedicated member of the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, where he served as a Deacon, Elder and sang in the choir; he served on the Wilmington School District Board of Education, where he held the position of President, and he belonged to the Wilmington American Legion.

Those who knew Dell will always remember him for his adventurous spirit. He would often embark on "over-the-hill" rides to unknown destinations for breakfast, inviting his friends to join him on these thrilling escapades. Dell would fuel not only his motorcycle but also their souls with laughter and joy along the way. Quick-witted and ever so clever, Dell always had a line for every occasion. His infectious sense of humor brought smiles to countless faces throughout his life. Not only was he witty, but he was also incredibly caring and compassionate towards others. He had a genuine love for people and continuously went above and beyond to help those around him.

Family meant everything to Dell; it was among his proudest accomplishments. Their laughter and love brought immeasurable happiness to his life. Dell had a soft spot for children and always held a special place in his heart for them. He spread kindness and warmth



wherever he went, including the communities he was a part of. Dell enjoyed giving back to others and was known for his generosity. The impact he made on the lives around him will continue to resonate for years to come. On top of everything else, Dell had a passion for the open road. He was a true motorcycle enthusiast and found pure joy riding his beloved Harley Davidson. The freedom he felt while cruising down the road brought him unparalleled happiness. Outside of his career and motorcycle adventures, Dell had various hobbies and interests that brought him joy. He enjoyed boating and water skiing during the summer months, relishing in the tranquility of being out on the water. Additionally, he formed lifelong friendships with his cherished "coffee gangs" at McDonald's. Throughout the day, Dell would meet with these groups and share stories over cups of coffee. In between these meetings, he would indulge in short naps, recharging himself for the next gathering.

Dell leaves behind a legacy that will forever be remembered by those whose lives he touched. He embodied kindness, courage, and a zest for life that inspired all who had the pleasure of knowing him. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his family and friends. May his soul find eternal peace.

Survivors include his daughter, Linda Raridon-Duke, of Channahon; granddaughter, Kaylin Duke of Lake Village, IN; one sister Doris Clifton, of Biloxi, MS and his sister-in-law, Jean (the late Harold) Stainbrook, of Wilmington; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Dell was preceded in death by his parents, Dell Sr. and Pearl Raridon; wife, Joan; son Craig, and two brothers, Don (Stella) Raridon and Lloyd (Beverly) Raridon.

Funeral services were held at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023.

Burial followed in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington, where Dell was laid to rest with his late wife, Joan and son, Craig.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Dell's memory to the Wilmington School District Foundation for Excellence to establish a Vocational Scholarship or to Kuzma Care Cottage.

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

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

Darlene Orsini

MORRIS—Darlene Ann Orsini, 82, of Morris, and formerly of Ottawa, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023.

Born Aug. 25, 1941 in Minonk, IL, Darlene Ann was a daughter of Edward J. and Catherine (Eve) Yarsinsky. She was raised and educated in Ottawa where she attended St. Columbus and graduated from Marquette Academy. Darlene went on to further her education at Rockford College School of Business where she was honored as their Prom Queen in 1960.

On May 19, 1960, Darlene married Joseph Orsini in Oregon, IL and together their marriage was blessed in St. Peter Catholic Church in Rockford later in December of the same year.

A dedicated wife and mother, Darlene devoted her attention to attending to the home and her family. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris; belonged to numerous HAM Radio clubs in both Joliet and Morris and was active with the Edgewood Aquarium Society in Brookfield, IL where she served as treasurer of the club.

In her free time Darlene enjoyed reading and was a fan of the Chicago Cubs. She will be remembered as a talented seamstress who was also skilled in hand work knitting and crochet-



ing. Survivors include her loving husband of 63 years, Joseph; two daughters, Dina (Dave) Walker, of Morris and Marie Orsini (Daniel Corbin), of Valrico, FL; six grandchildren: Matt Walker, Drew (Haley) Walker, Taylor (Daulton) Walker, Nicole Pratt, Kyle Pratt and Alexander Pratt, and one great-grandchild, Avery Walker.

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Angelina Marie in 1972 and one sister, Marlene (Donald) Stout.

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 Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Private family graveside services will follow on Saturday in Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery, where Darlene will be laid to rest with her daughter.

Family and friends are encouraged to log into www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Darlene's memorial page.

Funeral and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Linda K. Melius

DIAMOND—Linda K. Melius, 66, of Diamond, and formerly of Waukegan, IL, passed away Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023 at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL with family surrounding her.

Born Nov. 3, 1956 in Waukegan, Linda was a daughter of Virginia (Mitchell) Reif, of Waukegan and the late, Robert Reif. She was raised and educated in Waukegan and attended Waukegan High School. On Oct. 31, 1987, Linda married James Allan Melius and he preceded her in death on Feb. 1, 2020.

To know Linda was to love her. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, and friend. A natural caregiver in every definition of the word. Her greatest joy was spending time with her children and kitties. Not only was she an amazing mother to her own children, but she often took on a motherly and even grandmotherly role with her kid's friends and their children. She also had a passion for gardening, she had a magical green thumb, and could keep even the trickiest plants alive. She could always be found in the summer months outside tending to her garden.

Survivors include her mother, Virginia; daughter, Alison Melius (Mitch Hible), of Terra Haute, IN and son, Max Melius, of Diamond; two brothers: Mitchell (Liz) Reif, of Vernon Hills, IL and David (Tracy) Reif, of Winthrop Harbor,



IL; one sister, Susan Eng, of Annapolis, MD; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Jim Fantus, Michael (Rita) Melius and Robert (Judy) Melius, and nieces and nephews: Matt (Natalie) Fantus, Michael Fantus, Melissa (Matt) Lynch, Jacquie (Mike) Matayosian, Katie (Jake) Otterson, Jason (Cierra) Reif, Christian Eng and Bryant Eng.

Linda was preceded in death by her father, Robert Reif; husband, Jim Melius and one sister, Bobbie Fantus.

In lieu of flowers, please go to your local greenhouse/nursery and pick out a plant for your home, in honor of Linda.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation and celebration of Linda's life on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023 between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City.

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

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Rosetta Hughes

WILMINGTON—Rosetta Hughes, 72, of Wilmington, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. Born July 14, 1951, in Manteno, Rosetta Marie was the daughter of Maurice Mascarino Sr. and Marjean (nee Hansen) Oller. She was raised in Kankakee County, and on July 20, 1968 she married Ronald R. Hughes at First Baptist Church in Wilmington.

Rosetta worked as a machine operator for 29 years at Johnson & Johnson Personal Products in Wilmington, and also owned her own Faux Painting business for several years. The arts were very special to her, and she lent her talents to the local community theater programs making scenery and stage props. Rosetta's faith was a central focus in her life and she was a devoted member of Back to the Cross Ministries in Orland Hills, IL, where she participated in their Ladies' Bible Study.

She loved to travel with her husband to various national parks across the country and enjoyed hiking, bicycling, and kayaking. Rosetta also had an affinity for animals and nature, and looked forward to trips to Florida where her father managed a family zoo. She had many close relationships with her extended family and friends and she will be remembered for her strong faith and love of family.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Ron Hughes, and one son and daughter-in-law,



Christopher and Zonda Hughes, all of Wilmington; one brother, Maurice Mascarino Jr., of Bourbonnais; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law: David and Barbara Hughes, of Channahon; and Cathy Hughes, of Worth, IL; several cousins, including Donald Hanson, of St. Anne, IL; numerous nieces and nephews, and countless friends, including: Pat Malcolm, Mary Jane Sinkular, Sara Rodriguez, Henrietta Lyday, Paula Spurlock, and Sharon Moyer.

Rosetta was preceded in death by her parents: Maurice Mascarino Sr., and Marjean and Jackie Oller; and two brothers-in-law, Roger and Joe Hughes.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 2023 at Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington.

Cremation rites were accorded following the funeral, and Rosetta was privately laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Rosetta's memory to Back to the Cross Ministries, PO Box 324, Oak Forest, Illinois 60452.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Rosetta's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Christine Kunkel

WILMINGTON—Christine Ann Kunkel, 72, of Wilmington, passed away Nov. 2, 2023 at home where she had been a resident for 33 years. Christine went to be with our Lord after a long battle with dementia. She was at home surrounded by her husband, her son, her grandchildren and her special friend, like a daughter, Shelly Cox.

She was born in Chicago on June 23, 1951, the daughter of Thomas and Elaine Pettke. Christine, a Protestant, was a self employed commercial cleaner. Christine will be remembered first for Christianity. In her younger days she enjoyed bowling, golfing and she loved to go fishing with Chuck.

She is survived by her husband, Charles;



son, Charles Jr.; sister, Cynthia Pettke Mech; gramma to Kelsey, Amber and Collin and great-gramma to Kaiden, Iden, Waverly and Ariela plus numerous nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles. Sisters-in-law, Kathy Kleckner, Janet Kunkel and Susan Pettke; brothers-in-law, Tom Kunkel, Art Kunkel and Terry Kleckner.

She was preceded in death by: her parents and brothers: Tom, Ray and David Pettke.

A celebration of her life in the Lord will be announced in the near future. Cremation rites have been accorded and there will be no visitation.

Donald C. Franzen

WILMINGTON—Donald C. Franzen, 71, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Nov. 3, 2023 at his home in Shadow Lakes.

Born Jan. 4, 1952 in Evergreen Park, IL, Donald was a son of Edward Paul and LaVerne Claire (Hutchinson) Franzen. He was raised in Chicago and graduated from Morgan Park High School with the class of 1970. Don made his career with General Motors where he gained employment in 1976 and went on to retire from in 2006.

An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Don was a member of Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Delta Ducks and Salmon Unlimited. A 'Jack of all trades,' Don had many skills and will most be remembered for his entrepreneurial spirit.

Survivors include two sons, Christopher Franzen, of Wilmington and Dennis (Michelle) Franzen, of Ashland City, TN; five grandchildren: Brianna, Cody, Ashlee, Dylan and Emily; and four sisters: Linda (Dick) Kelley, of Maple



Park, IL; Lorie (Tom) Swidgeral, of Oak Forest, IL; LuAnn (Patrick) Lauf, of St. Charles, IL and Lisa (Matthew) Irving, of Crown Point, IN as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Paul and a niece, Jennifer Kirwan.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 6 to 8 p.m.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Don's memorial page.

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

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

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for 2023 will be held on November 20, 2023 at 4:00 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.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$6,295,699.00.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$6,791,400.00. This represents a 7.87% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$0.00. This represents a 0% increase or decrease over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$6,295,699.00.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$6,791,400.00. This represents a 7.87% increase over the previous year.

Musicians invited to Circle jam

There will be a circle jam and play, sing or just enjoy. from classic country to blue-grass and more. For more information call Randy Kiefling at 815-237-8139 or 815-210-8563.

Saturday, Nov. 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the hall under the water tower at the Godley Park and District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley. Circle jams are social hours featuring a mix of music

Lisa Marie's

HAIR SALON

• Men

• Women

• Children

CUTS ★ COLOR

450 Davy Ln., Wilmington

(708) 465-3198



A "TAKE SOME OF THE WORRY OUT OF LIFE" POLICY.

With rewards for safe behavior that protects what matters most, rather than penalties for what doesn't go quiet right. And with the support you need, every step of the way. For your car. Your home. For your unique life. Dream fearlessly with American Family Insurance. Contact me today.



AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

in f

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies, American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53703

(202) 017720 - 1/20 - 14732207

Gerald Gresham

815-729-3570

815-476-6364

863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404

teamgresham@amfam.com

Email: ggresham@amfam.com



Tuffy's

COMEDY NIGHT!

SAT NOV. 18

@ 08:03 PM

ONE NIGHT ONLY

HOST

GARY WHEATON

FEATURE SPOT

DAVID DIEGO RODRIGUEZ

HEADLINER

DOBIE MAXWELL

GUEST SPOT

BOB FRANKS

TICKETS \$18

CALL (815) 476-2700

1099 S. WATER ST. (RT. 102), WILMINGTON, IL

On Broadway Dancers Annual Fundraising Event

A

CHRISTMAS

SHOW

ADMISSION: \$15

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ON BROADWAY DANCERS, A 501(C)(3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NOVEMBER 25 - 6PM

NOVEMBER 26 - 2PM

GOAL CITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Veterans Day

Breakfast

Free Will Donation

Veterans Eat Free

Saturday, November 11th

Ignite Christian Church

1180 W. 1st St.

Braidwood

8-11am



Braidwood

Council 1574

How some laundry soaps could be toxic

Dear EarthTalk: Do mainstream laundry soaps contain chemicals that are bad for human health and/or the environment? Are any brands safer than others in this regard?

– P.V., via email

For centuries, soaps made from natural substances were used to cleanse our skin and clothes. Synthetic detergents

were developed in the early 20th century to create products that cleaned our laundry better and more conveniently.

These days we may buy them based on a nice smell or how bright our clothes look, and take for granted that they are safe for us and for the environment.

Sadly, that doesn't seem to be the case. Consumer Reports recently looked for potentially dangerous chemicals in several laundry detergents and found quite the selection of "nasties."

One of the worst is 1,4-dioxane, an industrial solvent that's readily absorbed through the skin, lungs and gastrointestinal tract and is considered a probable human carcinogen.

In 2022, New York State banned laundry detergents containing unsafe levels of 1,4-dioxane. Arm & Hammer Clean Burst, Tide Original and Gain Original + Aroma Boost are among those detergents no longer available in New York as a result.

Other common yet dangerous detergent ingredients to watch out for include: neurotoxin heavy metals such as

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment



arsenic, cadmium and lead; phthalates that make fragrances last longer but disrupt the body's hormonal systems; phosphorus that helps separate dirt from fabric but has links to negative human health effects including the aggravation of cardiovascular problems and osteoporosis; and sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS) and sodium laureate sulfate (SLES), scrubbing agents that can irritate the skin, eyes and lungs.

Many common detergents contain synthetic dyes, fragrances and so-called "synthetic optical brighteners" that don't actually clean but can cause allergic reactions and skin irritation and harm downstream wildlife.

Beyond the immediate health and environmental threats many of these synthet-

ic chemicals pose, they also are not easily broken down over time and as such accumulate in the environment over decades.

They can accumulate in water to toxic levels, affecting wildlife that is exposed, be carried by waterways or by water extraction for irrigation and can then get into food crops and animals.

Like the pesticide DDT, the chemicals may accumulate in the body tissues of organisms living in polluted areas, but more crucially for us, in the body tissues of the top predators in food chains, which are in many cases...us.

New York's decision to ban these hazardous detergents is a significant step toward establishing a safer and healthier environment, and emphasizes the importance of selecting eco-friendly products.

Cheri Peele of Toxic-Free Future, a nonprofit that aims to reduce the use of dangerous ingredients in consumer products, urges consumers to "choose detergents with the U.S. EPA Safer Choice label."

Boosting consumer awareness of this problem has

become more mainstream recently. The Good Housekeeping Institute trialed some of the more eco-friendly brands. Its researchers gave high marks to Ecover, Smol, Splosh, Method and Bio D. Ecology Works produces a 100 percent biodegradable anti-allergen laundry detergent.

Seventh Generation is also highly regarded as eco-friendly. Happy washing!

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

KAS3, LLC files to dissolve

PUBLIC NOTICE CLAIM NOTICE

Pursuant to 805 ILCS 180/25-45 and 805 ILCS 180/25-50, Notice is hereby given that KAS3, LLC was dissolved on October 13, 2023. Any and all claims against the company, its members, employees, agents, or their transferees must be delivered to the Office of Frank J. Meents, Attorney for the company, Post Office Box 578, Channahon, Illinois 60410, on or before November 9, 2028. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Frank J. Meents
Attorney for KAS3, LLC
Post Office Box 578, Channahon, IL 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney No: 06298859

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wed., Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023.

Elwood Planning Commission to amend text of Village Zoning Ordinance

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held before the Village of Elwood Planning Commission on November 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Elwood Village Hall located at 401 E. Mississippi Avenue, Elwood, Illinois. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear comments regarding a proposed amendment to the text of the Village Zoning Ordinance. The amendment would clarify that variances granted by the Village do not expire in twelve months unless the variance is not utilized by the applicant and also would permit the President and Board of Trustees to extend the twelve month period for an additional twelve month period.

The public is welcome to attend and participate in the public hearing. A copy of the proposed amendment is available and may be reviewed at the Village Hall during normal business hours. Any persons requiring special accommodation to attend or participate in the hearing should contact the Village of Elwood at 815-423-5011 one week prior to the hearing. The Village will also make a copy of the proposed amendment that is the subject of the public hearing available on its website at www.villageofelwood.com. Published November 8, 2023 by Order of the Village of Elwood.

Julie Friebele
Village Clerk

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.

Sheriff's sale of 21011 W. County Rd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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.

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

Carrington Mortgage Services LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
James N. Bobel; et. al.
No. 23 FC 0628

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 4th day of October, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 30th day of November, 2023, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder the following-described real estate:
THE WEST 375 FEET OF THE EAST 1700.67 FEET (EXCEPTING THE SOUTH 744.42 FEET THEREOF) OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 10, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 21011 W. County Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: Residential
P.I.N.: 09-18-30-400-021-0000

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:

Codilis & Associates, P.C.
15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527
P: 630-794-5300
F: 630-794-9090
Plaintiff's Attorney
MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 15 and 22, 2023.

Notice of Civil Action in Marcum divorce

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CIVIL ACTION
Kaitlynn Marcum, who is an individual whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer Nicholas Marcum's Complaint for Divorce, thereafter, a judgement by default may be rendered against her in Case Number DR-23-900154.00 in the Circuit Court of Blount County, Alabama.

Circuit Clerk
Circuit Court of Blount County, Alabama
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, October 18, 25 November 1 and 8, 2023.

Attorney Meents files Brieser 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 GARY WAYNE BRIESER, Deceased; No. 2023 PR 604

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Gary Wayne Brieser, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on October 23, 2023, to Barbara Ann Brieser, whose address is 27665 Boulder Road, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. 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 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 2, 2024, 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.

Barbara A. Brieser
Independent Executor of the Estate of Gary Wayne Brieser, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W. 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 Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 8 and 15, 2023.

Attorney Meents files Rowe 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 RAYMOND D. ROWE, Deceased; No. 2023PR630

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Gary Wayne Brieser, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on November 2, 2023, to Megan Rowe-Schoeneck, whose address is 8925 E. Teal Lane, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. 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 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 16, 2024, 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.

Megan Rowe-Schoeneck
Independent Executor of the Estate of Raymond D. Rowe, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 15 and 22, 2023.

Attorney Meents files Shipman 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 DANIEL GEORGE SHIPMAN, Deceased; No. 2023PR624

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Daniel George Shipman, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on November 2, 2023, to Frank Shipman, whose address is 2770 N. Meadow Drive, 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 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 16, 2024, 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.

Frank Shipman
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Daniel George Shipman, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 15 and 22, 2023.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines
Classified Display
Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
Mondays - noon



The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate



The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

Cost
Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$15; 2 wks. - \$19;
3 wks. - \$22; 4 wks. - \$25
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Don't let your roof get damaged from black algae. Have it sprayed, low prices.
INSULATION. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17-20

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including drywall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc44-51

Gas Fireplace Repair 40 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you. ck37-12

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
- No Deposit - Starting at \$50
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL
• Farm Machinery
• Garden Tractors
• Snowmobiles
• Appliances
• Anything Metal
Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington, 2nd floor, efficiency/studio, \$600 month plus security, plus utilities, no pets, no smoking, Text 815-768-5020. cc45-48

BUSINESS PROPERTIES FOR RENT

Office space for rent in Coal City. 2,070 sq. ft. 5 exam rooms, waiting room, 2 bathrooms, kitchenette, private offices, lighted marquee, lighted parking lot, handicap accessible. \$2,400 per month. Contact Joan at 815-791-5875. Email joan@advantagerealty.com TFN

DUPLEX FOR RENT

2 Bedroom Duplex Ranch Style. Only 2 units per building. 1/2 mile from I-55 in (Diamond, IL). Attached garage, backyard. Oak cabinets, concrete drive, washer & dryer hook-up. All maintenance included. \$1,050 per month. Available 1/1/24. No smoking or pets & year lease. Call 815-351-2494. cr45-48

HELP WANTED

Looking for non-experienced help building decks. Gentry & Son 815-823-2177. cc45-48

Offering CNA classes, days, evenings and weekends. Home health nurses needed. CNA instructor needed. Call for class dates, 630-771-1162 or 630-771-9069, www.spectrumnursesna.com cc45-18

HOMES FOR RENT

Wilmington, updated charming 2 BR, 1 BA, home for rent in a nice neighborhood close to a park. Detached 2 car garage, fenced yard, W/D, C/A. No smoking. \$1,200/mo., 1st and last sec. deposit. 815-476-7278. cc44-46

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

Two black long sleeve pull over sweaters with beautiful sequins on the front. Size Medium. Never worn. \$30 each or 2/\$50. 815-423-5243 cc45

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

DOGS PETS LIVESTOCK

Happy Jack® Liquivac 2x® is recognized safe & effective against hook & round worms by the USCV. Double strength, 3 year stability. At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com)

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn/47b

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 21011 W County Road, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Residential). On the 30th day of November, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: Carrington Mortgage Services LLC Plaintiff V. James N. Bobel; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 23 FC 0628 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: Codilis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 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 on Wed., Nov. 8, 15 & 22, 2023.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

A Thousand Words Photography
385 N. Second Ave. Coal City
Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Trees Unlimited Retirement Auction

November 18th, 2023 – 9:00 am
Location: 46W786 Allen Rd Hampshire IL
Mike Powers (608) 214 – 5761 – Dan Powers (608) 214 – 3765
COMPLETE RETIREMENT DISPERSAL – DO NOT MISS THIS AUCTION!!!
For More Information and Pictures Visit www.PowersAuction.com
Powers Auction Service
110 E Murray St Brownstown WI 53522
Live & Onsite Bidding Available

152.27 Acres+/- Farmland Coles County, IL

Virtual Live Online Auction
November 29th at 1pm Bid at firstmidag.com
R. Burnett & Mary G. Miller Trust Farm
Located 4.5 miles NW of Mattoon along State Hwy 121. 2 Tracts, 83.3 and 68.97 +/- surveyed acres offered Choice & Privilege. Both Tracts are mostly tillable with class A soils. No buyer's premium. For more details visit firstmidag.com.

Call Justin Wheeler, Auctioneer, at 217-855-8358
Brock Norris, Broker In Mattoon, 217-258-3556, bnorris@firstmid.com
First Mid AG SERVICES
David Klein, Managing Broker

21 CENTURY 21
Coleman-Hornsby
Locally Owned
Nationally Known

Call Us At 942-9190 or Log on to C21.com
Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker
1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

NEW LISTING	NEW LISTING	NEW LISTING	PRICE REDUCED	RESIDENTIAL LOTS Including Wooded and Waterfront
MORRIS \$439,000 Investment opportunity 3 homes/units on 1 property all rented. Well maintained. Call/text Tom 815-474-1575. WC1226	MORRIS \$199,900 Remodeled 3BR, 1.5BA, 1350 sq ft home across from Good Park. Three blocks from downtown Morris. Shawn 815-474-6670. AP216	MORRIS \$199,900 Remodeled 3 BR 2 BA brick home across from Good Park. Three blocks from downtown Morris. Shawn 815-474-6670. AP216	VERONA \$457,000 Beautiful 4 BR home with 1st floor primary suite & heated outbuilding on 5+ acres with a stream. Shawn 815-474-6670.	MORRIS \$449,900 Beautiful 2 story home on 1 acre in Southmor Estates subdivision. 4 BR, 3.5BA. Joan Workman 815-341-8053. PW385
DIAMOND \$350,000 Over 7 acres fronting on Rt. 113 in Diamond. Front part zoned commercial; back portion zoned residential. Therest 735-8494.	MINOOKA \$219,900 3BR, 2BA Tri-Level home in the country on a 1 acre lot. 25 car garage. Minooka Schools. Shawn 815-474-6670. TN10955	MORRIS \$195,000 3BR, 1.5BA, eat-in kitchen, big living rm. Deck off kitchen for entertaining. 1 car garage. Jo 815-252-1724. TW741	MORRIS \$179,900 Nice 3BR bungalow. Eat-in kitchen with lots of cupboards! Fenced backyard. 2 car garage. Jodylyn 815-252-1724. BW744	VERONA \$125,000 4 BR, 2 BA home. First floor primary bedroom. 25 car garage. Located in Seneca School Dist. Shawn 815-474-6670. ED310

VIRTUAL ONLINE
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023 AT 2:00 PM^{CT}

156.97 TAXABLE ACRES± • 1 TRACT

The O'Connor & Ruane farm is located 1 mile east of Peotone, IL or 16 miles north/northeast of Kankakee, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 17, T33-R13E, Will Township, Will County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, don't miss this opportunity to purchase a well-located, productive farm that lies in an area with future development potential.

O'CONNOR & RUANE FARM
Representing Attorney: Michael S. Guilfoyle
Guilfoyle & Stevenson LLP | (815) 539-6711
1316 Meriden St., Mendota, IL 61342
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

BigIron **SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS**
(844) 847-2161 | www.SullivanAuctioneers.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

LIFTED
SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
CONCRETE RAISING

Spray Foam Insulation
• garages
• pole buildings
• attics
• basements
• commercial
• industrial
Wilmington • 815-200-6880

Concrete Raising
• driveways
• sidewalks
• patios
• stairs
• and more!
We Deliver!
www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

Landscape & Supply
Evanston, IL

• Driveway stone
• Pulverized topsoil
• Pool & play sand
• Hardwood mulch
• Decorative stone
• Bobcat Service
We Deliver!
www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

SISTEK RENTALS
We **SELL, REPAIR,** and **RENT**
Outdoor Power Equipment

Cub Cadet **GRASS HOPPER**
YOUR NEXT MOWER®

815-237-8298
740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

SHOP LOCAL!

WILMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
EST. 1958

616 Davy Lane Wilmington

Mini Storage
CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

Affordable Clean, Secure Monthly Rentals

No Deposit Required 815-530-0200

FARMERS INSURANCE
MELODIE J. LUCKETT

326 E. Baltimore St. Wilmington, IL 60481
Office 815-476-5242
Cell 815-671-1356
mluckett@farmersagent.com

Agent, Notary
Auto • Home Life • Commercial

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE
Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
Ed Bonnavier
Coal City • 634-4691

SHORKEY PAINTING
(815) 546-1321
Interior/Exterior
Est. 1989

HENDRON CABINETS.COM
Jason Hendron Construction, LLC

CABINETS COUNTERTOPS FLOORING

Showroom Location: 450 Davy Lane, Wilmington

815.790.1235

Gamboa encouraging others to give girls wrestling a try

"If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you"
-Judith Gamboa-
Class of 2024

Finally, there is a new era of girls wrestling in high school. The inaugural IHSA girls state series took place in February of 2022, marking Illinois as the 28th state to sanction girls wrestling as a sport.

The sport of wrestling for girls is one of the fastest growing sports across the country. Many young woman have paved the way through the years making this milestone possible.

In 2022 Reed-Custer High School had one of their own qualify for the first IHSA sanctioned girls wrestling state tournament. Judith Gamboa became Reed Custer's first female state qualifier and followed up in 2023 by placing 5th at the state tournament at the 105lb weight class.

"Judith Gamboa is the definition of an advocate for woman's wrestling. Judith has a successful family history of wrestling and she didn't let anything stop her from joining that legacy. I am proud of her for the bar she set for our woman's program and am excited to see what she can accomplish in her future," said Coach Yale Davis.

"The non-for-profit foundation "Wrestle Like A Girl" (wrestlelikeagirl.org) is helping lead the way by advocating

for young woman and empowering them through the sport of wrestling to become leaders in life. As the incoming head coach at Reed-Custer, I would like to see more young woman encouraged to join the sport," said coach Jeremy Helsing.

Reed Custer's Lady Comet Cosmic Club, is also out there advocating for young woman to get involved in the sport of wrestling. The future for young woman in this sport is strong and we owe these young women our attention as they lead this way," said coach Helsing.

When Judith was asked about being the first female to get her name added to Reed-Custer's wrestling room wall, Judith said, "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you."

2000 JOEY SPIKER 152 2ND	2022 KODY MARSCHNER 220 3rd
2001 STEVE CONRAD 103 4TH	2023 JUDITH GAMBOA 105 5TH
2005 BRYAN LENIG 103 4TH	2023 KODY MARSCHNER 220 3RD
2010 BILL CHANCEY 125 2ND	2023 GUNNAR BERG 285 4TH
2010 MATT ENGEL 135 4TH	
2011 TRENT LYONS 112 2ND	
2011 STEVE ROSENBERG 119 3RD	
2011 ZACH BOYER 171 4TH	
2021 KODY MARSCHNER 220 2nd	
2021 ADELL GAMBOA 145 6TH	



REED-CUSTER female wrestler gives two thumbs up for seeing her name on the wall of the RC wrestling state placers. She placed 5th at 105 pounds during the first ever girls state wrestling finals.

Reed-Custer High School athletes made lasting memories this fall



GET FIRED UP—The Reed-Custer Cheer team performs during Meet the Comets night, a kickoff to the fall sports season, which took place in August.



GETTING THE DIG while avoiding landing face-first is Reed-Custer senior Beth Crater.



THE OPENING KICKOFF is made by Reed-Custer's Tristan Randall.

RCMS 7th graders start with a victory

The 7th grade Panther boys basketball team got off on the right foot to open their season against Dwight, winning by a final score of 20-10.

Corbin Stahl led the team with 10 points. Dylan Lobb chipped in with eight points.

Rounding out the scor-

ing for Reed-Custer was Logan Baumgartner with two points. The team traveled to Morris yesterday to contend with Immaculate Conception. The Panthers are 1-0 on the young season.

They are coached by Scott Dinelli.



Photo by Angela Rose

R-C RUNNING BACK Rex Pfeifer follows his blocker during Friday's 42-36 victory over Streator. The Comets will finish their season at Lisle on Friday.



Photo by Angela Rose

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

Geo's PIZZA

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 38 years!"

Greater Grundy County Readers' Choice Awards 2015

38TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$28⁹⁹

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 11/30/23.

Gift Certificates Available

Order online at www.geospizza.net

634-8858
715 S. Broadway • Coal City