

Shats is in the Senior Spotlight

Eighth graders show off their skills







MORRIS RETAIL ASSOCIATION

invites you to be a part of our

Holiday Shopping Season

Window Walk

For more info visit morrisil.org or Morris Retail Association's Facebook page



EVENTS:

Nov. 12 3 French Hens Market Nov. 25-27 Home for the Holidays,

Window Walk,

Collectors coupon bag giveaway Nov. 26 Small Business Saturday

Dec. 2 Midnight in Morris

Dec. 11 WinterFest Market

Dec. 17 Holiday in the park

Morris Retail Association

BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Behind the scenes efforts an important step in local development

BY MARNEY SIMON

The city of Braidwood has approved a half dozen new businesses over the course of the past couple of years. And while it may not look obvious just looking around town, city leaders say the effort to turn all those plans into real brick and mortar structures are in full swing.

City Administrator Tony Altiery said much of the work to bring those new businesses—and their new tax

means efforts for everything from the planned truck stop to three new car dealerships are all still focusing on the important infrastructure needed before any building can start.

Altiery said the planned truck stop at I-55 and Reed road, D'Orazio and Arnie Bauer sites along EZ Street, an a new 15,000 square foot mechanic shop on North Division are all in the engineering phase.

"Everything is in engineering, engineering and attorneys. That's the dollars—to the city is currently in a longest part of anything. Once you get

'behind the scenes' phase. That through those, the building process is said. "We did get a hold of IDOT and Street is near complete. the easy part," Altiery said.

Altiery also noted that plans to widen the intersection at EZ Street and Division Street, as well as efforts to clean up the city's interchanges to make getting to the city more appealing to the eye, are also underway.

"We're working on the turn lanes [at EZ Street], that was just finished up for all the preliminary engineering and sent in for permitting to IDOT. So, we're just waiting on a permit from the state which can take anywhere from three months to a year," Altiery

they came and cut all the grass down in our interchanges, and they're working on getting a contract with a tree service to come and cut some trees out of the interchanges. So, that's moving forward.

A new gaming and liquor shop on Washington Street at the site of the old laundromat currently has its foundation poured, the administrator

And, Altiery added, most of the prep work to finally build a new Ultimate Rides location on Hickory

'They have all of their dirt work just about done, they were supposed to seed and put grass matting down [on Tuesday, but it snowed]," Altiery said of the dealership, which has been in the works to move from Coal City to Braidwood since 2020. "They're still waiting for material on their building, but they've been spending the last three weeks digging out the detention ponds. They put a berm up around the north side of the property, that

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 2

Comets quest for state comes to an end



THE COMET SEASON came to an end after Byron won 32-27 in the third round of the playoffs on Saturday. Despite losing to the Tigers for the second year in a row, the Comets can keep their heads up for having a history-making season with an 11-1 record, something no other Comet football team has accomplished. Details on the game and the season in sports.

Two decades in the making

Jewel-Osco is coming to Diamond

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

A retail development two decades in the making is official as Jewel-Osco announced a near \$30 million investment in the village of Diamond.

The 40-acre site on the southeast corner of Route 113 and Will Road was acquired in 2004 by TBS Development Services Group, Inc.,

Albertsons, the parent company of Jewel. A 62,000 squarefoot grocery store with a pharmacy and Starbucks will anchor the new Diamond Marketplace Shopping Center.

"We are so excited," Diamond Mayor Terry Kernc said following the Nov. 10 announcement.

Kernc and the village of Diamond have been "chasing" Jewel-Osco for about 12 years.

It's a concept that has actually and pharmacy," written on a involved four additional administrations—Wilcox, Snith, Ramme and Rolando.

term as mayor, Kernc has consistently reached out to Jewel leadership ensuring the plan to construct a grocery store in the community remained on the docket.

For years she has had the words, "blue jeans, boots, food

white board that hangs directly across from her desk, and it looks like the latter two will Over the course of her soon be erased as that is just what Jewel-Osco is bringing to the community.

In her pursuit of the grocer, Kernc said she once told the company president that if he did not bring a store to

SEE JEWEL, PAGE 2

Social media helps city leaders get the word out

BY MARNEY SIMON

The city of Braidwood has turned its social media into a direct link for residents to ask for information about what's going down around town.

And, after a year of posts seeking information on everything from business to crime

to plans for the future, city leaders said the outreach efforts are working.

City leaders began to utilize the city's Facebook page for information more regularly in 2022. In May, following some questions about what was happening on other social

SEE FACEBOOK, PAGE 2

Camping World finance manager arrested

STAFF REPORT

The finance manager at Camping World's Braidwood location is facing charges for allegedly stealing from her employer.

On Nov. 10, Kelli Kapsalis, 58, of Reddick, turned herself in to the Joliet Police Department, after a warrant for her arrest was secured by Braidwood Department.

The arrest followed a eight month investigation by the BPD. On Feb. 22, 2022, the BPD took a report alleging that Kapsalis was stealing money from the Camping World store location on EZ Street on Braidwood's northwest side, along I-55.

On Nov. 9, an arrest warrant was obtained by the Braidwood Police Department for Kapsalis for the following offenses:

- Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise (Class 1
- Theft (Class 2 Felony)
- Forgery (Class 3 Felony) An undisclosed amount of money was seized during the



KELLI KAPSALIS

course of the eight month investigation.

Kapsalis was released from the Will County Adult Detention Facility after posting 10% of a \$100,000 bond. Her next scheduled court date

is Dec. 29. Editor's note — All persons listed in this police report are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.





SALE VALID 11/16/22-11/24/22

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

CHECK OUT OUR **WEEKLY AD AT** BERKOTFOODS.COM



SIGN UP AND SAVE BIG WITH BERKOT'S LOYALTY REWARDS PROGRAM! JOIN TODAY AT BERKOTFOODS.COM!

Business

way they can park trucks on the top there and when you drive by on the highway you'll see them. They leveled out the pad where the building is going to go. So, they're getting everything ready for the building, waiting for the building.'

The city first reached an agreement with Ultimate Rides in September 2020. A redevelopment agreement entered into at that time established that the city would purchase 2.6 acres of land along I-55, in the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) III district, for \$114,000. The property sits on Hickory Street, next to the Sun Motel.

The plans call for construction of a 7,200 square foot complex to house the new location for the auto business.

In April, the business paid the city the balance of what they owed on that

Altiery said there's still some work to be done at the truck parking site along Route 53 and Division Street.

The 200-space parking lot being constructed at the Route 66 Business Park has been the center of some controversy for

the potential to bring more truck traffic to town. But, Altiery said, as other truck parking facilities fill up in the area, including one along I-55 north of Wilmington, the effect these businesses have locally is less impactful than what some people may thing.

'Nobody has mentioned seeing or hearing one truck in or out," Altiery said of the lot along the I-55 frontage road near Arsenal Road. "These trucks, you don't even notice they are there. I think they have 400 trucks in there parked... They make income without a high volume of truck traffic, just like it's going to be here. They come in and out on the truck routes, and people don't notice anything. If you go sit at BP tight now, you'll see a semi go by that intersection about once every 10 minutes. But, it's not an issue getting through the lights, it flows nice and smoothly.'

Altiery added that the lot, which will be gravel, is still under development.

Secure Truck Line, Inc., is developing the site into a parking with 200 spaces, with 100 dedicated to the owner's flatbed dispatching business. The additional 100 spaces will be available for leases for truck, RV, and boat parking.

The expectation for the site is 40-50

"They're in the development stage still, they have their berms up and they're leveling the parking lot. They have the entrance done, the one building in the back that was already up is leased out," Altiery said.

Ultimately, the city said that while there is a lot of waiting involved, the end result will be businesses that benefit the community.

'Everything is moving forward," Altiery said. "Everything is just in the process of engineering. You want to make sure that when we're doing the engineering, everything done will meet standards. We're going to have the water capabilities to supply what they need. We're going to have detention for water. We're going to have the ability for traffic to come in and out. We're going to have all the water flowing off the parking lots go the right way and not flood the neighbors. The auto mechanic shop on Division, we discussed with them to face the building the other way so that lights aren't pointing toward residents houses. We're trying to get that so that any business going in town will not be any type of issue for our residents who are already here."

Jewel

town she would have residents in Diamond and neighboring communities who wanted a Jewel start sending him letters.

"I guess I finally hit him on a good day. I called and invited him out to Diamond and he agreed and came with his team and that included TBS," Kernc said. The group loaded into a

van with village officials and went on a town by town tour, visiting the planned site and engaging in quite a bit of communication. Kernc learned company

representatives visited grocery stores within the service area to check a few things such as the volume of customers and what the stores were selling. The planned Jewel-Osco

site has a service area that incorporates 30,000 people, and Kernc said those people are looking to purchased the types of items the grocery chain offers After the on-site visit,

Kernc was told the company president had two things to say, "Why don't I have a Jewel in Diamond and build me a Jewel in Diamond."

So, a Jewel is being built in Diamond.

Construction will be forthcoming. The current timeline finds the company starting with infrastructure

> T-Mobile to modify antennas on Braidwood water tank

PUBLIC NOTICE

facility on an existing water tank located at 141 West Main Street, Braidwood, Will County, Illinois 60408. The modifications will consist of the collocation of antennas at approximately 101 feet above ground level (measured to the top of the antennas) on the 109-foot water tank (measured to top of water tank). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6122008734 KRC EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or at (470) 248-6062. Published in the Braidwood Journal

on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022

Attorney Meents files Davis estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BETTY JEAN DAVIS, Deceased; No. 2022PR660

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Betty Jean Davis, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on October 27, 2022, to Marlyn McWhorter, whose address is 748 Armstrong Street, Morris, Illinois 60450; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will Courty Courthuses 100 W at the WILL County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 3, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/ service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.as p 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.illinoisle-

Independent Administrator of the Estate of Betty Jean Davis, Deceased

Frank J. Meents 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 Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 2022.



DIAMOND MARKETPLACE SHOPPING CENTER will be constructed on the southeast corner of Route 113 and Will Road. A 62,000 square-foot Jewel-Osco will anchor the development. The project was made official last week after two decades of discussions between the company and village officials.

such as access points, all from Will Road. The village is partnering with the company on this to ensure they are constructed to meet plans already drafted by the town engineer as part of a larger Will Road improvement.

Construction of the shopping plaza's interior roads and parking lot are scheduled to commence in spring 2023.

Building construction will follow with an estimated time of construction taking about 10 months— barring any supply chain issues-and wrapping up in the first quarter of 2024.

"This is going to be the flagship for them in a new concept where they are building the store from the inside out," Kernc said. The interior will be laid out based on what products customers like most.

Everything in the store is designed for customer convenience and an excellent shopping experience," the mayor said.

The Osco will include a drive-up window, a portion of the parking area will be set aside for customers picking up grocery orders and there will be an outdoor seating area

Coffee & <u>Newspapers</u> One wakes you up One opens your eyes

Attorney Meents files Burbidge estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BURBIDGE, SR.,, Deceased; No.

CLAIM NOTICE

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

been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/ service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.as p 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.illinoisle-KRISTEN M. CAPPELLO

Independent Executor of the Estate of JOHN A. BURBIDGE, SR., Deceased

Frank J. Meents 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A Channahon, Illinois 60410 Telephone: (815)534-9515 Facsimile: (815)534-9516 Attorney Code: 06298859 E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

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

attached to the Starbucks.

"We are really hoping people will love it. They ĥave been a real pleasure to work with. It's really a pleasure working with professional experts in their fields," Kernc said of her interactions with representatives from both Jewel and TBS.

According to Kernc, the company already has additional users interested in the outlots who are just waiting for the ground to be broken.

The site includes five outlots of a little over one acre in size that front Route 113, and there is space for another anchor type store.

Jewel-Osco is set to receive what the mayor calls a, 'robust incentive package,' that includes tax increment financing funds and sales tax reimbursement, as well as the ability achieve economic incentives that come with the village's enterprise zone such as sales tax exemptions on purchases of building materials and manufacturing equip-

The details of the incentive package will be released once the final documents have been signed into the record.

Kernc has received several inquiries as to how she landed the grocery chain. Her

answer is persistence, incentives, a good working relationship and having already completed a large portion of roadway improvements.

It was through a publicprivate partnership with the landowners along Will Road and Route 113 that the village was able to cover the 20% required funding match for two road grants—Jewel-Osco among those contributing.

The new shopping plaza will be located within the Will County portion of the village, an area that Kernc said drives the town's economic develop-

"This is what drives Diamond and will allow us to keep taxes down for residents, create jobs and create an extremely high quality of life," the mayor said. The mayor believes the

development of the Diamond Marketplace Shopping Center will be the catalyst needed for the northeast corner of Will Road and Route 113 to devel-

There is a vision for Diamond that Kernc and the Village Board have created, and it's one were residents can find a true sense of community and the belief is this can be accomplished with its shopping centers.

Grundy County Museum to hold Festival of Trees

County Grundy Historical Society & Museum is hosting its annual Festival of Trees at the museum at 510 W. Illinois Ave., Morris.

Twenty-one raffle items

and over 100 Christmas trees and décor are on display. Raffle tickets can be pur-

financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE DRAINAGE NOTICE

Claypool Drainage and Levee District did, on November 8, 2022 present and file in

the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois their Financial Report for said District for

the period ended October 31, 2022 Objections to the report must be filed with

the clerk of the court within 10 days after

the first publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District did,

on November 8, 2022 present and file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois,

their Certificate of Levy of Annual Maintenance Assessment for said District for the period ended October 31, 2022.

The total amount of the annual mainte-nance assessment contained in the

Objections to the Levy must be med-before December 10, 2022. A hearing to Objections to the Levy must be filed on or

confirm the levy has been set for December 13, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. before

the Circuit Court of Grundy County in the West Courtroom of the Grundy County

Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois.

Robert Koerner, Ronald Maland and Joseph Brown, Commissioners of the

Claypool Drainage and Levee District
Published in the Coal City Courant

and Braidwood Journal on Nov. 16 and 23,

Corri Trotter, Circuit Clerk

roll is \$252,148.60

assessment

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the

Claypool Drainage files

The trees and décor are also on display, but can also be viewed at www.richardaol son.com. Those items will be auctioned off through a silent auction that starts to end Saturday, Nov. 26.

Visit the Museum website

chased at the Museum.

for more information, or call 815.942.4880

Facebook

media pages, the city took on the issue of information head on, posting a direct question to residents: What do you want to know?

The result has been an increase in dialogue that city administrator Tony Altiery said has created a new layer of transparency for local government.

"It's actually working really well. We just had somebody that had a question about what Diamond got the Jewel and we didn't," Altiery said, adding that utilizing social media is a real time way to get information out.

Altiery noted with regard to the question on the new Jewel food store slated to come Diamond, he was able to explain traffic studies and residential requirements for certain businesses such as Jewel or Aldi to the city's Facebook followers, and how that relates to the city's ability to attract those businesses.

Altiery said kinds of conversations mean that residents are actively engaging with local government, and learning something as well. While the postings have not been without the occasional fiery comment or complaint, Altiery said for the most part, folks are happy for the information. "After the first bunch

of people who were just using it for complaints, after we started giving them legitimate and factbacked information, I think that a lot of people are actually very happy about seeing that," Altiery said. "I think some people

are afraid to ask questions due to, a lot of we'll call them aggressive people who would rather just complain and see the bad side all the time instead of seeing the good side of being as open as we are."

The social media

information campaign followed the city decision to start utilizing Facebook to put public meetings online. In March, the city began broadcasting its twice monthly regular meetings of the City Council on Facebook Live. While there have been a few snags-one meeting was unable to be broadcast due to the Council Chambers being utilized as a polling place, and another was pulled by Facebook's own algorithm without explanation—the majority of meetings remain permanently on the city's site for the public to view.

Altiery said for those folks who are hesitant to ask questions at either a public meeting or through social media, there are still ways to reach out.

"I think we're getting out there more," Altiery said. "I'm getting more phone calls at City Hall, asking questions, now that people see that we are so open to answering them and actually giving them facts in writing or showing them paperwork, instead of just hearsay. Everything we have and everything we answer, we have facts backed by paperwork. We don't just give you an answer that's floating in

The city's Facebook page can be found by logging on www.Facebook.com, and searching

EASY TO REMEMBER

www.freepressnewspapers.com

Life is full of moments that matter. We can help you get ready for that next moment.



Dean A Shepherd, AAMS® Financial Advisor 311 W Baltimore St

Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-6856

www.edwardjones.com

Edward **Jones**`

PETITIONS FOR ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Petitions will be available beginning on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, for any Resident Member of the Braidwood Recreation Club who wishes to be placed on the Ballot for the Position of Director. Petitions may be obtained at the Club Office during the regular hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday. The Office is closed between 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on weekdays.

Petitions must be picked up and returned by the individual who is running for the position. All Petitions whether for Directors or By Law Changes must be turned in at the Club Office before the deadline of 1:00 p.m. Saturday December 3, 2022.

The Braidwood Recreation Club will hold its Annual Meeting and Election on Saturday January 14, 2023, at the Club Office at 7:00 p.m.

Russ Toler Administration Director **Braidwood Recreation Club**



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, P.O. Box 327; 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 ©2022 All news, photographs and advertising mate-

rial 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

Grab your partners, it's time to dance

Today we are looking at the social occasion known as dance. I don't see a lot of them happening these days. But the dance in the 19th century was the primary way for guys and gals to meet, and if you were lucky actually touch

each other is a socially acceptable way. Strike up the band, the dance has begun.

The first ethnic groups to come to Braidwood were from the British Isles. So it is no wonder that the first mention of the dance I have is the following from January 13, 1872: "Four dances in Braidwood on Robert Burns' birthday, the 25th of January.

Exactly what kind of dance they were doing is unknown, but it would be safe to guess it was the quadrille.

The quadrille required 4 couples, who formed a square, twirling their own partner, then changing partners only to end up with the partner you started with at the end, similar to a square dance. The beat was medium fast, and a knowledge of all the steps was required.

Dances were held on all major holidays, including but not limited to Christmas Eve and Day, New Year's Eve and Day, Fourth of July, the Feast of the Assumption, payday and any other excuse that could be thought of.

Of course a requirement for the dance was live music, as the gramophone had not been invented yet. This didn't seem to be much of a problem. The following description



were over, an impromptu orchestra occu-Sandy Vasko pied the stage

and a bowery dance was indulged with zest seldom witnessed.

racing, claimed the attention of many, while here and there many were seen to "take a drop o'kindness yet, for the days of auld lang syne." But the best feature remains to be told.

The affair was entirely free from drunkenness, boisterous rowdyism, or anything of like character. The very best of order prevailed and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. It is estimated that at least one thousand persons were present."

The writer seems surprised that there was no "rowdyism." And well he should have been. Liquor was always served at dances Braidwood, and drunkenness sometimes resulted in vio-

in the following description from 1873; "A shooting affray occurred at Braidwood early on last Sunday morning, between Robert Steane and Chas. Meehan.

It is said that the shooting was the result of an old grudge, which ripened at a dance on last Saturday night. Meechan was shot through the left shoulder and narrowly escaped with his life.'

Dancing contests were frequently held, involving ethnic dances such as clog dancing, (dancing with wooden shoes,) Scottish sword dancing or Irish step dancing. There were men who would travel from city to city, making their living on the cash prizes awarded.

Some of them were scoundrels. We read in 1880, "Kirkwood, the "champion clog dancer," is said to have skipped out of this city Wednesday, midnight, taking with him \$30 and a suit of clothes belonging to his landlord, Marshal Bain. Search for the fugitive since has proven

In the early 1880's a new style of dance became popular with the young people. It was sort of like line dancing, but done in a circle. Not everyone approved of it as we read in 1883, "The Old Men's Unsocial Club (actually the Young Men's Social Club) indulged in those ungodly round dances at Free Gardener's Hall last

By 1886 the round dance was all the rage, but a few hung on to the old style. We read, "St. Joseph's (German) Benevolent Society is to give a ball on the 18th inst., and the bills state that "every third round dance will be followed by a quadrille."

Dancing had become so popular in Braidwood that in 1885 the Braidwood City Council could find no better way to reward the men of the fire department than to throw a free dance for them as a reward for their hard work.

By the end of the 19th century dance had become more spontaneous, much like today. In fact, prizes were awarded to couples who were the most innovative.

We read in 1897, "Catholic fair commenced Saturday evening and will continue until Friday. The prizes for the couple performing the neatest dance on Friday evening are something worth contesting for. Gold ring for lady and gold cuff buttons for the gent."

After the turn of the century, the Braidwood area seemed to become a center of music and of course, dance. From 1915 we read, "Don't miss the Jolly Boys' dance at Vacca's Hall Saturday evening May 1st, Music by Jones orchestra from Braceville.'

And by 1921 we read of the still famous Falletti orchestra, "Plans have been completed for the 1921 St. Patrick's Day celebration to be held at K. of C. Hall, Braidwood on Friday night, March 18. The committee in charge

of the event had to choose the day after the real St. Patrick's Day because it was unable to obtain talent and music for the entertainment. Assumption Dramatic Club of Coal City

present their entertaining farce comedy "A Daughter of the Desert" a thrilling four-act play of the famous Arizona Special numbers between acts, including the Faletti's in

their popular musical number. Entertainment starts at 8 p.m. sharp in order to lengthen the time left for the dance to follow. Faletti's orchestra will furnish music for the entertainment and dance"

It would not be long before Braidwood would become known as a great place for music and dance.

FOSSIL RIDGE LIBRARY NEWS

Nov. 18-LIHEAP (Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program, 1-3 p.m. This program is designed to assist households with low incomes to help, through financial aid, meet their energy needs.

Teen Programs

Nov. 21-Maker Monday, Cracked Glass, 4-5 p.m. Paint your favorite colors on cracked glass stones and make something out of this world. **Child Programs**

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

Crafternoon-Every Monday, 5-6 p.m.

Nov. 16-Half day movie matinee, Lightyear, 1-3 p.m. Legendary space ranger Buzz galactic adventure alongside ambitious recruits Izzy, Mo, Darby, and his robot compan-

Nov. 18-Kids Bingo, 3:30-4:30

Nov. 19-Stem Saturday-Elevator challenge, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. In this challenge, students will design and build a cranking elevator. They will attempt to lift items to the top of about a two-foot height.

Nov. 21-Pajama Storytime, 6 6:30 p.m. Join us each month in your favorite pair of comfy pajamas as we enjoy stories, crafts, enjoy treats, and learn about a different topic each month. Registration is required for all

events and programs. More information can be found at www.fossilridge.org or call 825-458-2187.

Braidwood Lions Club to sell Christmas Trees

The Braidwood Lions Club will once again be holding its annual Christmas Trees Sale fundraiser beginning Friday, Nov. The club's stand will be located in the Whitmore Ace

Hardware parking lot in Braidwood. Balsam trees ranging in height from 6 to 9 feet, along with small and large size decorated wreaths, grave blankets, grave pillows, and various fresh and artificial greenery decorations will be for sale. Lions Club house brooms, heavy duty brooms and whisk

brooms will also be available for purchase. Hours are Monday thru Friday from noon to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while supplies last.

Pricing and more information can be found on the club's website and Facebook page. All proceeds from the tree sales will go back into the community in the form of the various community activities, beautification projects and humanitarian services that the Braidwood Lions Club provides throughout the year.

For more information call (815)791-8093 or visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

Shats in the RCHS Senior Spotlight for November

School Senior Spotlight winner for the month of November is Wesley Shats.

Wesley is the son of Wesley and Nicole Shats.

During his high school career, Wesley was involved in Basketball, Football, Baseball, National Honor Society, and Comet Community Leaders. He was also an ACE winner, a Student of the Month, on the High Honor Roll, and was both All-Conference and Academic All-Conference in Basketball.

His future plans are to attend IJC to study math and science, and potentially to transfer to a university.

Here are a few thoughts from Wesley's teachers.

Mrs. Lee thinks that Wesley is "a great student and person! He is hard-working, kind, and determined to be successful. He is a great role model. Wesley is a joy to be around and always has a smile on his face!"

Mrs. Arseneau says that she "adores Wesley! I have had the pleasure of knowing him all 4 years of high school, and it has been such a treat. He has always been such a deter-

The Reed-Custer High mined, bright, and respectful young man. I think of Wesley as always set that positive example for other classmates and ers chose to follow. He works hard in school and his sports and that is an admirable quality in a student! I know that Wesley is going to do wonderhe doesn't forget about us here at RCHS when he makes it big.

that Wesley "has been such a pleasure to have in class. He is honest, hardworking, and helpful to his classmates. He doesn't complain when things don't go his way. Instead, he finds a way to make the situation better. He is an excellent choice for Senior Spotlight!"

Mr. Porter believes that Wesley "is a tremendously hard worker and has improved as much as anyone I have coached at Reed-Custer since he started high school basketball. He has become a leader for us and we cannot wait to no doubt that he will be great

a quiet leader. He doesn't have to be the loudest person in the room, or even outwardly tell students what they should or shouldn't be doing. Wesley will teammates that I believe othful things in his life, and I hope Mrs. Eltrevoog is thankful



see Wes compete this season."

Mrs. Zastrow says that if she "had to describe Wesley in one word, it would be genuine! He is a kind, respectful, and overall good-hearted person. He is a great student that takes the time to ask how you are and how your day is going. Wesley is a great kid, and I have

at anything that he does in his future!"

Mr. Gleixner thinks that Wesley is "the perfect student athlete. He is hard working, respectful, and a great leader. He is the ideal role model for the younger Comets.'

Mr. Wolf says that Wesley young man. He treats others has passion to succeed, is Senior Spotlight.

with respect and wants to do things the right way. His athletic accomplishments, of which there are many, will always be secondary to the kind of person he is. I am very proud to have been his teacher and

coach." Mrs. Benoit believes "no is "a soft-spoken, kind-hearted matter what Wesley faces, he

empowered with grit, is a strong leader, is thoughtful and expresses compassion towards others. No doubt Wesley is dedicated to everything he

Mr. Klein acknowledges Wesley as a "standout athlete and student at RCHS. He is as much a leader inside the classroom as he is outside of it. Wesley is also a very caring and compassionate young man. He is always looking to help out the younger student athletes. He embodies all the qualities it takes to be successful in life. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for Wesley."

Mrs. Redwitz says that Wesley "is just a kind young adult. He is super polite and always appreciative of any help we offer him."

As a final thought, Wesley's advice to younger students is, "It is important to study, do your own work, and surround yourself with positive influ-

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, congratulations to Wesley Shats as the November winner of the

Attorney Meents files Hert estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DIANE FAY HERT, Deceased; No. 2022PR639 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of

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

of DIANE FAY HERT, Deceased

Frank J. Meents 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A Channahon, Illinois 60410 Telephone: (815)534-9515 Facsimile: (815)534-9516 Attorney Code: 06298859 E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 9 and 16, 2022

Attorney Meents files Glester estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
KAREN SUE GLESTER,, Deceased; No.

CLAIM NOTICE

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

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/ service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.as p 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.illinoislegalaid.org. MICHAEL JOSEPH GLESTER

Independent Administrator of the Estate of KAREN SUE GLESTER. Deceased Frank J. Meents 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A

Channahon, Illinois 60410 Telephone: (815)534-9515 Facsimile: (815)534-9516 Attorney Code: 06298859 E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

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

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

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2022. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact: Reed-Custer School District 255U at 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood IL 60408 or by telephone 815-458-2307. Also January 15, 2023 the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2022

Fund Bal 7/1/2021 Total Receipts	Education \$19,924,482 \$23,791,710	Oper & Maint. \$4,299,969 \$5,004.018	Trans. \$3,040,462 \$1.670.806	IMRF/SS \$1,935,47 \$853.412
Total Disbursements Fund Bal 6/30/2022	\$19,284,567 \$19,924,482	\$3,756,719 \$5,547,268	\$1,284,318 \$3,426,950	\$617,711 \$2,171,17
	Capital	Working Cash	Tort	
Fund Bal 7/1/2021	\$789,762	\$765,319	\$728,475	
Total Receipts	\$932	\$59,128	\$241,144	
Total Disbursements	\$160,703	\$0	\$293,687	
Fund Bal 6/30/2022	\$629,991	\$824,447	\$675,932	

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL - Salary Range: Less than \$25,000 - N. Agnich, B. Atwell, A. Boudreau, A. Byczynski, G. Carboni, A. Carrescia, D. Cox, E. Dixon, N. Gonzalez, A. Holmes, A. Hrvatin, R. Hunter, D. Issert, A. Kraus, E. Lehman, M. Letton, J. Masulis, J. McDaniel, T. Meents, G. Meister, A. Middleton, M. Milly, K. Murphy, B. Olson, A. Panepinto, M. Radowski, I. Schnitzler, S. Shewmake, A. Spray, T. Sweeney, A. Trucano, P. Varichak, J. Zelko Salary Range: \$25,000-\$39,999 -B. Ackerman, A. Cowin, V. Davis, J. Pirits, J. Randall, D. Sanders, K. Scheel, C. Scott, E. Taylor, R. Cowin, Y. Davis, J. Pirus, J. Randall, D. Sanders, K. Scheel, C. Scott, E. Taylor, R. Thibodeaux, C. Wilkerson Salary Range: \$40,000-\$59,999 - F. Ames, N. Arndt, K. Arseneau, R. Ball, J. Baron, L. Barse, R. Bell, A. Birkey, J. Brown, K. Cann, L. Conley, K. Copeland, J. Coronelli, K. DeHaan, S. Dinelli, J. Evans, R. Frantini, L. Gonski, M. Graham, A. Headrick, M. Hines, L. Homerding, Z. Horton, K. Hulbert, L. Hurley, B. Johnson, G. Johnston, J. Johnston, J. Jones, A. Kaufmann, A. King, K. Lee, K. Mangan, J. Matsko, T. Murphy, A. Natyshok, A. Paolone, A. Robinson, L. Rowatt, A. Rupert, J. Schilling, B. Shields, T. Smith, C. Soto, T. Spoto, K. Stengel, C. Sukley, D. Swanson, A. Tiangco, D. Walsh, L. Walsh, M. Wurster, T. Zastrow, S. Zwolinski Salary Range: \$60,000-\$89,999 – C. Bailey, K. Benoit, D. Bugg, J. Cappel, M. Carey, C. Carrescia, J. Chinski, R. Cromp, J. Degnan, A. Dennis, S. Dinelli, M. Domanszky, E. Frederiksen, D. Friddle, L. Friedl, A. Gantzert, A. Gleixner, B. Gleixner, K. Heath, N. Klein, D. Kuykendall, J. Leveille, R. Luttrell, Gantzert, A. Gleixner, B. Gleixner, K. Heath, N. Klein, D. Kuykendall, J. Leveille, R. Luttrell, S. McGarey, J. Meyr, J. Miller, M. Miner, J. Nelson, D. Newsom, V. O'Brien, M. Olson, C. Ostheim, J. Patton, S. Petersen, M. Porter, D. Potempa, M. Rankin, K. Redwitz, M. Seibert, E. Siedentop, B. Smith, M. Smith, J. Sukley, L. Terry, J. Vanek, J. Welsh, M. Wolf, K. Young, J. Zackavec Salary Range: Over \$90,000 – C. Anderson, H. Faletti, M. Kilpatrick, C. Klover, D. McLuckie, M. Mitchell, M. Peterson, H. Porter, T. Ricketts, D. Riley, M. Smith, L. Stafford, P. Tibbott, S. Trager, D. Valiente, J. Voris, D. Wilkey GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL - Salary Range: Less than \$25,000 – A. Alsbury, M. Andersen, A. Bales, L. Basham, H. Beallis, J. Beaudry, B. Becker, B. Bexson, C. Bollino, K. Bragg, J. Brodinski, N. Carlo, O. Carr, A. Carrasco Sandoval, C. Chapin, M. Clavenna, N. Cohen-Marshall, J. Colombo, B. Colwell, A. Coyle, L. Crabtree, M. Crisp, W. Dau, T. Davis, K. Davito, W. Decker, J. DeSalvo, J. Devries, J. Denielli, K. Dckemeyer, A. Dubbert, M. Dubbert, C. Duffy, L. Duran, D. Elsner, C. Erdmann, D. Esparza, C. Ewers, R. Ewert, D. Fennell, A. Gamboa, A. Gnutek, P. Hall, S. Hassett, B. Headrick, J. Heisner, J. Helsing, K. Johnson, J. Johnston, K. Jones, M. Juricic, D. Kinzler, S. Kohler, C. Koslowski, D. Kuehni, Johnson, J. Johnston, K. Jones, M. Juricic, D. Kinzler, S. Kohler, C. Koslowski, D. Kuehni

Reed-Custer School District 255-U's Annual Statement of Affairs

PUBLIC NOTICE

J. Kuntz, D. Lafever, T. LaGrange, M. Lembke, V. Lestina, T. Lyons, T. Lyons, R. Mann, D J. Kuntz, D. Laiever, I. LaGrange, M. Lernoke, V. Lestina, I. Lyons, I. Lyons, R. Mann, D. Marcin, F. Marku, K. McLaughlin, K. McNeely, K. McRaven, B. McTague, J. Mikel, L. Miner M. Montana, G. Morris, K. Morris, P. Mueller, M. Nephew, K. Norris, N. Ohlund, C. Olson, M. Pacholski, B. Pack, K. Payne, F. Perucca, R. Pescitani, K. Peterson, K. Pierce, J. Probus, N. Reese, K. Regis, J. Reinbacher, B. Reiter, R. Richey, J. Rieke, J. Ritze, D. Robinson, M. Rosinski, B. Russell, N. Russotti, E. Scasny, S. Schoonover, T. Schoonover, D. Sharper, L. Sharper, J. Shats, B. Shultz, C. Sierzega, S. Simonelli, Z. Sims, M. Smith, P. Smith, R. Smith, B. Soltysik, S. Stahl, C. Stamm, J. Stellano, A. Stewart, B. Stewart, J. Stowart, S. Titze, N. Trayler, T. Tyrne, J. Vanderboff, A. Vagil, Achebek, C. Stewart, J. Stockin, S. Titre, N. Traxler, T. Tyree, J. Vanderhoff, A. Vasil, A. Verbeck, C. Vidmar, A. Viol, C. Wieder, A. Wietting, T. Wilkey, C. Willis, N. Windsor, N. Wood, W. Zacharias, L. Zoltani Salary Range: \$25,000-\$39,999 – L. Altiery, C. Anderson, A. Bauer, E. Bieda, F. Blanchette, J. Bolt, A. Brodinski, S. Carr, A. Christman, H. Collins, J. Compton, K. Cora, J. Crater, C. Cronin, D. Dagale, G. Doran, T. Hall, L. Holland, T. Hray, C. Jones, J. Kaech, D. Keith, H. Kerr, J. Kimmel, S. Lambert, A. Miotk, M. Morrissey, M. Orliz, T. Othon, M. Payton, K. Pickard, K. Sedlasek, L. Wilson, K. Wilson, N. Windsor, I. Yoakum Othon, M. Payton, K. Pickard, K. Sedlacek, J. Wilson, K. Wilson, N. Windsor, J. Yoaku Salary Range: \$40,000-\$59,999 - P. Adamski, L. Belcher, M. Fredrick, D. Haars, M. Headrick, K. Houchin, S. Marchi, N. Masulis, B. Read, S. Schott, C. Stahl, D. Wade, J. Walsh, C. White Salary Range: Over \$60,000 - G. Basham, D. Dubbert, W. Headrick, L. Kelaiditis, W. Ricken, E. Vanderhyden, T. Bennett

PAYMENTS OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES – A Freedom Flag Co.

4,104; Aaron Reynolds 3,500; Advanced Engineering Services Inc. 3,670; Alpha Baking Co. Inc. 7,755; American Family Life 6,734; Apex Learning Inc. 15,000; Arthur Gallagher Risk Mgmt 19,536; AT&T 16,423; Ayers Electric 36,176; Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP 36,450; Ballard & Tighe 6,041; Bank of Montreal 1,255,339; Becks Hybrids 13,631; Bennett & Brosseau 31,133; Bennett Electronic Service 12, 007; Blackboard Inc. 2,671; Bleacher America Inc. 11,120; Blue Planet aquarium Services 4,190; Bradley Pest Control 4,200; BSN 12,448; Byrne & Jones Construction 949,634; Cambridge Educational Services 3,775; Camelot Therapeutic Schools LLC 151,191; Cengage Learning – GALE 8,047; Central States Bus Sales 2,982; CISCO Systems Capital CRP 6,514; City of Braidwood 213,263; Clennon Electric Inc. 57,295; Cloverleaf Farms Distr. 43,215; Commerce Bank 259,188; Constellation New Energy 471,969; Correct Digital Displays 80,000; Cross Points Sales, Inc. 2,880; Crown Concepts Corp 32,200; Crowther Roofing & Sheet Metal 3,986; Dant Clayton 13,491; Dell Marketing LP 2,848; Dreamseat 18,574; EBA Healthcare 149,914; ESIC 188,589; ESN 26,980; Faircom 10,000; Fatlan Trucking 13,007; Filter Services Illinois 3,505; Follett School Solutions 3,791; Gilbane Building Company 159,777; Gordon Food Service 265,444; Grainco FS Inc 80,224; Great Lakes Coco-Cola Dist 8,113; Grea Devine Enterprises 5, 200; B. Headting 18, 500; Headting Neuripage Systems 316,584. Greg Devine Enterprises 5.200: R. Headrick 8.500: Heartland Business Systems 319.584: HUB International 31,875; Ill Assn of School Boards 20,975; Illinois Bone and Joint Institute LLC 42,280; Illinois Central-8 Conference 3,000; Image Group 7,760; Johnson Controls Fire Protection 16,615; KC Communications 3,850; King Music 37,122; Learn Well 9,157; Liberty fire Equipment Inc. 3,470; Linden Oaks Tutoring 5,366; Major Appliar Inc. 2,524; Martin Whalen Office Solutions 19,450; MaxScholar 27,493; Plumbing and Heating Inc. 88,960; Midwest Transit Equipment 27,982; M. Kavanaugh 7,597; Moss Enterprises 4,424; Music & Arts Center 51,813; New York Life 46,139; Nicor Gas 26,604; Noredink Corp 4,500; NSBA 2,675; Otis Elevator Company 4,678; Palmita School Psych Services LLC 2,716; Performance Floor Coatings 5,915; Powerschool Group School Psych Services LLC 2,716; Performance Floor Coatings 5,915; Powerschool Group LLC 34,510; Precision Control System Inc. 715,240; R&R Septic 6,225; Rival5 Technologies Corp 31,510; Riverside Technologies Inc. 23,255; Riverside Workforce Health 8,671; Sangamon Schools Credit Union 13,650; SAVVAS Learning Company 92,530; Scholar Buys 14,000; Scholastic Inc. 6,072; SELF 85,562; SOWIC 1,978,068; Special Education Services 35,956; Specialized Data Systems 9,695; Spectrio LLC 7,140; Stoller International Inc. 10,571; Streator Farm Mart Inc. 27,600; Superior Excavating 53,902; Tarpon Towers II LLC 6,733; Team Reil Inc. 66,534; Terry's Ford 47,983; The Cleaning Source 5,915; THERMFLO 4,997; Timeout Services LLC 9,498; Trafera LLC 94,471; Urban Tile & Carpet 26,935; US Bank Equipment Finance 42,523; Vanbruggen Signs 2,955; Vanguard Energy Services 37,767; VEEAM 4,647; Virtek 46,918; Walsworth Publishing Co 10,000; Whitt Law 15,166; WILCO Area Career Center 222,917; Will Co Health Department 7,514; Will County Treasurer 5,119; Zearn 2,500; Zoom Video Communications 10,000

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

Free Press Newspapers readers

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

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

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they

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.

The PREDICTIONS

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

Sound-off for sale

WILMINGTON—I heard a rumor that Elon Musk wants to buy the Sound-Off page. Publishers note: He can't afford it as freedom of press is priceless

A bad choice

SHADOW LAKES—It's written in the Bible, God said choose ye this day who you will serve, God or Satan? The people of Illinois did not choose God. Frank from Shadow Lakes.

Anti-growth town

WILMINGTON-What a difference in leadership between Diamond and Wilmington. In Wilmington two new businesses proposing the come to town are told they are not wanted. On the same night in Diamond, their village board told a Jewel-Osco store yes please build. Shows just how close-minded this town is. That Love's Travel Stop will build anyway under the County's oversight and Wilmington will miss out on the property taxes, retail taxes and gas taxes. As for a gaming cafe, if the town is saturated with them already then those who are most aggressive will be the ones who survive. Let capitalism determine who stays in business. The big decision should not be who can we protect but what can we do better in reducing property taxes for the town's residents.

Heads up

BRAIDWOOD—Just wanted to say thanks to the Comet football team for a fun ride. You made your school, parents, fans and community proud for having a winning season and for winning more games than any other Comet team before. Hold your heads up and stay

Climate change talks

ELWOOD-How ironic, Biden and world leaders travel in gas cars and fueled jets to Baji to take about how we need to cut fossil fuel use to bring about climate change. If only they could Facetime and save all that fuel (and money).

The squeaky wheel BRAIDWOOD-It seems like when I read

the Sound Off the majority of opinions are rude Republicans insulting Democrats. Looks like the squeaky wheel didn't get the grease this

Still in office

ILLINOIS—Apparently Pritzker doesn't suck the state of Illinois.

Self righteous idiots

WILMINGTON-Other than the kid dressed as the mascot for Wilmington there are

We're on the **MOVE**

to Davy Lane!

(Including the Tin Man)

★ Veteran & Senior Discounts ★

Call the trusted team at

BBB Rating: A+

Local, Trusted

Company

Call (815) 476-6615

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Rebate with this ad

on any new install, hurry before offer ends.

no children identifying as cats in our schools. But there are self righteous idiots identifying as

Bought the election

SHADOW LAKES—As I voted today I realized I am not voting for someone I liked, I am voting against someone I don't like. Sad the most money wins.

Election meddling

BRAIDWOOD-It looks like we're stuck with Gov. JB Pritzker another four years. It's disappointing to know that he meddled with the election by financially supporting his opponent during the primary just so he could go head-to-head against the weakest candidate. Pritzker is no better than the Russians by polluting the election with his millions. It's a sad state of affairs in Illinois when a billionaire can taint an election with his money. It's just another unethical form of corruption done by Democrats to keep power. Pritzker should be brought up on charges for meddling in the

Best for members

COAL CITY—This is for the Coal City Area Club board. It must be nice to be able to know people on the board because you get whatever you want if your a friend of a board member. Ít's getting ridiculous. You people are ruining our club. The seniors are the ones who built this club and all you're doing is trying to boot them out. What the hell is wrong with you people. I'll tell you what it is, it's all greed. Your a non-profit organization but all you want is money, money, money. Don't you think it's about time you think about the members who pay to be in this club? Maybe it's about time you all wake up and smell the coffee. And the one person, how can that person be on two boards or four boards and be on our board? That's ridiculous. That's the problem with this board it's whatever they want. Change by-laws when they want to do it or not. You know, doesn't effect us members but it does effect us members. Because all it's doing is giving you guys whatever you want, if it benefits you. That's all that matters because it doesn't matter about us members anymore. Greed that's all it's about. Get your heads together.

Commending the Comets

BRAIDWOOD-I want to commend the Reed-Custer football team on their amazing season. They were exciting and enjoyable to watch all year. They overcame injuries and adversities to put together a history-making season they can all be proud of.

Never have a plan

As an independent voter for decades, one thing I have learned about

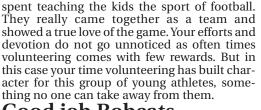
politicians is that none of them can answer a simple yes or no question. They always deflect. When you ask them what their concerns are, they will say immigration, taxes, guns, crime, drugs, etc. When you follow up with how you are going to address those issues, they never have a plan. Again, they deflect and blame the other side. And these people promise transparency?

He blames her

WILMINGTON—I that Trump blamed Melania for asking him to endorse Dr. good at picking men.

Coaches appreciated

WILMINGTON—I would like to commend the Bobcat varsity coaches on winning another Super Bowl. You've done a fantastic job with this group of kids winning Super Bowls year after year. I appreciate your dedication and time



Good job Bobcats

WILMINGTON—Kudos to the Bobcat varsity football team on an outstanding season and career as Bobcats. You should all be very proud of yourselves and the coaches did an outstanding job turning individuals into a team. You've set the standard high for future

Voting for their futures

As an American mom of two young adults I am very proud of the historically high volume that our youth across this nation voted in this election. Young people from all ethnic backgrounds and all economic classes united their voices and made them heard. Many of them ignored the lies, they understood the unimportance of gender and race, some even crossed the party affiliations of their own parents and chose to vote for their futures. Hope won over fear. They voted on the right side of history. God bless America.

Badge of courage

I'm a veteran and I would like to tell you about the unity and self sacrifice the veterans have. In my unit during the war we all made a pledge to each other that when any of us were severely wounded we would help each other by stopping the pain of our fellow soldiers suffering by shooting them to put them out of their misery. Anyone who agreed with that made the pledge. Some did, some didn't and we wore a red badge of courage to prove we wanted that done. It doesn't mean anything

Feeling appreciated

COAL CITY—I would like to thank Coal City BP and Berkot's Super Foods in Coal City for the free gift on Veteran's Day. BP gave out free car washes and Berkot's gave free chicken dinners to Veterans.

Fox spreading fear
WILMINGTON—When I watch Fox News I get the message that I should be in a constant state of fear. After analysis I concluded that I am not afraid of inflation, immigrants, crime, Fentanyl, CRT or even trans kids. To quote David Bowie and Trent Reznor, "I'm afraid of

Americans, especially those who only watch



CUSTER PARK—This is to everyone who owns a gun. Be prepared to defend our Second Amendment right, to bear arms, with this new Congress and more Democrats taking over as governors. Law-abiding gun owners won't stand a chance against the views of politicians who are only familiar with the gang bangers in Chicago where they tried to passed an unconstitutional gun ban. Mark my words, within four years we will see more restrictions on gun ownership even though we follow the law.

Time to unite

WILMINGTON—It's time for America to grow up. Yes, we are bruised, but we're not broken. We are in a new chapter and I think we need to join together, pray for our country and everyone do their part. We are America, we can get through this. Christianity is not our judgment of others, it's our judgment of ourselves and trying to correct it. There is no political party in America, it's the Christian party. It's time to wake up America and stop playing games. We have to unite.

Public aid for drug-free

WILMINGTON—In order to have a decent paying job in today's job market we have to pass a drug test. How then can the government justify taking money from a drug free worker and give that money to someone who can't pass a drug test? If someone is unemployed and he/she cannot pass a drug test, then it would follow that he or she is not really, by choice, available to work and thereby is not qualified to collect unemployment. If we expand this to other forms of public assistance perhaps we could save some tax dollars. Do

you have any ideas? Fraud our destruction

BRAIDWOOD-The destruction of our wonderful country called America is the credit card fraud and abuses. Consumer fraud hurts everyone and costs America billions of dollars each year. Do what you can to prevent fraud

with stronger passwords possible. Unfair taxation

BRAIDWOOD—One third of United States citizens pay no federal taxes. That's unfair. Everyone should pay. They expect what is left of the working middle class to share their wages with the poor or those who are too lazy to work. Isn't that what charities are all about?

Commentary

You owe it to our veterans

utes after he was killed.

Charles

Officially, the U.S. has

never declared a final casualty

in the Korean War; since the

armistice was signed, nearly

100 U.S. Soldiers have been

killed in combat on the Korean

peninsula. On April 29, 1975,

Darwin Judge were two of a small number of Marines

tasked with safeguarding the

for only 11 days when they

were killed by a rocket attack.

The U.S. would complete the

process of withdrawing from

Knauss was the last of the

Staff Sergeant

Saigon the following day.

U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

McMahon

They had been deployed

BY JOSEPH REAGAN

The 11th hour has become synonymous with Veterans Day, originally called Armistice day, in recognition of the document signed at the 11th hour, or the 11th day, of the 11th month. In reality, the Armistice ending the war to end all wars was signed around 5 am on November

Over the course of the next six hours, nearly 3,000 men would lose their lives in the final hours of a war that had already claimed the lives of 20 million military personnel. The final death of WW1 came at 10:59 a.m. one minute before the guns of war would fall silent.

Private Henry Gunther a German-American drafted in the fall of 1917; most accounts state that his final actions were motivated and all-American."

was recorded at 10:59 a.m.

everv

inevitably a final service mem-

ber pays the ultimate sacrifice.

2,461 service members who by Gunther's need to demondied in Afghanistan; he along strate that he was "courageous with 12 of his comrades was killed in a suicide attack durchaplain from ing the withdrawal from Gunther's unit recounted, "As 11 a.m. approached, Gunther In every war, there is always one that must fill the suddenly rose with his rifle and ran through thick fog. His dignified but dubious role in men shouted for him to stop. So did the Germans. But Gunther kept running and fir-

conflict,

history as being the last to give the full measure of devotion. For most Americans talking. One machine gun blast later, he was dead. His death ing about war is conceptual, something learned through history books, news reports,

and movies - those that have

served do not have that luxury.

Not only should we remember

In World War II, Private Charlie that the democratic principles Havlat, the son of Czech we hold so dear have been immigrants, in the closing defended by generations of days of the war, found himself Americans we should take liberating his parents' former inspiration from their sacrihomeland - word of the ceasefire reached his position min-

Our country, despite all our self-imposed differences, needs to look to our Veterans and see that there are no divisions in a foxhole - there are only those who stand in defense of democracy and those who stand against it.

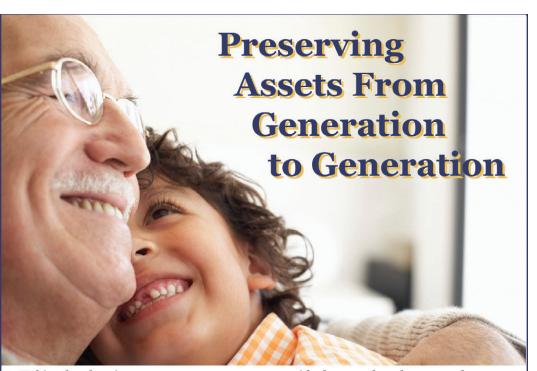
We have an opportunity to find our own way to serve as part of our commitment to living up to the legacy of our Veterans.

We honor those who serve by recommitting ourselves to making the sacrifices necessary to preserve our way of life.

As Adlai Stevenson once stated, "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

Go forth and find a way to serve, our nation, our communities, and each other - we owe it to our Veterans.

Joseph Reagan is the Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America. He served eight years as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.



Taking legal action to protect your assets, provide for your loved ones, and ensure your final wishes are followed while you can make these decisions on your own terms is important.

- Elder Law **Retirement Planning**
- Estate Planning
- Living Trust Last Will & Testament
- Power of Attorney
- To speak with an attorney about the best way to secure peace of mind and protection, call our office today.



815-476-7635

Give Thanks & Celebrate with Berkot's Amazing Deals!



Custer Park tree lighting

The 10th annual Lighting of the Trees will be on Friday, Nov. 18, at 5:45 p.m., at the Custer Park Town Hall. The Reed-Custer High School madrigal singers and

instrumentals will be playing holiday music for the occa-

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



THE LAW OFFICES OF JUNE, PRODEHL, RENZI & LYNCH LLC

Foreclosure Defense

- · Elder Law/Nursing homes
- Asset Conservation
- Wills & Trusts, Estate Planning
- Traffic & Driver's License Reinstatement Restraining Orders/Orders of Protection Mediation (custody and divorce) Felony & Misdemeanor Defense Call now for an appointment 815-725-8000
- or visit our website at www.jprlaw.net 1861 Black Road, Joliet, IL 60435

This office is a designated Federal Debt Relief Agency pursuant to an act of Congress.



Residential Real Estate: Sale & Purchase

David (Andy) June Ford (Chet) June III Steve Prodehl John Renzi Jennifer Lynch Marilyn Wysocki Ed Oedzes

warrenscollisioncenteril.com



collision repair Rentals available

Certified technicians All insurance accepted

Completed in a timely fashion

860 E.Z. St., Braidwood 815-458-3300

COLLISION CENTER

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

SUN., NOV. 20 • 3 - 6pm



BLACK WEDNESDAY • NOV. 23 JUST ROLL WITH IT 9:30 pm - 1:30 am

Wilmington (815) 476-2700 Check out our website



Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment

Diabetes awareness isn't just for the diagnosed

a difficult year for my health.

Five years ago, I began to deal with symptoms of something that I did not recognize were symptoms. And it was easy to write off those symptoms, one by

Marney Simon I was incredibly tired, but of course I was tired, I had two a living man and wanted to teenagers!

I was thirsty all the time. I mean, it was next level thirst, I was putting down several cans of fizzy water every day. But, I had been diagnosed years eareosinophilic with esophagitis, a narrowing of the esophagus, which sometimes left me with a very dry throat. That's all it is, I told myself.

My vision was starting to become blurry. Well, of course it is, you can't fence time, it's just the years! I bought stronger readers.

What finally drove me to the doctor was dizziness. I stood up one morning and quickly had to lie right back down, the entire room was spinning. But even that, I figured, was no big deal. I thought maybe I had an ear infection that was giving me

So, off I went to my primary care physician. He gave me something for the vertigo and sent me off for my annual

When it came back, my A1C—a hemoglobin test that measures your average blood glucose over the past three months—was 10.9. A normal A1C is 5.7 or lower. My A1C meant that my average blood glucose was 266, more than 120 points above the higher end of normal glucose.

My doctor diagnosed me with Type 2 diabetes and immediately placed me on oral medications. And those medications seemed to work, at least for a while.

But after a few years, and after adding additional newer medicines, my A1C just didn't want to budge. It hung out a lot around 8.0 to 8.5. Occasionally I would get it down into the 7s, only for it to creep back up.

In October of last year, my doctor put me on yet another new medication. This one had a specific side effect—weight loss. So, when I started to drop weight, I attributed it to the new medication. And let's be honest, I was not unhappy with it. The day I put on size 8 pants, I thought, isn't modern medicine amazing?

Yeah, well. Not so fast.

By February of this year I had dropped down to a weight I had not seen since I was a teenager. I didn't think too much about it, but one day at work I went to talk to Shawn Long, our former sports writer,

mid-sentence and said, "Marney, you are so skinny.

He was right. I was skinny. Too

I finally told my husband, I think I have lost too much weight. He agreed. He hadn't really wanted to say anything because, well, he's

stay that way and knows better than to comment on a woman's weight. But he had noticed for certain. But by this point, I was just a few weeks out from my next physical. I figured my meds needed to be adjusted. On Feb. 15, 2022, a

Tuesday, I came to work as usual. But the moment I arrived, I threw up. I had been feeling sick and tired for a few days. I thought it was the flu, or maybe even COVID. I hurried through my day and stayed away from everyone, not wanting to get anyone sick. I went home and listened to a Wilmington City Council meeting over Zoom. About an hour later I got sick again, and over the course of the next 30 hours, I was sicker than I had ever been in my life. I was short of breath. My heart was racing. I took a COVID test, it was negative. I thought it was the flu. and I needed to ride it out.

In the predawn hours of Feb. 17, I called out to my husband. I told him he needed to

It was a good call.

I was in diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), a serious, lifethreatening complication of diabetes that occurs when your body just isn't making enough insulin, or any at all. Without insulin, your body can no longer use sugar for energy, and instead uses fat. The result is a build up of ketones in your blood, turning it too acidic.

I was sent to the ICU on an insulin infusion for two days, followed by two days in medsurg before heading home with a new diagnosis—Type 1 uncontrolled diabetes.

One of the strange things about my diagnosis is how my initial diagnosis of Type 2 affected what was happening to me. I was still checking my glucose pretty regularly, but while it was always elevated it was not sky high. My A1C when I was admitted to the hospital was 7.3, and my glucose was 350, both much lower than what is seen in most people in DKA. My medications, the

endocrinologist said, were masking my symptoms. The weight loss—a known side effect of the medication I was on—is a key indicator of DKA. I had no idea.

More importantly, what all think we know about there is to know about diabetes.

Most people know about three main types: Gestational, which I had with both of my pregnancies, Type 2, and Type 1, both of which I have now had (a trifecta, I should bet on the horses!).

But what I was likely dealing with this whole time is actually something called LADA—Latent Autoimmune Diabetes in Adults. LADA, which is sometimes referred to as Type 1.5, is essentially the slow roll from Type 2 to Type 1, as your pancreas slowly but surely dies.

There is also Type 3b, which occurs when there is damage to or removal of the

Type 1 and Type 3b diabetics are insulin dependent. Some Type 2 diabetics are also insulin dependent. Since February, I have

spent a ridiculous amount of time learning about diabetes. To begin, I was placed on insulin. I use a pen, and while I imagine the time will come when a pump might be a better fit, for now, multiple daily injections are working. The injection before you

eat is called your bolus. The injection of the longer lasting insulin is called your basal. And getting furious that your glucose just won't come down and injecting a correction dose is called a "rage bolus," though obviously that's not a medical

I now use a continuous glucose monitor, which means Ĭ literally manage this disease every five minutes.

Diabetes occupies my entire days. I am always thinking about my food. I am always thinking about my exercise. I am always thinking about my glucose. I am always thinking about my next injection. I will do this until I die, or until there is a cure, whichever comes It's a horrible disease, and

I am aware how lucky I am that I didn't have to deal with it until I was 48 years old. I cannot imagine the struggle this presents for children, for young adults, and for the parents who have seen their sons and daughters in DKA. It was terrifying for my husband. I cannot imagine what it would be like to watch your child deal with this, to have to teach a 10 year old how to manage it, knowing it is forever. For reasons unknown, the

cost of insulin has become political. Before I needed it, I used to think, sure insulin should be cheaper. Now that I need it. I am horrified by the discussion. Insulin costs about \$5 to

\$10 to make. Without insurance, the cost of my insulin is \$1,000 per month.

in some places—vou car

who stopped me diabetes is not even close to all actually purchase OTC insulin at Walmart for \$25 a vial. But the thing is, not all insulin is the same. What you can get for that \$25 may or may not be what works for you. A \$35 cap on insulin is ridiculous on its face, because there is no such thing as a standard monthly supply of insulin.

My insulin to carb ratio (how much insulin I inject for each gram of carbohydrates that I eat) is one unit per 15 grams of carbs. For others, that ratio might be one to 10, or one to five, or even one to one.

Without insulin, all of us who are Type 1—roughly 1.9 million Americans including more than 244,000 childrenwill die.

November is Diabetes Month. National months don't always mean a whole lot if you're not directly affected by whatever it is that is being recognized. But, I promise you, we're all affected by diabetes. While those of us with Type 1 only represent between 5% and 10% of total cases, the CDC reports that than 37 Americans have diabetes, and 1 in 5 are not even aware they have it. Ninety-six million adults in the United States have prediabetes, and as many as 8 in 10 are unaware.

So, what can you do?

First, there are plenty of places to get information. JDRF and the American Diabetes Association are good places to start.

Second, learn the signs. certainly didn't know them five years ago, and even after five years managing as a Type 2, I still didn't know anything about Type 1.

Symptoms of diabetes include thirst, weight loss, hunger, blurry vision, tiredness, dry skin, numbness/tingling in hands and feet, and the need to urinate often Don't write off your symptoms like I did—Type 2 diabetes is manageable and, in some cases, reversible. Type 1 is not reversible.

nor is it preventable. I would also implore

everyone to write to your Congressperson about pushing for affordable insulin. The cost of insulin is not

political. But currently, it's downright criminal. It needs to for me, as of

September, my diagnosis has been changed—Type 1 controlled, with an A1C of 6.2. I've gained back 30 pounds, which I don't love, but it is a good

ebrate. There are no guarantees with this disease that will literally follow me around as long as I'm above ground.

Marney Simon is the editor of the Wilmington Free Press Advocate and the Braidwood Insulin is available cheap- Journal. You can reach her at marnevsimon@gmail.com

Subscribe online at www.freepressnewspapers.com

Reed-Custer High School The 22nd Annual Madrigal Dinner December 10 and 11, 2022 What is a Madrigal Dinner? A Madrigal Dinner is a modern-day interpretation of the Medieval feasts held in the great baronial halls throughout England during Christmastime. The royal court would provide entertainment, presided over by a king and queen, joined by court jester, musical ensembles, and itinerant actors. The ambience of the evening is one of warmth, laughter, love, and joy. Everything is in character during the feast. All performers are dressed in period costumes, authentic music is performed, and there is liberal use of old English by everyone from the servants to the king.

The Reed-Custer High School Madrigal Dinner will feature two performances...

Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 PM and Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 PM

Dinner will include Wassail, Roasted Chicken, Stuffing, Glazed Carrots, Coffee, and Fygey (Bread) Pudding. All tickets are \$20.00.

Ticket sales to the public begin Tuesday, November 15!

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE



Fill out the bottom portion of this form, and mail with payment (checks made payable to RCHS Music Boosters) to: Reed-Custer High School, Department of Music, 249 Comet Drive, Braidwood, Illinois, 60408. Mail orders received prior to November 15 will be filled once tickets open to the public in the order they are received. Mail orders will be confirmed by email when filled. You will not be able to reserve a specific table through the mail order option.

Or visit https://www.vancoevents.com/BJYU

For additional information, call the RCHS Music Department at 815-458-2166 extension 3343 or email kevin.mangan@rc255.net. Order early! This event will sell out fast!

Phone Number: Email: PAYMENT: X Saturday Performance (@ \$20.00 each) = \$ __ ____ X **Sunday** Performance (@ \$20.00 each) = \$ _____ Total amount due = \$ _____ (checks made payable to RCHS Music Boosters)



RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!

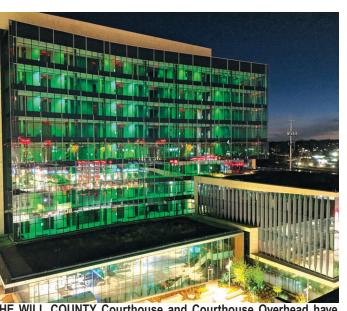


(888) 274-6381 · www.surfbroadband.com

County buildings go green in support of veterans

illuminated in green during November as part of Operation Green Light, a nationwide initiative to show support for vet-

Will County buildings are light, we're showing support awareness for resources availfor the veterans in our community and thanking them for their service and sacrifices," said County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant. "This month-"By shining the green long initiative also raises



THE WILL COUNTY Courthouse and Courthouse Overhead have been outfitted with green lighting throughout the interior. The lights will switch to green every night in November.

able to veterans at the federal, state and local level."

Operation Green Light was initiated by the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Veteran County Service Officers. The goal is to show support for veterans, raise awareness of issues faced by veterans, and to spotlight resources available at all levels of government.

Several Will County facilities are illuminated green at night, including the County Office Building, the Courthouse, and Sunny Hill Nursing Home. Residents are encouraged to participate by changing one light bulb inside or outside of their home.

"I'm proud that Will County is participating in this national initiative," County Board member Tom Weigel. "It's important that we raise awareness of the unique issues faced by veterans and continue to spotlight the resources available to them in our communities. I hope to see more green lights throughout the county this month.'

Veterans are invited to attend a Veterans Rights Seminar being co-hosted with State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, State Rep. Natalie Manley, and local veterans organizations to learn about available resources. The event will be held Saturday, Nov. 19 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Grand Haven Clubhouse, located at 1520 Grand Haven Rd. in Romeoville.

guests, registration is required for this event. To register, vetvisit https://bit.ly/3f5ikrA or call (815) 267-6119.

To accommodate all



INSURANCE



teamgresham@amfam.com Email: ggresham@amfam.com







Classic vs. frozen Margarita

Love them or hate them, the Houston Astros are World Series champions, again. The Astros have been riddled with controversy as a result of numerous cheating allegations following their previous championship run in 2017, now the team and their fans hope that this victory will bring some redemption.

I'm sure that they re still celebrating in Houston, more than likewith and endless stream of Margaritas. Keep in mind that it was 86 degrees in Houston on Sunday, "Margarita season" is a year-round event in the Lone Star State.

One of the most interesting story lines that came out of the championship run is that of Jim McInvale aka "Mattress Mack", Houston furniture store owner and philanthropist.

McInvale placed a \$10,000,000 bet on the Astros to win it all and received the largest payout in sports betting history, a cool \$75,000,000.

That's enough to buy a few rounds, let's toast the end of the 2022 baseball season with a scratch-made Margarita.

You make the call: frozen, or on the rocks? Whichever way that you decide to take your margarita, know that it is only going to be as good as the tequila that goes into the drink. Your Margarita is DOA if you use bad tequila, and there is plenty of tequila out there.

How can you tell the good tequila from the bad tequila? It's quite simple. The good stuff will have "100% agave" printed on the label.

Beware that some tequila producers will try to use vague language to trick you, such as "made from pure agave". Only 100% means 100%, and if the bottle does not say 100% agave on it, put it back on the shelf.

Why does this matter? Tequila that is not 100% agave contains artificial caramel coloring, artificial sweeteners, and it's anybody's guess as to what else is in that bottle.

Those artificially colored gold tequilas look great in the bottle, but the coloring and the artificial flavoring in the bottle virtually guarantee that you will have the worst hangover that you have had since college.

The tequila aisle is not the place to "save a

When it comes to lime juice, fresh is always best. Avoid the temptation to buy bottled lime

I realize that juicing limes for a few pitchers of Margaritas is labor intensive, but it's

absolutely worth it. If you have a juicer, use it! The manual lime squeezer works as well, but Pro tip: juice as many limes as you think

that you will need for a few rounds of drinks, and then store the fresh lime juice in a storm If you are standing in the citrus aisle at

your local market and need to do some quick mixology math, plan to get approximately 1 oz. of juice out of an average lime.

Take your time when selecting limes from



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL Brian Rung

the bin at your local market. Always choose the limes that feel "heavy" compared to the others. More weight = more juice.

Salt, or no salt? If you are going to use salt on your Margarita, use kosher salt. Kosher salt granules are larger than table salt granules and will adhere to the glass better.

There is a proper way to rim your Margarita glass, and it's not mashing the top of the glass into one of those sombrero-shaped Margarita salt dispensers.

To properly rim your glass with salt, start by pouring some kosher salt onto a small plate. Then, run a lime wedge along _ of the

Once the lime juice has been applied to the rim of the glass, gently roll the side of the glass with the lime juice on it in the kosher salt.

I leave half of the rim of the glass unsalted, just a personal preference.

Speaking of salt, why limit salt to the rim of the glass if you know that you are a fan of salt? Don't be afraid to drop a pinch of kosher salt into your Margarita. A pinch of quality kosher salt gives the drink a little "something extra", experiment until you find the ideal "pinch" of

One note on triple sec: It the unsung hero of the Margarita. The bittersweet orange liqueur tames the burn of the tequila and adds sweetness to an overtly sour drink. If a highend triple sec is in your budget, go with Cointreau. For quality on a budget go with Bol's triple sec.

Once you have mastered the Margarita basics you may want to experiment. Add a splash of orange juice, a shot of mezcal, blue curacao, or some prickly pear syrup. Make it your own, you may stumble on to something

The Classic Margarita (rocks) is built in a shaker and served in a chilled rocks glass.

Combine in shaker:

2 oz. blanco teguila

1/2 oz. triple sec

1 oz. fresh lime juice

1/2 oz. sweetener (simple syrup or agave

Shake with ice, strain into chilled rocks glass over fresh ice

Garnish with lime wheel

The Frozen Margarita is built in a blender, served in a goblet or coupe glass. The recipe below serves 4.

Combine in blender:

1 cup 100% agave tequila

1 cup fresh lime juice 1/2 cup triple sec

2 tablespoons sweetener (simple syrup or agave nectar)

6 cups crushed ice

Blend until smooth

Pour into prepared glasses, garnish with lime wedge

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Cookies with Santa Dec. 4

A Cookies with Santa afternoon will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the former St. Rose School building at 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

Cost is \$5 to pre-register or \$8 the day of the event per child.

To register email: hoop ie2012@gmail.com include your family name and the number of children attending.

Come out to see Santa and have some delicious treats! Special gifts for the first 50 children! Many surprises are in store for everyone! Stop by to visit Santa's workshop and visit local vendors for lastminute gift ideas. Several photo backdrops will be available for holiday pictures.



Our orthopedic specialists provide expert care and treatment of sports injuries and problems associated with the neck, back, shoulder, elbow, hand, knee, hip, foot, and ankle, always considering conservative treatment methods first. And if surgery is needed, we offer the latest innovations and techniques.

Orthopedic Surgeons: Dr. Raymond Meyer, Dr. Keith Rezin, Dr. Stephen Treacy, Dr. Robert Williams Orthopedic Spine Surgeon: Dr. Mir Ali Foot & Ankle Surgeon: Dr. Kyle Pearson

It's time to improve your quality of life. Call today for an appointment:

Diamond-Coal City and Morris 815-942-4875 Ottawa 815-433-0850 Joliet (Houbolt Rd) 815-741-4000



morrishospital.org/orthopedics

OBITUARIES

Ronnie McQuarters_



Earl McQuarters, 79, of Wilmington, passed away

unexpectedly Friday, Nov. Born Nov. 6, 1943 in Paris, TN, Ronnie was a son of Albert Earl and Clara Carnell (Creamer) McQuarters.

He lived with his family in Paris for his first three years before they relocated to Chicago, where he graduated from Harrison High School with the class of 1962. Ron joined the United States Army and served honorably during the Vietnam War, stationed in Europe for 3 years as a com operator. After discharge from military service, he moved from Chicago to Downers Grove, IL, where he met Margaret "Peg" Obitts. They married Sept. 7, 1968 in Downers Grove, and enjoyed 55 years of marriage. Ron worked as a machinist at various steel plants, including Rexchainbelt of Downers Grove and Lockformer in Lisle, IL and he also worked for the Bolingbrook Police Station as a crossing guard. He was an avid member of the Sportsmans Fishing Club for over 20 years and loved to fish at his home in Shadow Lakes. Ron was a family man who cherished spending time with his loved ones, especially his grandchil-

Survivors include his wife, Peg McQuarters, of Wilmington; one son, Jody Michael (Cathy) McQuarters, of Plainfield and one daughter, Jennifer (James) Sammons, of Plainfield; five grandchildren: Kelsie, Tiffany, Collin, Meaghan, and Emma; two greatgrandchildren: Blake and Thea, and one brother, Billie Wayne McQuarters, of Downers Grove.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings, Tommie Ray McQuarters and Sandra Aiello.

Per Ron's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and interment with full military honors will be held Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, 20953 W. Hoff Rd., in Elwood. Family and friends are encouraged to assemble at the cemetery by 1:45 p.m. for committal services at 2 p.m.

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

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home

Sandra K. Oss -

CHICAGO- Sandra K. Oss, 72, of Chicago, passed away Friday, Nov. 4, 2022 at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL.

Born Nov. 11, 1949 in Chicago, Sandra was a daughter of Jimbob and Georgia (Stidham) Hanks. She was raised in Chicago and went on to attend Morton College. She lived in both Chicago and Cicero, and throughout the years she enjoyed cooking, crossword puzzles, gardening and antique collecting. In addition she will be remembered as a lover of animals.

Survivors include her partner, Chester Peroni; children: James (Kelly) Duvall and Katrina (David) Boero; grandchildren: James C. Duvall and Delaney R. Duvall; one brother, Robert Hanks and several nieces and

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Donna (Hanks) Chambers.

A graveside service was held at Sample Cemetery in Morris, on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022. Family and friends are encouraged

to log onto www.reevesfuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Sandra's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves

Randy Wiseman

WILMINGTON—Randy Wiseman, 69, "the dancing man," of Wilmington, formerly of Braceville passed away unexpectedly in his home

He was born Jan. 27, 1953 in Joliet to Harry and Geraldine Wiseman. Randy was a polite child, a good student who excelled academically, often receiving honors as valedictorian. He was nick-named "the tooth" in high school due to his wisdom in history, science

and many other subjects and topics. He was also into sports, especially baseball, which, as a young adult, he coached the Braceville Little League team, umpired and coached the GSW High School baseball team. He also took the opportunity to do sports announcing on Morris radio, briefly, and was an avid fan of the Chicago White Sox and Blackhawks. At age 20, Randy took custody of his brother and sister when they were just 6 and 8 years old and enthusiastically raised them into adulthood as if they were his very own, although he never married or had children of his own.

In later years, his sister, Meri referred to him as "brother-dad." Randy worked many jobs in his life. First, at Daniels Auto Supply in Braceville and his favorite job was at Diamond Gas, where he made many friends. In 1994, he became caregiver to his disabled mother until she passed in 2015. Randy was also a lover of animals, reading and music. From the age of 10, he danced in his room, playing his 45 records

and he carried that passion with him for the rest of his life. Eventually, he began dancing at carnivals, bars, benefits, and other local events. Where the bands played, Randy followed, and was dubbed "the dancing man. Several years ago, the Free Press did an article about him titled "The dancing man entertains at festival." He recently danced at the Stumble Inn and

Wicked Cricket. Even at home, he both

danced and read books about history, politics and biographies every single day. Randy was a very generous person and gave of himself always to help his parents, siblings and others, without expecting anything in return. With his passing, his family suffers the loss of a true friend and a generous soul.

Survivors include his sister and her fiance Meri "Alilah" Cunning and Colin Miller; nephews: Ronald (Liz) Wren, Ryan (Jessica) Wren, Justin Wiseman and Josh (Amanda) Wiseman; niece, Jillian Wren; cousins, Cricket Bean and Lucille Strohm; former sister-in-law, Lori Libby; his best friend, Patrick Harvey; his pet cat, Cinnamon, and numerous extended

ents, Geraldine Gutzman-Wiseman and Harry "Bunky" Wiseman; sister, Geri Lee Wren; brother, Jonathon Wiseman and niece, Memory Hope

Cremation rights are being accorded and handled by R. W. Patterson Funeral Home.



CURBSIDE CARE

Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Baby Hygiene Items

Every second Thursday of the month July 14 January 13 February 10 August 11

March 10 September 15* April 14 October 13 May 12 November 10 June 9 December 15*

CALL FOR PICK UP TIME

OUR SERVICES

FREE & Confidential

Material Assistance **Pregnancy Test** Limited Ultrasound **Options Counseling** Pregnancy & Parenting Education **Pregnancy Loss Support** Post Abortion Support **Adoption Support** STI/STD Information



Compassionate Support. Honest Information.

(815-709-0920

410 N. Broadway Street -Coal City

Sarah Brown

RITCHIE—Sarah Brown, 88, Ritchie, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, surrounded by her loving family. Born March 17, 1934 in Giles

County, TN, Sarah Ruth was a daughter of the Reverend Pink and Maggie (Sweeney) Griggs. She was raised and educated in Giles County, and on March 9, 1968 Sarah married Robert Glenn Brown at his family home in Ritchie. She was a past member of the Wilmington Church of the Nazarene and devoted her life to raising her family. Sarah enjoyed vegetable gardening and canning, and raising her chickens. She took pleasure in handcrafts such as sewing and embroidery, or simple things like coloring books. Sarah looked forward to playing board games and puzzles with her family, especially Yahtzee, and was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. She was an excellent caregiver, whose nurturing heart always made sure to put her family's needs before her own, who treasured the countless memories made with her family.

Survivors include two daughters, Lee Ann (Eric) Maynard, of Wilmington and Bobbi (Don) Peters, of Morris; her son-in-law, Jon Galayda, of Ritchie; six grandchildren: E.J. (Samantha) Maynard, Hannah Maynard, Paige Peters, Kayla Peters, Logan Peters, and Erica Maynard; two great-grandsons, Memphis and Zeke; brothers and sisters: Marzee Thomas, Dimple Prentice, Johnny (Judy) Griggs and LeVert (Johnny)

Wilson; five sisters-in-law: Sharon Griggs, Lib Griggs, Verna Griggs, Evelyn (Melvin) Fennewald and Kathleen (Max) Hoffman; as well as numerous nieces and nephews and dear friends: Tom and Angela Murray.

WWW.FREEPRESSNEWSPAPERS.COM

Sarah was preceded in death by her parents, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Harry and Jean Brown; one daughter, Julie Ann Galayda; brothers and sisters: Pink Griggs Jr., Raymond (Donna) Griggs, Janella (Gene) Lovell,

Clifford Thomas, Clarence Griggs, Lovelace Griggs, Hudson Griggs, and Sheilds Griggs; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Janet Brown and Roland Brown. The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022 at Baskerville

Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road, in Wilmington from 3 p.m. until the time of funer-A private family burial will follow at Wesley Cemetery in Ritchie, where Sarah will be laid to

rest with her husband, Robert. Pallbearers will

be: Eric Maynard, Don Peters, Logan Peters, E.J. Maynard and Jon Galayda. Family and friends are encouraged to log on to www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Sarah's memorial page via social media.

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

Roy Merkel _

TAMAROA, IL-Roy Max Merkel, 82, of Tamaroa, IL, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 at Pinckneyville Community Hospital.

He was born on Feb. 17, 1940 in Sesser, IL to Russell James and Nighta Jewell (Murry) Merkel. He married Sharon (Hutton) Merkel on Nov. 22,

He was survived by his wife, Sharon Merkel, of Tamaroa; one son, Chris Alan (Donna) Merkel, of Janesville, IL; granddaughter, Bailee Mae Merkel, of Pensacola, FL; daughter-in-law, Emilie Wall, of Altamont, IL; one sister, Betty Jean Rawlish, of Coal City and one brother, Lynn Ray (Myrthel) Merkel, of Roy was preceded in death by his parents,

one son, Clinton Lee Merkel; two sisters, Hazel Plata and Linda Sue Merkel and one brother,

Russell Dwane Merkel.

Pastor Jay Regennitter will officiate.

The family will receive friends at Brayfield-Gilbert Funeral Home, 102 West Callie, in Sesser, IL on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022 from 1 to 3 p.m. An additional visitation will be held on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City from 9 a.m. until time of graveside services at 11 a.m. in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery in Braceville.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Roy's memorial page via Social Media.

Local arrangements have been made under the direction and care Reeves Funeral Home, Ltd. in Coal City.

Robert Neises



WILMINGTON—Robert Neises, Wilmington, passed away of natural causes, way too soon on, Nov. 13, 2022 at his home.

Born Sept. 21, 1965 in Chicago, Robert Edward was a son of Joseph Edward and Floy Jean (Pennington) Neises. He was raised in the Back of the Yards neighborhood and graduated from Curie High School with the class of 1984. Following graduation, Bobby entered into the United States Army, where he honorably served stateside (1984-1987).

Currently employed as a car hauler with Transport Company out of Edwardsville, IL, Bobby and his wife, Darla also co-owned Jaszy s Iava in Wilmington. He was a member of Teamster Local #710; belonged to the A.F. & A.M. Wilmington Lodge #208, where he raised to Worshipful Master in 2013, and was a Noble of the Mystic Shrine in Medinah Shriners of Chicago, where he was active with the Camel Unit. Bobby belonged to Wilmington Moose Lodge #241, where he participated with the Moose Riders; formerly belonged to the Wilmington Lions Club, and previously served as a Cub Scout Leader.

He served as a Wilmington Republican Committeeman; was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington; performed in the Wilmington Praise Band, and volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club in Joliet, as well as for various organizations and causes throughout the Wilmington community. Bobby enjoyed playing the guitar; took pleasure in traveling, especially to Disney and loved his fur babies

and fish. One of his favorite pastimes was riding his Harley. He absolutely adored his grandchildren, and will most be remembered as a truly kind, social guy who never knew a stranger. Although Bobby is no longer with us on earth, he leaves behind a priceless collection of memories with those who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Darla;

daughter, Jasmin (Terry) Claxton and two grandchildren, Peyton and Damien. Bob is the father of Brandon Neises and Thomas Neises; brother of Michele (Dennis) Hetzer and Jean (Paul) Jasper, and uncle to numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Steven Neise:

Private services were held with Reverend Mark Moon officiating, and burial was held in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington, where Bobby was laid to rest with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes sympathy cards and memorials to assist with Bobby's final expenses. Correspondences may be directed to the family c/o the funeral home. Your kindness and generosity is truly appreciat-

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

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Jim Hume _____

COAL CITY— Iim "Hummer" Hume, 70, of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 at Morris Hospital, surrounded by his family.

Born July 2, 1952 in Morris, James Steven was a son of Albert Loren and Margaret "Peg" (Huseby) Hume. He was raised in Morris and graduated from Morris High School with the class of 1970. On April 30, 1977, Jim married Pamela Haynes in the First United Methodist Church in Morris, and together they made a home and built a family together. Jim worked for the Grundy County Sheriff Department from 1973 until 1978, when he gained employment with Collins Station. He worked at Collins until 2004, when he transitioned to Midwest Generation, from where he retired out of the Will County Station in 2012. Following his retirement, in 2014, Jim returned to the Grundy County Sheriff's Office, and was currently continuing to work security at the County Courthouse.

Jim was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Morris; enjoyed reading, dancing and sports, and was a great fan of the Chicago Bears and Blackhawks. He took pleasure in being on his pontoon and playing cards. Many memories were made on family vacations when the kids were growing up, and his love of following his kids in their school activities only grew stronger when he was able to be in the stands as his grandkids number one fan.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Pamela; daughter, Lauren Vitko, of Gardner and sons, Josh (Jen) Hume, of Morris and Nick

Hume, of Gardner; six grandchildren: Owen, Grace and Cecelia Vitko; Aidan

Bolak and Charlotte and Arlo Hume; his sister, Barb (Jim) Boma, of Morris; brothers: Bob (Jeanne) Hume, of Stockton, CA and Mike (Debbie) Hume, of Valley Springs, CA; his brother-in-law, Jay (Tess) Haynes, of San Jose, CA; nieces and nephews: Jen (Tim) Unick, of Las Vegas, NV; Steph (Marco) Silva, of Escalon, CA and Jeremy

Haynes and Jayssielisa Haynes, both of San Jose, and great-nieces and great-nephew: Katelyn, Natalie, Jacob and Alexis. Jim was preceded in death by his parents

and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, James and Nadine Haynes.

Per Jim's wishes, cremation rites have been

A Celebration of Life Memorial Open House was held at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022.

Jim was laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jim's memory to the Grundy Lending Closet and Grief Support, Ltd. 518 W. Illinois Avenue,

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto: www.reevesfuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Jim's memorial page online through social media.

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

Illinois Republicans have a stark fiscal reality

Rep. Tim Ozinga (R- not Mokena) made the classic blunder of not focusing on one election at a time. But, his flub does give us an excuse to look at a few fundraising issues.

It's been no secret that Ozinga wanted to be the next House Republican Leader. But he hasn't really been involved in many House Republican races this year and then, the day before election day, all of a sudden reported giving his own campaign fund a million

As I pointed out to my newsletter subscribers last week, that money could've really helped some suburban or Downstate candidates who struggled to raise money and then lost. House Republican Leader Jim Durkin relied on the word of billionaire Ken Griffin that he'd have plenty of money for the fall campaign. But when Griffin left Illinois in a huff over rival billionaire Richard Uihlein opposing his nominate Republican Richard Irvin for governor, that commitment

was discarded. The Republicans' fundraising base has badly eroded over the years. It has either aged out, and/or moved to warmer climes and more hospitable politics like Florida and Arizona. Once those folks leave, they just don't care anymore (unless they're getting paid, like Dan Proft, who spent

Adequate, reliable and younger replacements have

millions of Uihlein's money to

help Darren Bailey).

not yet been found. Bailey winning the primary probably discourpotential contributors from seeing a path to significant wins this year.

This problem-

fundraising

trend has been going on for quite a few years. The wealthy Bruce

Rich Miller

Rauner exploited it to his own advantage by handing out money before, during and after his 2014 gubernatorial bid. After Rauner lost reelection and split for Florida. Griffin stepped in, until he lost the Irvin race and split for

So, it's either jump into the far-right political bed with Uihlein, or deal with the GOP's stark fiscal reality and scramble every day to raise a few bucks here and there. It's no wonder that Leader Durkin retired. It's just not worth the

Anyway, there is most definitely a void in the Republican Party structure that wealthy people like Rep. Ozinga can exploit, if only he had pitched in more during the last election instead of waiting to plunk down cash during the leadership race. while billionaire And

Richard Uihlein didn't give money to House Republican Leader Durkin, he did fund a group called Common Sense Reforms independent expen-

diture committee. As I've told you before, it's run by Illinois Institute honchos, including John Tillman.

According to a State Board of Elections website search, the group reported spending \$1.9 million since early October. Uihlein used

the group in much the same way he helped Bailey through Dan Proft's independent expenditure committee, People Who Play by the Rules PAC. He gave a few bucks to Bailey, but most of his cash

Instead of concentrating

went to Proft.

the Uihlein cash on some winnable races, though, Common Sense Reforms scattered the spending among 18 House contests, with almost all of the districts receiving about the same amount of mail. I'm not sure if their spending was enough to move the needle in any individual races, but Uiȟlein and Tillman might have created some goodwill among the very small handful

And, finally, a recent complaint filed against Senate Republican Leader Dan McConchie's campaign highlights a campaign finance law that's being almost completely ignored in Illinois.

State law requires any candidates who receive 33 percent of their funding from a single

person or group to disclose the name of the "sponsoring ention their state paperwork.

In Leader McConchie's case, the sponsoring entity was the billionaire Uihlein, who contributed \$2.1 million to McConchie's personal campaign committee in the third quarter, or 78 percent of his

spokesperson for the Board of Elections says that candidates don't have to disclose their sponsoring entities on their "paid for by" advertising disclaimers, although one attorney I consulted disagrees.

But just think of all the candidates with sponsoring entities this year who didn't disclose it. Irvin received tens of millions of dollars from Griffin. Uihlein has been Bailey's sponsoring entity all year long. Kari Steele's Democratic primary bid for Cook County Assessor was almost totally funded by the Operating Engineers Local 150-connected Fight Back Fund's million-dollar contri-

Strengthening the law to make clear that campaigns have to disclose their sponsors in their advertising probably wouldn't work. Uihlein and Proft could've just set up an entity called "I love Darren Bailey," or something. Money always seems to find a way around regulations.

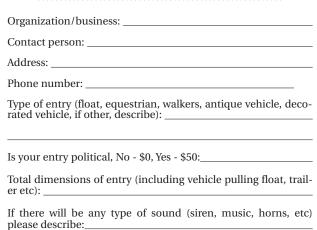
Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.



Chamber seeks entries for Christmas parade

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce will host a lighted Christmas parade Saturday, Nov. 26. The parade will start at 5 p.m. at Wilmington Middle School and travel on Ryan to Water Street to the post office. Community groups and local businesses are invited to enter for free while political entries cost \$50.

Anyone is welcome to sign up by Saturday, Nov. 19. Information will be sent to parade entries including map with the lineup. Again, application must be returned no later than November 19. For additional information contact Marty Orr at chamberparade@gmail.com. Line up at 4 p.m.



Gas will stay expensive through the holiday

You can buy gas in Illinois near the \$3 mark but you'll have to travel four hours to Quincy, IL. Motorists there were paying \$3.09/g on Monday according to gas

Locally, gas prices are over \$1 more, averaging \$4.11/g in Braidwood, \$4.19 to \$4.39 in Wilmington and \$4.19 in Coal

That's about 14.9 cents per gallon less than the week before with the average at statewide, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 20.6 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 65.2 cents per gallon higher than a year

"After rising the week prior, the

again, posting a modest weekly decline with prices dropping in a majority of states. The decline has been partly driven by Great Lakes states, where prices fell by 15-25 cents per gallon due to an improvement in the refining situation, and also oil prices, which fell back under \$90 per barrel last week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Despite recently declining from summer highs, gas prices this Thanksgiving will be the highest they've ever been for the holiday, and nearly 30 cents per gallon higher than last year. However, more Americans plan to hit the road next week than during Thanksgiving last year, according to a recent GasBuddy study.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 2.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.76/g. The national average price of diesel has risen 2.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.34 per

The national average is down 14.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 36.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy.

"With oil prices remaining volatile, the outlook is murky, but I'm hopeful in the lead up to Thanksgiving we'll see prices declining in more states, while others may not be quite as lucky. Regardless, we'll still be seeing the most expensive Thanksgiving Day prices on record.'

Jefferson Street bridge to close for one week

The Illinois Department of until Nov. 21. The closure is announced that the Cass Street bridge over the Des Plaines River in Joliet has reopened while the Jefferson Street (U.S. 30) bridge will be closed for one week.

The Cass Street bridge was closed in August as part of the ongoing effort to upgrade the movable bridges in Joliet, a project that will allow them to be controlled from a central

Shortly after the reopening of Cass Street, the Jefferson Street bridge will be closed

necessary to complete measurements and design plans for the project's upcoming phases.

A detour will be posted. Motorists will be routed to Raynor Avenue (U.S. 52) and McDonough Street (U.S. 52) to cross the river and reconnect with Jefferson Street via Chicago Street (Illinois 53).

Later this month, after Jefferson Street reopens, the McDonough Street bridge is anticipated to close with detours for approximately three months.



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



Shingle/Flat Roofs

Gutters Licensed

Siding Insured Fascia/Soffit

Bonded Insurance Claims

IL State License # 104-002993 (815) 476-6010 www.vrcc.us



Driveway stonePulverized topsoilPool & play sandHardwood mulch

Decorative stone

Bobcat Service

We Deliver! www.jdlandscapesupply.com 815-478-3717

708-921-3535





Direct: (815) 405-6758 815-476-7916

Fax: 815-476-7566

FULL COLOR

- Banners -
- Brochures -

Customized to your liking. Competitive prices.

THE FREE PRESS 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL



· basements

· commercial

industrial

Wilmington • 815-200-6880

Riverspool

402 S. Water St., Wilmington (815)

Birthday parties Fundraisers

> Child & adult leagues www.riverfrontlanes.com

Mini Storage CLEMENTINE'S

> 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

Affordable Clean, Secure **Monthly Rentals**

No Deposit Required 815-530-0200

and Apparel

BASEMENT & CRAWL SPACE SOLUTIONS

Braidwood, IL



Email: judysundine@sbcglobal.net

506 S. WATER ST., WILMINGTON, IL 60481

- Yard Signs -

- Post Cards -

 driveways sidewalks patios

· stairs and more!



476-2600 • Corporate parties

CLOSETS

WATERPROOFING

FOUNDATION REPAIR INSULATING **ENCAPSULATION** SUMP PUMPS DRAINAGE SYSTEMS **GUTTER GUARDS**

(815) 715-6050 DryToday.net

SHORKEY PAINTING (815)546-1321 Interior/

Exterior

Est. 1989

SISTEK RENTALS

We SELL, REPAIR, and RENT Outdoor Power Equipment





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

Promotional Products Adidas®

Oakley®

EMAIL: ajsprint@comcast.net

Koozies® Bic® Pens Champion® Sharpie®

WEB: ajspromotional.dcpromosite.com 815-263-5990 Janet Fisher-Schatz

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE Pumping - Repairs - New Installation **Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties**



JOHNKE TREE SERVICE

No Job Too Big Or Too Small!

Power line clearance certified

•20 years experience

Military & Senior Discount

Fully Bonded & Insured 815-791-5146

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS

Free Estimates

Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

This space could be yours! Call (815) 476-7966

Ed Bonnivier Coal City • 634-4691 from the Free Press Newspapers

Wilmington pastors to host Thanksgiving Service

The Wilmington Pastor's and Association will sponsor a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov. 20, at p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington.

Everyone is invited to join mon. in this service of prayer, music

fellowship. Wilmington Community Choir and the Praise Ringers bell choir will perform.

Rev. Jason Price, Pastor of First Christian Church, will deliver the Thanksgiving ser-



Will County breaks ground on new morgue, coroner's facility

Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Will County Coroner Laurie H. Summers and County Board members held a groundbreaking for the new morgue and coroner's facility in Joliet last week.

The construction project will consolidate the Morgue and Coroner's Office into one location, providing streamlined operations.

"And so it begins. We are excited that construction on the new Coroner's facility will consolidate the administrative staff and the Deputy Coroner's under one roof," said Coroner Summers. "Thank you to the County Board for recognizing the need for a new state of the art facility."

The 11,460 square foot

facility will replace an aging and undersized morgue with a new, purpose-built facility that also includes the administrative offices of the Will County Coroner. These functions are currently located in two sepa-The new morgue is going

to improve our public safety capabilities," said Bertino-



AN ARTIST RENDERING shows the new Will County Morgue and Coroner's facility being built on Laraway Road which will be completed in Summer of 2023.

Tarrant. "This modern facility will provide a safe, efficient space for the Coroner's Office to perform their essential

The design of the new facility focuses on operational efficiency, with a clear separation of administrative offices and morgue space to maintain a healthy environment for county personnel.

"Congratulations Coroner Summers and her staff on the construction of Department,

this facility, which will significantly improve their operations," said Board Speaker Mimi Cowan. "Funding this project was a bi-partisan accomplishment that will benefit the county for years to The new facility will join

existing public safety facilities at 16857 W. Laraway Road, including the Public Safety Complex, Sheriff's Department, Animal Control

Emergency Agency's Emergency Response Facility.

Im proud that the Board has prioritized public safety capital projects in recent years, said **Board Capital Improvements** Chair Herb Brooks. The new morgue will be an excellent addition to the existing Public Safety Complex.'

The new facility is projected to be completed in Summer of

using an electronic communi-

cations device in the further-

ance of controlled substance

trafficking involving a sub-

stance containing any amount

through the legislative process

WE DO COLOR!

Turner and Rezin hope to

this legislation move

of fentanyl.

this veto session.



Easy Online Booking: wildcatsst.com

Or Contact: chris@wildcatsst.com / 815-768-0681 eric@wildcatsst.com / 630-750-1279

131 N. School St., Wilmington, IL

Drawing by Cruz I.

Sponsored by Gymshoe Art

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

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



We need more drawings! Help us express kindness! Create!

Proposed bill adds years of jail time for selling fentanyl

bat the ongoing fentanyl epidemic in Illinois, two state senators are pushing for a bill that would increase sentencing for anyone caught selling the lethal drug. State Senator Sally Turner

(R-Beason) and Senate Deputy Minority Leader Sue Rezin (R-Morris) held a press confer-Morris) neiu a press ze ence at the State Capitol with Morean County State's Attorney Erika Reynolds to unveil legislation that creates two new offenses and penalties for individuals who intentionally sell scheduled drugs with fentanyl or use electronic communication devices to sell

"This epidemic grows more serious each year as the number of deaths continues to climb. No longer is this just something that is happening in a far away land, it's happening everywhere," said Senator Sally Turner.

Senate Bill 4221 would amend the manufacture and delivery offense within the Illinois Controlled Substances Act to create a new Class X felony requiring nine to 40 years in prison for unlawfully selling or dispensing any scheduled drug, like Adderall or Vicodin, that contains a detectable amount of fentanyl.

"Nationally, nearly 70,000 people 18 and older died in 2021 from synthetic opioidrelated incidents, with 90% of those being fentanyl-related. That is equivalent to one plane crashing each and every day," said Senator Sue Rezin. "In Illinois, we have seen the number of synthetic opioid deaths jump from 87 in 2013 to 2,672 in 2021. That means in less than one decade, the state of Illinois saw nearly a 3,000 percent increase in synthetic opioid overdose deaths. We cannot and should not continue to turn a blind eye to this

staggering trend." Senate Bill 4221 would also expand the controlled substance trafficking offense to create a new Class 1 felony, which would come with a fine up to \$100,000 for anyone

Coal City United Methodist Church to hold soup supper

United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 pm.

your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert.

Carry-outs are available. The cost is \$12 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 -They will be serving deli- 12; and children age 2 & under cious homemade chicken eat free. All proceeds will go to noodle and stuffed green pep-per soups. Each meal includes the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.







WWW.ISLANDPARKDISTRICT.COM

GRUNDY COUNTY'S

#1 HOME SELLER

Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 By Grundy County Offices

SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT

C21.COM

CENTURY 21

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

<u>Cost</u>

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

HELP WANTED

Friends Over Fifty has an immediate need for Caregivers for shifts in Minooka Wilmington, Our Senior and Joliet. Care Company helps the elderly maintain independence by providing in-home companionship and other non-medical assistance with Activities of Daily Training is provided as well as a competitive salary, PTO an employer and matching IRA. Apply online ťoday, call and we will send an application link to your phone 815-836-2635 cc46-49

Joliet and/or Dwight: In office Bookkeeper for bookkeeping and front desk Optometrist Office. Wages* are negotiable to Credentialed*' applicants with experience. Position requires least afternoons/evenings (7 or 8pm) and Saturdays (3 or 4pm). NO SUŃ-DAYS. Health Care office and or customer service experience preferred. Electronic professional ofcords, fice skills, Internet, Mi-crosoft Word, Excel, software use, etc; ordering, with basic billing *Wages commensurate with ** Quickbooks ex-Quickbooks exwith perience and confirmed resume. Semi-Retirees Welcome. Call for interview 331-249-7549

Reliable caregiver needed in my South Wilmington Monday-Friday from 8am-3pm for a kind. elderly lady who needs assistance. 815-378-

cc45-48

HELP WANTED

Window Repair Technician. We need One Person to fill one available position. This is a long-term career opportunity not just a temp job. We offer excellent starting pay commensurate to your skill set. However, we are willing to train the right person with the right attitude and mind-set. We are a Non-Smoking Company with zero tolerance for on premises smoking. There will be a drug test and a physical as well as a background check. You must have a clean driving record and a current valid driver's license. Duties include but are not limited to shop work such as cutting wood for window sashes, cutting roll aluminum, staining or painting window sashes. Also reauired will be field indeliveries. stallations. Our shop is clicontrolled and very clean; we like to keep it that way. There will be little to no supervision, we need someone who can manage their time efficiently and honestly. Experience with shop tools such as a tape measure, miter saws, table saws, drill planning mapress, chines is a plus but not required if you are teachable. We offer excellent health ance, paid holidays, and paid vacation all our parent through company. Work hours

HELP WANTED

Program Coordinator A federally funded substance abuse prevention coalition seeks full time Program Coordiimplement grant related programs and strategies to reamong youth in the community. Perfect entry level position for social worker, teacher, or public health administrator. Associates Derecommended. flexible schedule, paid holidays and PTO. holidays Email to info@wilming-ton-coalition.org ch46-47 **MISCELLANEOUS** mixed

woods, \$135. Oak, Delivered. 815-791-0257. cc45-48

BBQ firewood \$159. Dry, seasoned, oak firewood \$139 plus deliv-Quick friendly 815-260-0108. service.

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

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

> **SHOP YOUR** LOCAL **BUSINESSES!**

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 Brew and Chew New! Dog Trinity Treats. Dog Barkery 240 vv. _ more Wilmington., II 20481 815-476-5104 2 * r i n i t y services.org. ch22b-tfn

OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL

REAL ESTATE

- MORRIS, ILLI--v.- MICHAEL HUNSLEY et al Defendant 2022 FC 29 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 6, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Coron December 7, 2022, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 429 DAVID DR, BRACEVILLE, IL 60407 Property Index 09-26-251-016 real estate is improved with a single family residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the tunds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is coloulated on register. nicipality Relief Fund which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the chaser not to exceed \$300. certified funds/or wire nsfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, speassessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is ofreal estate and fered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the pur chaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after con-firmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Prop-erty Act, 765 ILCS erty Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of

SERVICE & REPAIRS

(815)

942-9190

Want to move

your car fast?

Advertise it in

our Classifieds!

nity, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale

other than a mortgagee

shall pay the assessments

minium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGA-

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSES-

SION FOR 30 DAYS AF-TER ENTRY OF AN OR-DER OF POSSESSION,

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF

by a government agency

etc.) in order to gain entry

into our building and the

Cook County and the same

identification for sales held

at other county venues where The Judicial Sales

Corporation conducts fore-

closure sales. For informa-

tion, examine the court file

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES

15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDI-CIAL SALES CORPORA-

TION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also

www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSO-

sales. CUDILIC CIATES, P.C. 15W050 FRONTAGE

E-Mail: pleadings@il.csle-gal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-02947 Attorney

ARDC No. 00468002 Case

Number: 2022 FC 29 TJSC#: 42-2528 NOTE:

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act,

you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to

be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and

Free Press Newspapers on

obtained

information

pose Case # 2022 FC 29 I3206072 Published in the

will be used for

ROAD, SUITE 100

BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300

Corporation

The Judicial Sales

Plaintiff's Attorneys

foreclosure sale

ILLINOIS

LAW.

(HOMEOWNER),

FORECLOSURE

You will need a

MORT-

room in

by The

Gas Fireplace Repair vears experience. insured Licensed, bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. repair Can most brands. Weekends available. Thank you. ck34-33

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big.

INSULATION. 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. for Mike 815-730-1303. ck17b-16b

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years Reasonexperience. able rates including drywall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc39-46

we specialize in mold removal, water & fire damage restoration, asremoval bestos construction.

THE MOLD SQUAD

Located in Wilmington,

24/7 emergency services. Call 312-607-8225.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

A Thousand Words **Photography** 385 N. Second Ave.

Coal City Mandy Eaton 815-791-2913

LOST & FOUND

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

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966.

WANTED TO RENT

looking for a room to rent in the Braidwood area. 815-374-0199

Looking for a garage to rent to work in and for Braidwood storage. 815-374-0199.

Be Merry! SHOP LOCAL!

STORAGE



99% Customer

Satisfaction

Rating

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal
- Free pickup

815-210-8819

7 days



Addressing cards, bills & letters iust got easy!

7:30am to 3:30pm

M-F with no weekends

or holidays! Please fax

resume and cover letter

815-893-8001

email to info@window-

repairguy.com. cc44-52



Speed the task up with a custom self-inking RUBBER STAMP Great for addressing your envelopes or filling out Queen of Hearts tickets

Get thousands of impressions And we'll re-ink it for FREE when needed



111 South Water Street Wilmington, IL 60481 815/476-7966

Wed., November 2, 9 & 16, ADDI R E CIAT Ι E N C E O A D E B D E I S M SAMI D E E D T M E T D E B S SB D A M N S D O N O R S ASA D O U C H E A S C R I B E P O R A D I C A L ONI c s S

2 5 9 3 8 3 2 9 8 6 9 8 3 6 5 5 8 4 2 9 3 6 9 5 4 6 3 2 6 8

We'll put our award-winning graphic arts department to work for you to typeset and print practically anything.

Specializing in full color business cards

- business cards
- dinner tickets
- letterhead full color copies
- banners
- posters
- raffle tickets
- envelopes
- business forms
- fliers
- resumes yard signs and more

We'll take care of your printing needs from start to finish.

Sure you can order printing online but it's not always cheaper when you add in those hidden art charges and shipping.

Get a local quote first!



111 S. Water St., Wilmington Ph. 815-476-7966

District 209-U seeking bids for Wilmington Middle School foundation wall repairs

PUBLIC NOTICE

Section 00 02 00R - BIDDING AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS **Notice To Bidders**

Sealed bids for the 2022 Foundation Wall Repair, Work Wilmington Middle School For Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U will be received by the Board of Education, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, at their District Office at 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Will County, Illinois, until 2:00 P.M. prevailing time on the

1st day of December, 2022. Bids will be opened and read aloud at that time.

The work is to be performed in accordance with the proposed Contract Documents prepared by Healy Bender Patton & Been Architects, 4040 Helene Avenue, Naperville, Illinois. The proposed Contract Documents may be obtained upon request to the office of the Architect at file@healybender.com. Bidders will be required to complete a Registered Plan Holder Record form and a Bidding Documents License Agreement for the Project.

Upon receipt of a completed Registered Plan Holder Record form and a Bidding Documents License Agreement, prospective bidders will be sent bidding documents and will become registered plan holders. During the bidding period, the office of the Architect will send project addenda, clarifications, and other project information to registered plan holders via the email address(es) listed on the Registered Plan Holder Record on file at the Architect's office.

These proposed Contract Documents may be viewed online at Dodge Data & Analytics internet site at www.construction.com.

Bids will be received on General Contract Work, including all trades

BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY

Each Bidder must satisfactorily complete the Bidder Responsibility process

described in Section 01 00 00 - Bidder Responsibility Criteria of the Project Manual by providing the required Documents.

pendently meet each of the requirements set forth in Paragraphs 1.02, 1.03, 1.04 and 1.05 in Section 01 00 00 - Bidder Responsibility Criteria. The required Documents must be delivered along with the bidder's sealed bid at the came place and time required for the bid. Contents of each bidder's Responsibility Criteria

Documents will be available for public review. The Bidder Responsibility Documents will be reviewed by the Owner and Architect

to determine the lowest responsible Bidder. Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee in the form of a Bid Bond,

Certified Check or Bank Draft in an amount equal to not less than ten percent (10%), of the bid and made payable to Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the bids opening date without the consent of the Owner. Checks or drafts of unsuccessful bidders will be returned as soon as practical after opening and checking the

Successful bidder must provide a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond in the full amount of the Contract, acceptable to the Owner. This Contract is subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et.seq.).

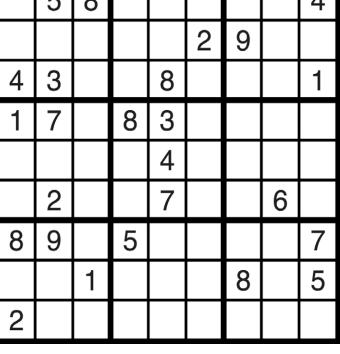
The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding. Contact Jim Habing at 815-514-7859 to make arrangements to visit the site. BOARD OF EDUCATION

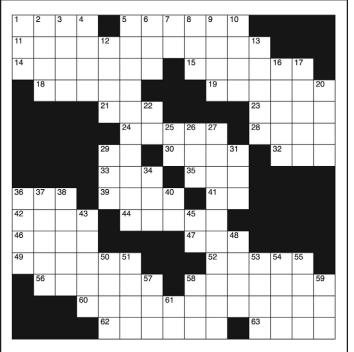
WILMINGTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 209-U

WILMINGTON, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Published in the Free Press Advocate Wednesday, Nov. 9 and 16, 2022

5





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek mountain 5. One dependent on something
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. Glazed ceramic ware 15. Paddling
- 18. Step 19. More greasy
- 21. Upper-class young woman 23. Light beige
- 24. Belief in a supreme being 28. Indigenous people of
- Scandinavia
- 29. A beloved princess 30. Transfer property
- 32. Field force unit

- 33. Automated teller
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Klutz
- Relaxing places 3. Expel saliva 4. The extended location of
- something 5. Certified
- 6. Cease to exist
- 7. Powerful legal pro
- 8. The OJ trial judge
- 9. Popular greeting
- 10. "90210" actress Spelling Blyton, children's author 13. "This Is Us" star Fitch
- 16. Battery cell with a nickel alode 53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
- 17. Full of bacteria 20. Remains of an old building
- 22. Exist
- 25. It gets you into places

27. The spreading of a disease to

another part of the body

26. Witness

- 29. Father
- 31. Touch gently
- 34. Licensed for Wall Street 36. Herring-like fish

35. When you hope to get there

36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) 39. Politicians Fischer and

Conroy are two

47. Belonging to a thing

41. Blood type 42. Stringed instrument

46. Barbary sheep

52. Leaf-footed bug

56. A shower of water

49. Supporters

58. Attribute to

60. Intermittent

62. Soda waters

63. Scottish island

44. Curses

- 37. Lute used in N. Indian music 38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
- 40. Atomic #62 43. Religious
- 45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.) 48. Influential civil rights
- organization 50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
- 51. Turn away
- 54. Smooth-feeling fabric 55. Competently
- 57. Sea eagle
- 58. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 59. It helps you see 61. Emerging technology

Coyote sightings are up in urban areas

Dear EarthTalk: Why are coyote sightings so much more common in urban areas these days? Should I be worried about kids and pets outside? Is this a bad sign for the environment at large and is there a humane way to deter these carnivores from residential

-- Max B., Norwalk, CT

Coyotes, known as the Song Dogs of North America, are the sole canid predator endemic to North America. They can be found as far north as Canada and Alaska, and as far south as Central America. but are most prevalent in the Great Plains, where they began their outward migration 100

Since the 1950s, they've managed to expand their territory by 40 percent, and can now be found anywhere from remote plains to bustling urban parks.

As many experts agree, the coyote is an incredibly adaptive animal. This evolutionary advantage has kept the species not only surviving, but thriving in response to human expan-

This is one of the reasons the coyote has prevailed where other species have faltered, and why their sightings have only increased along with urbanization. Coyotes are flexible creatures on many counts: their time of activity, their preferred habitat, even their diet.

When they aren't eating rabbits or small rodents, coyotes can be seen eating small

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

fruits like berries and apples, and even vegetables like carrots to maintain their daily caloric needs.

Coyotes also have flexible temperaments. They aggressive enough to hunt small prey, but skittish enough to avoid deadly human contact. Indeed, coyotes are relatively harmless to humans (but they will definitely eat a small A 2021 study from

Madison, Wisconsin discovered that most human-covote interactions were benign, lacking any aggression by the covotes whatsoever. When participants in the study were asked to pick a number from zero (calm) to five (aggressive), 90 percent chose zero.

That being said, they are not completely harmless to humans and should always be approached with caution. Last year, four people were injured by a coyote in San Francisco, including a four-year-old.

Counterintuitively, of all the factors influencing coyote population increases, one of the greatest may be population



COYOTES ARE becoming more & more common in urban & suburban areas across the U.S. and there's not much we can do about

studies conducted since the nificantly 1970s, the indiscriminate ecosystem. killing of coyotes, which has occurred for decades across all of North America, causes what is known as pack disruption, whereby normally "sterile" females become sexually active in a pack when an alpha male or female is killed.

phenomenon inevitably led to a positive feedback loop, where the encouragement of hunting reduced coyote population levels in the short-term, but increased them in the long-

Covotes are considered a keystone species, meaning

According to multiple their presence or absence siginfluences

> This also means their overabundance can lead to ecosystem disruption.

If you're looking humanely deal with a coyote, hazing—waving your arms and yelling—is often considered the best method of deterrence. Keeping pets inside and livestock penned securely is also encouraged, as is the removal of any garbage or pet food that you may have outside.

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

New, improved Weber Road opens

of Transportation is celebrating the completion of the newand-improved Weber Road interchange, part of a \$96.7 million investment to improve safety and mobility.

After years of construction and tens of millions of dollars, I'm thrilled to announce that improvements to the Weber Road interchange have been completed," said Governor IB Pritzker.

Motorists, bikers, and pedestrians will see added in Will County this year,

required to provide a complete and operational system

qualifications of Bidders, prior to awarding of the Contract.

pletion of this project.

informalities in the bidding.

Plans and specifications may be accessed on-line at:

The Illinois Department lanes and modernized traffic

The project's \$75.7 million centerpiece involved widening Weber Road and reconfiguring the interchange with Interstate 55 into a diverging-diamond design. By routing vehicles to the opposite side of Weber Road and eliminating left turns across traffic, the design will help to decrease crashes and improve pedestrian and bicycle access across I-55.

It is one of several projects

City of Wilmington seeks new bids

for North Island Lift Station repairs

PUBLIC NOTICE

Improvements RE-BID" and is further described as follows: Full replacement of pumping

Bids shall be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. at the office of the Joie Ziller, Executive Secretary, at 1165 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Proposals will be opened and publicly read at that time.

Chamlin & Associates, Inc., 221 W. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450 City of Wilmington, 1165 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481

4152 Progress Boulevard, Peru, IL 61354 at the non-refundable cost of \$25.00 per set.

Bidders are advised that this Contract will be subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage

No Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled. The bidder is encouraged to visit the site Questions shall be directed to Don Bixby, 815-223-3344 or documents-bit-decision-left-4 with the site Questions shall be directed to Don Bixby, 815-223-3344 or documents-bit-decision-left-4 with the site Questions shall be directed to Don Bixby, 815-223-3344 or documents-bit-decision-left-4 with the site Questions shall be directed to Don Bixby, 815-223-3344 or documents-bit-decision-left-4 with the site Questions shall be directed to Don Bixby, 815-223-3344 or documents-bit-decision-left-4 with the site Questions shall be directed to Don Bixby, 815-223-3344 or documents-bit-decision-left-4 with the site of the s

Bids may be held by the City of Wilmington for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the opening of Bids for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the

BY ORDER OF: MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL CITY OF WILMINGTON

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022.

Full-size plans and specifications are available from Chamlin & Associates, Inc.

The successful Bidder shall provide at least 40% of all labor required for the com

The Bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the gross amount of the bid and be payable to the order of the City of

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and to waive any

INVITATION TO BID
Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Wilmington for "North Island Lift Station

including more than \$200 million in improvements along I-55, such as the \$48 million resurfacing between Interstate as well as \$140.4 million for 80 and Weber Road.

Included in IDOT's six- near Braidwood.

year program are the \$1.2 billion reconstruction of I-80 and four other I-55 interchanges: Lorenzo Road and Illinois 129

Elwood School District accepting bids for 2023 window modifications

PUBLIC NOTICE Elwood CCSD 203 Accepting Bids

BID INFORMATION

A. Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Education, Elwood Community Consolidated School District 203, on November 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. prevailing time for the 2023 Window Modifications. Bids will be opened at the District Office, 409 North Chicago Avenue, Elwood, Illinois 60421

B. A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 9, 2022, 3:00 p.m. at Elwood School, 409 North Chicago Avenue, Elwood, Illinois 60421. All Bidders are encouraged to attend and sign in at the meeting which will also be attended by the Owner,

C. Anticipated Award of Contract date: December 13, 2022 D. Anticipated Start of Construction: Base Bid: June 12, 2023; Alternate #1: May 10

E. Anticipated Substantial Completion date: Base Bid: July 31, 2023; Alternate #1

F. Lump sum bid proposals will be received for this project at the scheduled time of G. Bid security in the form of a bid bond, certified check or cash in an amount equa

to 10 percent of the base bid amount shall be submitted with the bid. Should a bid bond be submitted, the bid bond shall be payable to the Board of Education, Elwood Community Consolidated School District 203

H. Bids shall be submitted on or before the specified closing time in an opaqu sealed envelope addressed to: Mr. Tim Page, Superintendent.

 The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, or waive any irregularities or informalities, and to make the award in the best interest of the District. J. All bidders must comply with applicable Illinois Law requiring the payment of prevailing wages by all Contractors working on public works. Bidder must comply with the Illinois Statutory requirements regarding labor, including Equal Employment

K. Bidding documents are on file and may be obtained upon receipt of deposit in the amount of \$100 for 1 set of the bidding documents consisting of 2 sets of plans, 2 Project Manuals, 1 Compact Disc containing PDF files of drawings and project manual, and 1 set of bid forms from: Gill Reprographics, Inc. (GRI), 17W715 Butterfield Road, Suite B, Oak Brook Terrace, IL 60181, (630) 652-0800, www.gillrepro.com. If only digital files of bidding documents are requested, a one time non-refundable fee of \$15.00 (payable to Gill Reprographics, Inc.) can be paid. Login information to download digital files will be provided by Gill Reprographics, Inc.

. The Architect for the above referenced project is TRIA Architecture, Inc., (630)

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022.

The Board of Education Elwood Community Consolidated School District 203 409 North Chicago Avenue Flwood Illinois 60421

Promote your business beyond **Small Business Saturday!**

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





Saturday, Nov. 26

Deadline Nov. 18

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

Call for details - 815-476-7966

Senior leadership will be key to Lady Comets success

BY JIM SHELDON SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Coming off an 11-20 season and a seventh place finish in the Illinois Central Eight conference (4-10), the Reed-Custer girls basketball team will look to their five seniors to lead the way this season: Brooklyn Harding, Caelan Cole, Samantha Sprimont, Laci Newbrough and Addison Harms.

"We are looking for huge production from our senior class. They have plenty of experience playing at the varsity level," said head coach Shelby Zwolinski.

Harding (5'4"), the Lady Comets

leading scorer last season will once and 5.5 rebounds per game. again run the point.

She averaged 6.6 points, 2.1 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.5 steals per game and was named all-conference and made the R-C Thanksgiving all-tournament team.

"Harding will lead the pack bringing the ball up the floor and has a hot shooting hand on offense." Cole (5'4") averaged 3.8 points,

2.3 rebounds and 1.5 steals per contest at a guard spot. Sprimont, a 5'5" forward, averaged 3.0 points and 3.5 rebounds per

Newbrough, a 5'9" forward, was a special mention on the all-confer-

ence team and recorded 3.8 points

"Newbrough, Sprimont, and Cole are going to be huge threats on the defensive end.'

The Lady Comets have quite a few newcomers this season who will be counted on: Harms (5'1", guard), junior forwards Kaylee Tribble (5'11") and Madison Keenan (6'0") and sophomores Leah Grace (5'4", guard), Addison Brown (5'10", forward), Natalie Flores (5'6'', forward), along with freshman guard Gwen Stewart (5'7'').

'We bring a lot of height this year between Tribble and Keenan. We will look to them on both ends of the floor to score and grab rebounds," said Zwolinski.

"Tribble and Keenan both saw varsity minutes last season, but have done a lot off season work this summer/fall to prepare themselves to be offensive scoring threats. We are running a lot of our offense through them by getting the ball inside."

In looking at the ICE conference, Peotone leads the way once again, followed by Herscher and Coal City.

"Lisle, Manteno, Streator, and Wilmington are going to battle during every game. Behind Peotone, the conference is going to be extremely competitive.'

R-C opened their season by hosting the Thanksgiving Tipoff Tournament with three games in three days.

Lady Comets pick up their first win of the season against Grant Park, 48-34 Monday. Girls played tough defense and had awesome rebounds. Tribble: 18 pts, 8 rebs, Cole: 9pts, 6 rebs, 4 steals, Harding: 7 pts, 3 rebs.

We look to continue to be competitive in the ICE conference and are playing a very aggressive schedule this season. The Lady Comets are working to get 1% better each day on the court.'

Reed-Custer hosted Wilmington last night and will battled Plainfield Central at 5 p.m. tonight (Wednesday).

With enough wins the Lady Comets will hopefully be playing Saturday in the finals.

Panther defense steals the win from Seneca

The Panthers defeated Seneca by a final on Monday. score of 32-23. Lead by Jesse Tresouthick, the defense was flying around the court, getting deflections and steals and had several layup opportunities.

Lucas Walsh led in scoring with 12 points. Orion Bergmann dominated the post and had 8 points. Ethan Segoviano contributed with 5, Alex Fierro had 3, Jesse Tresouthick chipped in with 2, and Carson Catron capped off the scor-

The Panthers are 2-1 on the season and traveled to Peotone for their first road contest

A 46-6 rout

Last night, the 8th grade Panthers defeated Morris ICS by a final score of 46-6. It was a total team effort as several players contributed in scoring and played great defense. Post players Orion Bergmann and Frank Crotty led the way with 11 points each.

Alex Fierro had 7 points, Tyler Compton scored 5, Brandon Pries added 4, and Broden Alexander, Lucas Walsh, Ethan Segoviano, and Carson Catron rounded out the scoring with 2 points each.



Photo by Zadie Sims

DAMIAN SANCHEZ tries to get the ball past Seneca on Wedesday's game at home.

PASSING THE BALL to a teamats is Reed-Custer Middle School's Caedon Baumgartner playing against Seneca on Wednesday at home.

Stahl leads

KAIDEN KLEIN shoots the ball for RCMS during Wedesday's game at home against Seneca.

Panthers in scoring

The Reed-Custer Middle School 6th grade A team fell to Dwight last week 10-4.

The Panthers were led by Corbin Stahl with 4 points. The boys played hard and battled all game.

The Panthers will right the ship and get back after it on Tuesday against ICS. Game results to follow in next week's

Lady **Panthers** on a streak

The 7th grade girls bas-ketball team had won three defeating straight after Sandwich, 18-10.

Everyone on the team contributed to the victory, including six girls scoring for the Panthers.

The leading scorer was Kamryn Wilkey with 9 points. Adalyn Steichen, Olivia Bauer, Sophie Moyers, and Olivia Barbush had a bucket each. while Selah Walsh made one out of her two free throws to add in a point for her team.

Kadance Van Dyne, Gabbi Williams, and Rylee Quigley each had big rebounds for the Panthers.

WANT TO SEE YOUR TEAM REPORT HERE? SEND STATS TO sports@fpnusa.com

Wednesday's game at home.



MAKING A BASKET is Kaiden Klien playing against Seneca on

Kuban's 16 points sparks JV Panthers

to cruise to a 24-8 victory led by Matthew Kuban and his 16 points.

The team played great defense and forced several turnovers. Adding to the scoring was Kaiden Klein with four points. Collin Hakey and Chase Isaac each added two points.

The Panthers (3-1) hosted MVK (Mazon) Tuesday Come on out and support RCMS basketball!

Loss to Raiders

Photo by Zadie Sims

Reed-Custer was defeated by the Seneca Raiders in a thrilling game last week. The final score was 24-21, but the team battled back from a 17-2 half-time deficit, and lost their starting guard, Matthew Kuban to a hand injury.

The Panthers tightened up their defense in the third quarter, giving up just two points.

The fourth quarter was all Kaiden Klein as

Reed-Custer traveled to Peotone Monday he scored 10 of the team's 12 points, including two huge three-pointers; the second of which came with five seconds left in the game to cut the Seneca lead to 24-21. The comeback ended there, however.

Klein ended the game with 15 points. Chase Isaac scored four points, and Trent Boudreau finished with two points.

Balanced attack The Panthers defeated Morris ICS in a dominant performance. The final score was 34-9 with six different players contributing to the

Kaiden Klein and Matthew Kuban led the

team with 11 points apiece. Jagger Garcia and Chase Isaac each scored four points. Carson Lowe and Eddie Bryan each contributed two points.



Order online at www.geospizza.net

715 S. Broadway • Coal City

COMET SPORTS

Quarterfinal heartbreaker:

Byron stuns Comets in final seconds for second straight year

BY JIM SHELDON SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Déjà vu: a feeling of having already experienced the present situation.

Unfortunately for the Reed-Custer football

team (11-1), the business remains unfinished as Byron's Caden Considine scored a one-yard touchdown run with 15 seconds left to give the host Tigers (11-1) a 32-27 win Saturday in the Class 3A quarterfinals.

Last season, it was a touchdown pass with nine seconds left that gave Byron a 28-24 win.

"Literally the exact same situation. I felt good once we scored," said head coach Gavin "We rallied the defense together and said we've been here before, we're a different team.

This isn't going to happen and sure enough it Josh Bohac broke away for a 40 yard touchdown run with 1:56 left for a 27-25 Comet advantage, but the home side wouldn't be

denied, helped by two costly R-C penalties. 'It's just really unfortunate. Sometimes in these sort of games to make a nice run in the playoffs, you need a couple breaks to go your way too no matter how good you are.

"I don't feel like we caught any breaks in that game. If there were any 50-50 situations, it always went to Byron. Not to take anything away from our kids, it was just one of those days where the ball wasn't bouncing our way and unfortunately we weren't able to overcome

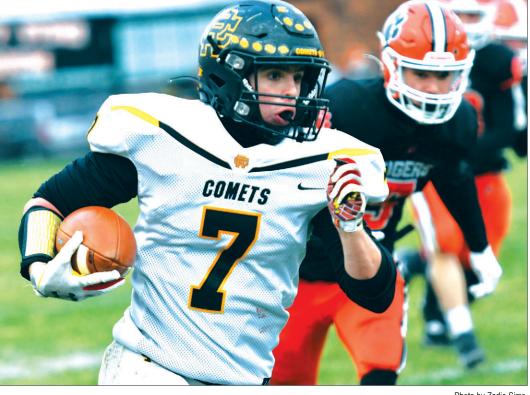
The first half was a back-and-forth affair with the Comets striking first on a seven yard touchdown run by Lucas Foote.

Byron answered with back-to-back touchdowns, a seven yard run by quarterback Braden Smith and a 45 yard pass to Ashton Henkel.

R-C was able to respond late in the first half as Jake McPherson found Peyton Bradley for a 11 yard touchdown reception with 2:18 left in the second. The two-point pass to Bohac was successful and the Comets held a 15-14 half-time advantage.

But Byron would score the next 10 points, helped by a controversial 34 yd td catch by

"We were right there on some of those passes, but nobody could ever convince me that he caught it," said Johnston.



TOUCHDOWN made by Josh Bohac against Byron on Saturday in the fourth quarter of the game.

'We knew their quarterback could throw it and Henkel could run and catch and sure enough he did it twice and that was definitely the difference in the game.'

But with their backs against the wall, facing their largest deficit of the season, the Comets answered the bell. Bohac scurried in for a two yard touchdown with less than a minute left in the third, to make it a four-point deficit (25-21) heading to the final frame, setting the stage for the late game heroics.

It's easy to look back on the final drive as

the difference in the game, but R-C had multiple missed opportunities early to build a two-

We had a bad snap on our first drive on fourth down, scored on our second and had a turnover on downs on the third.'

'Realistically, it could have been 14-0 or

21-0 in the first quarter. We shot ourselves in the foot and in the long run, it affected the outcome too.'

Bohac stepped in for a suspended Jace Christian and filled his shoes admirably with 113 yards on 20 carries and two second half tds. He played phenomenal both offensively

and defensively. It's really just the story of his year. He was a huge piece of our defense which enabled us to make the strides that we did "It's great to see all the hard work that he

did all year pay off. He ran hard. He was battling a shoulder injury and played through it, really proud of how well he played.'

McPherson finished 13-for-20 for 113 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions and rushed 10 times for 30 yards. Foote added 58 yards on 12 rushes and two catches for 16

yards. Brandon Moorman tallied 18 yards rushing on two attempts and hauled in four passes

The Comets leading receiver was Wesley Shats with 38 yards on three receptions and Bradley recorded four catches for 31 yards.

They outgained Byron 332-264 and ran 64 plays to 47 for the Tigers, but R-C committed four turnovers to just one for the home side.

They held Byron to their lowest rushing total since Week 1 (156 yards).

"We felt we had to load the box up a little bit more without Jace on defense and it made us a bit more susceptible to the pass."

Defensively Zack Cieslak led the charge with 7.5 tackles and Moorman (sack), Foote and Kody Marschner all had five stops. Bohac and Bradley both made four tackles and Gavin Bruciak added 3.5 stops.

Gunnar Berg and Rex Pfeifer both tallied

three tackles and Shats was in on 2.5 stops. Also recording a tackle were McPherson and Connor Esparza.

The Comets close out a historic season with a school record 11 wins, ending a two-year stretch with a 21-3 record and the first two quarterfinal appearances in school history. In the previous 12 seasons dating back to 2009, they won a total of 22 games. Quite the turnaround for a program clearly on the rise. They are phenomenal kids who made

practice fun every single day. They are a joy to be around and great role models. They always take the time to talk to younger kids and do a lot of things in the community," said Johnston. The thing that gave me a little peace is on

the bus ride home, our kids were laughing, having a great time, hanging out and being "I was kinda worried how they would handle the tough loss, but to see them smile and

hold their heads up high, knowing they gave it their all and how much work they did to get to this point, it makes it all worth it. It's always tough to let go of the seniors when the season ends, but what this group

accomplished won't soon be forgotten by the community of Braidwood. Special mention to Berg, Bohac, Bruciak, Christian, Foote, Marschner, McPherson and

Moorman for making the Illinois Central Eight's all-conference team.



JEREMY EGGLESTON and Cooper Smith get fired up after the Comets took the lead in the first half of Saturday's game at Byron.



HEY COMETS! Offensive coordinator Nick Klein signals in the next play for Reed-Custer during the



LUCAS FOOTE claps as Kody Marschner (59) prevents Byron from getting a first down on Saturday.



JOSH BOHAC keeps his footing despite being hit while carrying the ball against Byron during



What are you waiting for?

Saturday's game.

Apply for a seasonal job and get an offer today. No interview required.

amazon.com/hiring



