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## RCHS honors eight Illinois State Scholars



Courtesy photo

**EIGHT SENIORS** at Reed-Custer High have earned the distinction of being 2026 Illinois State Scholars. Comets who excelled in the classroom and are among the honored students this year are (from left) Abigail Solis, Jaida Davis, Gwen Stewart, Ana Smith, Mark Martinez, Tanner Gehris, Tristan Randall and Ethan Morrison. Illinois State Scholars are calculated yearly on a sliding scale, with approximately the top 10% of graduates selected from across the state, based on GPA and ACT scores. These students are designated as “the best and brightest” of Illinois high school seniors. Each of the Reed-Custer High School State Scholars are also active in school programs and have plans to continue their education and training following graduation in spring 2026. As the ISAC notes, based on their exemplary college assessment exam scores and record of achievement in high school they have a high potential for success.

## Braidwood eyes fourth TIF district to facilitate proposed data center

BY ROSE PANIERI  
STAFF WRITER

The Braidwood city council took action last week to establish a fourth TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district where a proposed data center may be built.

When a TIF district is created, the current property value is “frozen” at the baseline for a specific period of time.

In response to a question by Commissioner Warren Wietting, whose business lies within the city’s third TIF District, city attorney Bryan Wellner explained.

“This has nothing to do with the TIF that you’re in,” Wellner explained. “This TIF would be proposed to be entirely encompassing of the data center’s property, potentially some outside of that.”

Last year, Western Hospitality’s proposed a \$40 million data center and other potential development west of town near I-55 and Reed Road.

On Nov. 12, the council passed a motion for an inducement resolution, opening the door for a possible fourth TIF (Tax Increment Financing) district.

**Planning ahead**  
An inducement resolution is a formal declaration of intent by the city, to potentially issue tax-exempt bonds for a project. This resolution is a critical initial step in public finance, to comply with regulations that allow for



**PROPOSED DATA CENTER**—A conception plan details a data center proposed on farmland near Kennedy (Reed) Road and Interstate 55 in Braidwood. The site would include up to eight buildings and a ComEd electrical substation.

the reimbursement of certain project costs incurred before bonds are actually issued.

In 2024, Western Hospitality, LLC approached the city with a proposal for large scale data center. The campus will consist of eight buildings and two substations.

The bulk of the center will be located on North Kankakee Street near East Reed Road, just off the Reed Road exit of Interstate 55. The location is near high tension power lines where a

switching station and electrical substation can be built.

The data centers store computers, equipment, and related hardware. Centers contain computing infrastructure that IT systems require, such as servers, data storage drives and network equipment.

Research shows that data centers consume massive amounts of electricity, putting a strain on power grids, affecting the cost of electricity.

Previously, data cen-

ters utilized potentially millions of gallons of water each day to cool servers. However, many, including the center proposed for Braidwood, use a closed loop system with water recirculating, reducing the amount of water required.

**Benefits to Braidwood**  
Jobs will be created in the building, administering and maintaining a data center.

Additionally, unlike warehouses, a data center will not create semi truck traffic or noise pollution.

## Some stop signs in town may not be up to state standards

BY ROSE PANIERI  
STAFF WRITER

Most folks believe requesting a stop sign be erected at a specific intersection is a simple request; one which the city council can easily fulfill. In fact, the planning and installation of a stop sign is far more complex, as city officials recently discovered.

The city of Braidwood is required by state law to comply with the guidelines of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) when warranting stop signs.

At the Nov. 12 Braidwood City Council meeting, the city’s administrative consultant, Steve Gulden reported that stop signs on city streets may not meet the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

“Stop signs here in town were never run through MUTCD,” Gulden said. “That needs to be done in order to codify it as a stop sign. You just can’t put a stop sign and say ‘Okay, the residents want a stop sign put up here, so we’ll put a stop sign here.’ There needs to be some sort of formula, some sort of vetting system.”

States must adopt guidelines set by the MUTCD as their legal

state standard for traffic control devices within two years of the effective date.

So, what does it take to get a stop sign installed?

Stop signs are installed only after an engineering study confirms a need, based on criteria like a history of crashes, intersection type, or limited visibility.

According to the MUTCD, stop signs are red, octagonal, and have white lettering, conforming to national standards for shape, color and placement.

On conventional roads, a standard stop sign is 30 x 30 inches. Oversized signs can be used for special applications where more emphasis is needed.

A clearly marked stop line (between 300 to 600 mm wide) is used to indicate the point where drivers must stop.

Stop signs may fail to meet requirements if they are placed incorrectly, obscured from view, the wrong size, or installed where they shouldn’t be.

Gulden and his team will make the rounds of the dozens of stop signs in Braidwood to determine whether some may need to be replaced.



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# Fire causes heavy damage to garage on Francis Street

A structure fire was reported at approximately 3:20 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 375 Frances Street in Braidwood. The Braidwood Fire Protection District (BFPD) was dispatched. Upon arrival the first Engine company reported that there was heavy fire and smoke coming from a detached garage on the property. Crews immediately went to work extinguishing the fire. Houses exposed to the north and south of the detached garage sustained moderate damage to their exteriors. Braidwood Fire Chief Chris Jude, weighed in on

the incident. "The homeowner was not home at the time of the fire, just his dog who had got loose and was secured by the Braidwood Police Department when they arrived," Jude said. "No injuries to report. The cause of the fire currently it is still under our standard fire investigation." Responding fire protection agencies who assisted include Braceville, Coal City, Wilmington, Salina, and South Wilmington. Elwood Ambulance staffed Stations 1 and 2 to respond to any other calls while the BFPD were extinguishing the fire.

# City planning to get residents into the spirit of Christmas

**BY ROSE PANIERI**  
STAFF WRITER

With the holiday season upon us, Mayor Todd Lyons broached the subject of this year's holiday parade on Saturday, Dec. 6. The tree lighting will take place on Main Street, across the street from city hall at 5 p.m. The parade will begin at approximately 5:15 p.m. Parade entry forms are available at city hall, and the theme of this year's parade is "A Christmas Movie Night." "The theme for this Christmas parade is a Christmas Movie Night," Lyons said. "You dress up as your favorite Christmas character." As previously reported,

the city is creating a Special Events Commission and seeking volunteers to serve as an advisory body in creating, planning and conducting special events. To volunteer or request information, call Mayor Lyons at (815) 458-2333. The mayor also recognized Donna Geiss, who retired as the city's water clerk after 20 years of service on Nov. 14. "We're truly grateful for all that Donna has done over the years," Lyons said. "Since I first became the mayor she has been incredibly helpful in helping make the transition smooth and successful." **Water meter study** The city's administrative consultant touched on the most appropriate, cost-effective means to replace water meters. In October, the city discussed contracting Core & Main to upgrade its water metering system. The company's Sensus system that uses Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to continually monitor the city's water system was of special interest to the board. The Sensus system is designed to detect and report water leaks in real time, which will ultimately save the city time and money, and generate water bills, tracking those behind in making payments. In the event of a power outage, the system will continue to operate. "There is new technology through mobile phones and through mobile cellu-

lar lines, there's new technology," Gulden said. "So, we turned every stone. We had a company out here. It was kind of morphing into cellular technology.... We think is the best technology is probably going to be the old standard radio." Gulden explained that only a handful of communities utilize totally cellular technology, and it may not be a feasible plan for Braidwood. **Core values and goals** Gulden mentioned that city staff and board members will be meeting Wednesday, Dec. 10, and Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. for two hours, to discuss core values, a city mission statement, and goals to create a budget. "We don't have core values, and we don't have a mission statement that I could find," Gulden said. "So, what is our mission, what do we want to accomplish in Braidwood? Where do we want to be in five years?" The city has been working on a development handbook for more than three months, according to Gulden. "What the development handbook is a guide, not just for our staff, but as a guide for developers on our step-by-step process on what is required from the time of building permit to the time of occupancy," Gulden said. "So, it's kind of A to Z on how development must be monitored and processed." **Paying for roadwork** The council approved a payment of \$273,350.41 to P.T. Ferro for roadwork

completed as of Nov. 6, which include resurfacing and other projects on city streets. The city approved payment of bills, including \$350,242.09 for the Illinois EPA loan repayment, \$8,446 in chemicals for water, and \$20,467 for street lights, electric and gas. The city's general fund is at \$1.16 million surplus. Across all governmental funds, the city has revenue of \$4.75 million, and expenditures of \$2.74 million. The city has received the first draft of the 2023-24 audit, which will be reviewed by the auditors before final approval is granted. Payroll was at \$159,471, which included holiday pay for the year for union employees. **Police report** Commissioner James Mikel provided police department statistics from Oct. 28 to Nov. 11. There were 306 total calls with 33 case reports, nine arrests leading to 15 charges. There were 92 traffic stops with 30 citations, 33 written warnings, three semi-truck violations and 12 parking tickets. Code violations: 11 (Vehicles were in violation, all owners were compliant.) **Snow parking** Reminder that city ordinances prohibit parking of vehicles on public streets when snow accumulation is two or more inches.



A FESTIVE NIGHT is coming to Reed-Custer High School for the 25th annual Madrigal Dinner on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6-7. Tickets are available now online at [vanco-events.com](http://vanco-events.com)

# Tickets on sale for R-C Madrigal Dinner

The Reed-Custer Music Department proudly presents the 25th Annual Madrigal Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday Dec. 7 at The Great Hall (Reed-Custer High School Cafeteria) 249 Comet Dr, Braidwood.

A Madrigal Dinner is a modern-day re-creation of the Renaissance feasts held in the great baronial halls throughout England during the 12 days of Christmas. If you lived in England during the 16th century and were lucky enough to be one of the favored guests, you would be dazzled with succulent food and extraordinary music. The line between sacred and secular would be thinly drawn. One moment you might be

regaled with the most bawdy humor, and the next, you might hear the most exquisite and ethereal music. Dinner will include Wassail, Roasted Chicken, Stuffing, Glazed Carrots, Coffee, and Fygey (Bread) Pudding. Join the RCHS and RCMS Madrigal Singers and Ensembles for this year's feast as they raise their voices in toast to wish you and your friends and family a season filled with peace, love and joy.

# Lions will sell Christmas trees

The Braidwood Lions Club will be holding its annual Christmas Trees Sale fundraiser beginning Monday, Nov. 24. 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 greenery wreaths, grave blankets, small & large size grave pillows, crosses, swags and sprays will be for sale. Lions club house brooms, heavy duty brooms and whisk brooms will also be available for purchase. Hours are Monday

thru Friday from noon - 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while supplies last. Sales will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 for Thanksgiving and will resume Friday, Nov. 28. All proceeds from the tree sales will go back into

the community in the form of the various community activities and humanitarian services that the Braidwood Lions Club provides throughout the year. For more information please call (815) 791-8093 or visit [www.braidwoodlionsclub.org](http://www.braidwoodlionsclub.org)

## Destini Tax Solutions+ files as new business

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Assumed Name Publication Notice  
Public Notice is hereby given that on November 5, 2025, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Kankakee County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Destini Tax Solutions+, located at 533 N. East St., Essex, IL 60935.

## Attorney Schmidt files Claypool Drainage financial report

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1963TX1836  
IN THE MATTER OF: CLAYPOOL DRAINAGE AND LEVEE DISTRICT  
**DRAINAGE NOTICE**  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District did, on November 13, 2025 file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, their Financial Report for said District for the period ended October 31, 2025. Objections to the report must be filed with the clerk of the court within 10 days after the first publication of this notice.

## City of Braidwood accepting bids for surplus equipment

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
CITY OF BRAIDWOOD  
Surplus equipment may be inspected on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the City of Braidwood Public Works Facility, located at 902 N. School Street, Braidwood, IL 60408.  
Surplus Items Available for Bid:  
• Mower - 2016 Cub Cadet ProZ500 (Needs Pump Motor)  
• Cold Planer - CAT PC9  
• Mower - 2023 AGT Forestry  
• Wood Chipper - 2018 Vermeer  
• 2004 GMC 3500 Extended Cab  
• 1995 GMC 3500HD  
• 1995 International 400DT  
Bid Submission:  
All bids must be submitted on the same day to the City of Braidwood Public Works.  
Bids will be opened at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the City of Braidwood Public Works.  
The City of Braidwood reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process. All items are sold as is, where is, with no warranties or guarantees expressed or implied.  
For additional information, please contact the City of Braidwood at (815) 458-2333.  
Published in the Braidwood Journal, Nov. 19, 2025.

# Registration underway for annual Holiday Hustle 5K

There still time to sign up for the 7th annual Holiday Hustle 5K Fun Run/Walk which will be held Sunday Nov. 30 in Coal City. Proceeds from the race will benefit Breaking Away, Inc., a non-profit based in Morris that helps victim of domestic violence break away from their abusers. The race will start at Babe's Tap, 755 S. Broadway St., Coal City and travel south on Broadway St. to Reed Rd., left and loop through Cardinal Transport and then back north on Broadway. There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$40. Walk up registrations are available but participants are not guaranteed a T-shirt, medal, and swag bag unless they registered early. Babe's Tap will also be providing each participant the opportunity to have 1 free drink (alcoholic or non) and a bowl of chili. This is a "Fun Run" and holiday attire is encouraged. Although it is a Fun "Run" this does not mean you must run it. Walking is also permitted. Children are also encouraged to join in on the fun with a \$25 fee for those ages 5-17. Awards will be presented to each participant and the overall top male and female finisher in each of seven age divisions. Race start time will be 11 a.m. and packet pickup starts at 10 a.m. at Babe's Tap (755 S. Broadway St.) Register at [runsignup.com/Race/IL/CoalCity/HolidayHustle5kRunWalk](http://runsignup.com/Race/IL/CoalCity/HolidayHustle5kRunWalk)

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# Donate to Shop with a Cop

The Braidwood Police Department is accepting donations for their 2025 Annual Shop with a Cop and Blue Santa events this holiday season. During Shop with a Cop, the children are paired with police officers while they shop through the aisles of Morris Walmart for toys and gifts for themselves or their loved ones. Blue Santa takes place on Christmas Day when Police Officers deliver meals to families in need. Cash or check donations may be dropped off at the Braidwood Police Department make checks payable to: Braidwood Police Charity Fund.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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# A snapshot of Braidwood, 148 years ago

As my readers know, I find much Braidwood history in its sister city of Wilmington. One year in particular has f e w Wilmington newspapers - 1877. However, the Joliet Signal had correspondents from every small town in Will County, including Braidwood. The following is the Braidwood column from January, 1877. It is sort of a snapshot of life at that time and place.



TIME WAS....  
Sandy Vasko

The first thing the Signal talks about as far as Braidwood is concerned is politics. The presidential election of 1876 was one of the most contentious in American history. We read in a letter to the editor from a mysterious "D. B. L.," "A Democratic meeting was held at Rouse's Hall, on Friday evening, Dec 29th, 1876. The meeting was called to order by H. H. Levis, chairman, and at once proceeded to elect delegates to represent the Democracy of Braidwood on January 8th. Dr. H. Le Caron and Con. O'Donnell were elected and instructed to express the sentiment of the Democracy of this city and protest against the stealing of the Democratic candidate for President by a party of Republican thieves who are trying to have Hayes installed, who was

not elected but defeated by the great American people at the polls on November 7th, 1876."

Later in the month we read, "That Democracy in Braidwood lives was made evident by the enthusiastic meeting held on Thursday last at Rouse's Hall, called for the purpose of hearing the report of delegates sent to the Springfield convention and appointing a central committee. Much interest is manifested by the Democrats of this city in the political situation. They believe in standing shoulder to shoulder in sturdy opposition to usurpation, and if attempted as now threatened they believe it should and will be resisted by all lawful and necessary means, adequate to preserve our free institutions."

Besides attending political meetings, what else was Braidwood up to? Well, there was the Catholic Fair. The ad states, "A fair in aid of the Catholic church of this city will be held every night during the present week at Rouse Hall. Friends from the surrounding country are cordially invited to attend - farmers especially." And "The Catholic fair, held during the past week, has been a huge success. Some \$2,000 dollars (\$60,000) will prob-

ably be netted therefrom for the church."

The fair made the news again a week later, "The contest for a lady's watch and chain at the late Catholic fair between Miss Mary Graff and Miss Maggie Morgan resulted in a victory for Miss Graff by a vote of 2,700 to 2,481. That the honor awarded Miss Graff was merited, was doubly proved by the generous purchase and presentation by Miss Graff and her friends to Miss Morgan of a valuable locket and chain, suitably engraved, and containing photographs of the fair contestants." This begs the question, Was Miss Graff being nice when she gave that locket, or just rubbing it in, giving her a photo of the girl who beat her? Just asking.

New Year's Day brought the Grand Opening of the Braidwood Public Library, and the Miners' Co-Operative Store.

The general health of the children was discussed mid-month, "The children attending Braidwood schools are being considerably annoyed owing probably to atmospheric influence and the weather, with a species of epizootic. As a rule, they are not provided with pocket handkerchiefs. A newly arrived high toned principal lately expressed his extreme disgust at the existing state of affairs, and suggested his desire to supply them with that much

needed article, but for his belief in their utter lack of knowledge as to the use of that useful article. If he but carry out his desire, he would doubtless find the youth of Braidwood quite capable of blowing their noses in aristocratic style."

Fires were much in the news that month, "A number of stacks of hay belonging to Walter Brophy were totally consumed by fire on Sunday night last. Suspicion seemed to point to one Neil Hartigan being the "fire-bug". His arrest followed, and after a hearing of the evidence - which was far from conclusive as to his guilt - before Justice McFarlane, he was bound over in the sum of one hundred dollars to appear for trial before the circuit court."

And, "The "coal heavers" shanty at the chutes, near the depot, was consumed by fire last week. Loss - total destruction of the shanty, and a loss of a coat and a dinner bucket."

But the final entry is the strangest, "A well-known and estimable citizen of this city, some two years since, took a trip to the Pacific coast with a view of improving his worldly affairs. His family remained here. Last week he returned, and his first inquiry was "Who's been here since I've been gone?" The vile seducer has absconded and a divorce from the frail one will be at once applied for." Oops!

# Fossil Ridge Library News

**Adult Programs**  
**Friday, Nov. 21-** Bingocise, 10-11:30 a.m. Looking for a fun way to be more active? Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize® BINGOCIZE® is a health promotion program that combines bingo with fall prevention exercise.

**Thursday, Nov. 20 & Friday, Nov. 21-**AARP Safe Driving Courses, 9 a.m-1 p.m. both days. A program for individuals ages 55+ to teach them safe driving techniques. Cost: The course is \$20 for AARP members (with ID card); \$25 for non-members. No charge for members insured by Hartford Insurance. Make checks payable to AARP. Payment is required on the first day of class. Attendance of both classes are required for discount.

**Children and Toddler Programs**

**Thursday, Nov. 20-11 a.m.** Toddler Time. We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us weekly to explore various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.

**Thursday, Nov. 20-** Listen and Create Storytime, 5:30-6:30 p.m. This program is specially

designed for children aged 3-5. Every week, children can explore new books and engage in a fun craft project. Please make sure to dress in clothes that can get messy, as the craft project will involve getting creative with various art materials.

**Thursday, Nov. 20-** Family Reading night Stuffedie Sleepover. 5:30-7 p.m. Join us as we celebrate Illinois Family Reading Night with a stuffed animal sleepover. At this event your child will create a craft, have a snack, sing songs, and hear a few stories. Afterward, your child can leave his or her stuffedie overnight, and they will get a chance to explore the library with their fellow stuffedie friends. When you pick up your stuffedie on Friday, Nov. 21, your child will receive a photo journal of their stuffedie's overnight adventure at Fossil Ridge.

**Monday, Nov. 24-**Kids Can Cook-Lasagna, 5:30-6:30 p.m. This program teaches children in 1st-5th grade basic food preparation and cooking skills while introducing them to the joys of nutritious and delicious food. Registration is required with a maximum of 20 children.

Registration is required for all programs. For more information call 815-458-2187.



Courtesy photo

RCHS Spanish II students engaged in the Locotubre Music Competition.



Courtesy photo

RCHS Senior Jeremie Knutson was caught reading a book in the Berkot's parking lot.



Courtesy photo

RCHS Freshmen Corbin Stahl, Jayden DeVries and Casen Mazeika work on an assignment in English class.

## R-C English Dept. proud of students caught reading

The Reed-Custer High School English department is working alongside the RCHS Librarian to promote literacy and encourage independent reading.

The students were given the 2026 Illinois Lincoln Award list. For each Lincoln Award book a student reads, he or she is entered into a drawing for free books. There are 20 books on the list in a wide variety of genres.

The Foreign Language

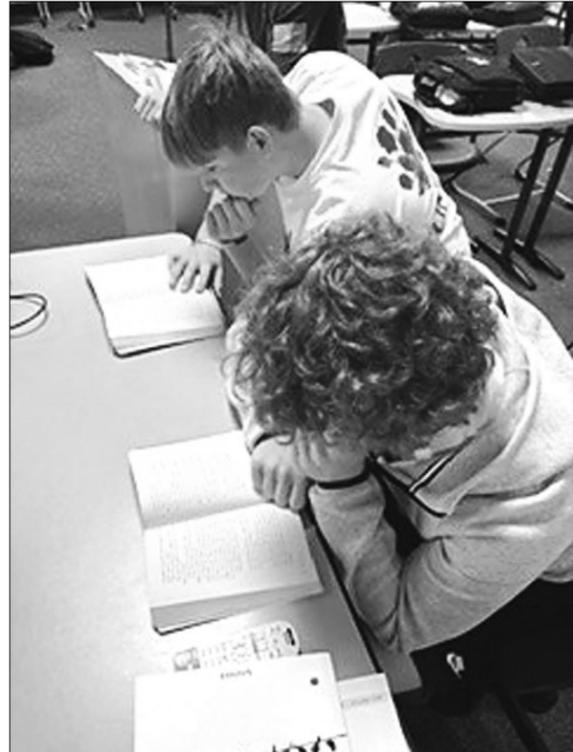
classes took part in the Locotubre Music Competition - set up like March Madness where there's a bracket that students filled out and predicted which song they thought would win.

Every day the students voted on the song they wanted to move on in the competition. Students watched the reveal video to see if their predictions were correct.



Courtesy photo

RCHS Senior Kia Dillon reads a book in the RCHS Library.



Courtesy photo

RCHS Freshmen Logan Baumgartner and Samuel Crotty work on an assignment in English class.

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## Withering away

BRAIDWOOD—OK, the new city council has been in for more than a half year. While Diamond keeps finding and opening new businesses, Braidwood gets nothing. No new businesses proposed while our "downtown" withers away. But, they have money for a city center, raises, new technology. They know how to spend money, that's for sure.

## Supporting a nitwit

WILMINGTON—Last Tuesday was Veterans Day. On this solemn day Donald Trump invited the leader of Syria Ahmed al-Sharaa. He was also former leader of ISIS and Al-Qaeda. You remember? One year ago he also had a \$10,000,000 bounty on his head. Can a Trump supporter please explain why on Earth this nitwit would do such a thing? Let alone on Veterans Day? He disgraces this country daily and willfully ignorant people defend him. Did you celebrate Trump's bone-spurred foot? That foot defended golf courses, pedophiles and hookers. Be proud, you intentionally voted for it.

## Overlooked teams

BRAIDWOOD—Why was there no recognition in The Braidwood Journal regarding the JR Comets placing in cheer 2nd and 3rd and the JV team winning the Super Bowl? They are the future Comets and should have received some type of recognition in the paper. Way to go young girls and boys, your dedication and hard work paid off. Congratulations to players and coaches.

*FYI—Newspapers rely more than ever on coaches for game updates and stats. We need the help of coaches, and even parents, contributing photos and basic information. Submissions can be sent to [news@fjpnusa.com](mailto:news@fjpnusa.com).*

## Good-bye pennies

COAL CITY—Finally, after years of debate, the minting of the last American penny happened in the Philadelphia mint on Nov. 12th. Since the cost to produce it exceeded 3 cents, it seemed logical to get rid of it and round off to the nearest nickel, like Canada did in 2012. Logically, we are therefore likely to need a lot more nickels to be produced. A US nickel costs nearly 14 cents to make.

## Better options

WILMINGTON—If you feel you must burn the leaves, or rake them, I guess you've got to do what you feel you've got to do. But there is an even better option that is not at all popular with man, but it is what Mother Earth intended, leave the leaves on the ground. Mother Earth knows what she's doing, and there is always a system to her madness. Do your research if you care and find out the importance of why leaves should be left alone, not burned, or raked to be trash. Nothing that comes from the earth is trash, there is a purpose, only man makes trash.

## Right to organize

The current administration is the largest union busting presidency in nearly 125 years and everyone needs to be aware. If you are in a collective bargaining family you need to be active in your resilience against these people because they are not for working families, they are for the bil-

lionaires and trillionaires that are union busting all over this country. And they are doing it to the public unions first and foremost because they are the strongest and they have the most membership to draw from. Whereas the private unions are dwindling because the ability to organize new workers, try it sometime it's like you're in a Communist country trying to improve the working wages of people trying to organize unions and they cannot do it because of the bureaucracy involved and the union busting engraved in this business atmosphere. It's called Capitalism. Something needs to change or there will be more blood on the streets because people can't abstain this lifestyle. This cashless society that we are trying to go to, not we meaning "we the people." Business is trying to be a cashless society to be able to break people. The people faster, because they have the ability to constrict the flow of the ability to have the ability. They have a nice life.

## Shutdown ends

WILMINGTON—I want to thank how Donald Trump and the Republicans and those 10 Democrats that jumped the fence for sanity and put the country back to work again. Now air traffic controllers and the military and the SNAP benefits will all be restored. Guess who was holding them all back? You got it, the Democrats because they want to give health benefits to illegal aliens and that's their sole purpose of leaving the borders open with Joe Biden for four years. So all you Trump haters out there, there you go. Tom

## Updating the facts

WILMINGTON—Let's have a few facts for conned. Trump never said the mayor of New York was Muslin, he said communist. 2) Qatar gave the plane to America not Trump, it's the new Air Force One. Fact 3) the base in Idaho is a training base for Qatar pilots because we sold them F15 fighters. We have been training our allies since World War II. Please don't let my fact get in the way of your TDS.

## The Epstein cover-up

WILMINGTON—I'm an Independent voter. I don't care for staunch Democrats or Republicans. But a released e-mail where Epstein himself says "he knew about the girls" is disturbing. That's not conjecture or rumor that's from the head of this evil group. We must get to the bottom of this, too much cover-up and calling it a hoax only makes it worse. 100+ girls deserve justice, I can't imagine what they endured.

## Positive facts

WILMINGTON—Our President has closed our southern border and the Border Patrol is watching carefully so no illegals are entering the U.S., unlike the previous administration allowing a record 7 million. Gas prices are lowering and strategic oil reserves are increasing. Military branches are reaching their recruitment goals now while recruitment in the past administration was 15,000 short per year. Tariffs on goods coming into our country from around the world are helping us lower our \$36 trillion debt. We are destroying deadly drug shipments coming to our shores from central America. I am thankful for Trump and his Make America Great Again agenda. Too



bad much of the media refuses to cite these positive facts and more.

## Homeless Americans

DIAMOND—For the writer of Veterans First last week. You have some good points on how to use federal money to house the homeless people in America. However, as Biden left the door open for anyone to break our laws and just walk in, nobody ever mentioned the fact of caring for the homeless. In fact, when all that was happening the first thing I thought of was the slaps in the face to US citizens living on the streets with that administration ignoring them while letting everyone walk in with no background checks and doing everything to cater to them. My wife is from another country and there were extensive background checks on her as there should be. Now, all of a sudden we care. How hypocritical. Another person noted that the Republicans are using the illegals as scapegoats. They broke our laws. The Democrats are always saying nobody is above the law. It's just another example of the Democrats supporting illegal activity.

## Trumpcare

WILMINGTON—As Trump wails and moans against Obamacare, it's noteworthy that Trump never has offered legislative improvements but merely legislative

setbacks in order to make Obama look bad. Obamacare started in 2010 and since then the GOP in Congress tried 70 times to sabotage Obamacare and Trump has been attacking Obamacare since he entered politics. Because of Trump's extensive interference in Obamacare, it is therefore appropriate that Obamacare should be renamed Trumpcare and let Trump take responsibility. But beware. What American would want to sign up for a government health insurance program which is controlled by any man as spiteful as Trump?

## The hoax

WILMINGTON—Trump claims that the Epstein case against him is a "hoax" and years ago Trump complained that the pandemic was a hoax and asserted the Russian election interference in 2016 was a hoax and declared the conviction of tax fraud against the Trump Organization in 2022 as a hoax and claimed the rape accusations from E. Jean Carroll and Stormy Daniels as hoaxes and declared that his attempt to steal votes from Georgia in 2020 as a hoax and insisted that charges of government documents in his bathroom was a hoax and proclaims to this day that his insurrection against our nation on Jan. 6 was not only a hoax but a witch hunt. Crybaby Trump. Irene

## Gas prices remain mostly stagnant

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.21/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 11.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 2.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

In Wilmington gas has dipped under \$2.92/g—at least a Mohsen, while the highest you'll pay is \$3.14/g.

Braidwood is holding out at \$3.25/g at all reporting stations, and Coal City is doing the same at \$3.29/g.

Overall, Morris offers the cheapest gas, with Pilot charging \$2.99/g, up to \$3.03/g at Shell.

For once, Kankakee County loses in the gas wars, with Gulf charging \$3.09/g, all the way up to \$3.48/g at Speedway.

"With oil prices mostly stable near the \$60 per barrel level, we've seen the national average move very little over the last few weeks. Roughly half of all states saw prices rise in the last week, while the other half saw prices fall," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR COAL CITY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

The Coal City Board of Education will approve a proposed property tax levy for Coal City Community Unit School District Number 1 for **2025** on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Coal City Administration Building Boardroom located at 550 South Carbon Hill Road, in Coal City, Illinois. This notice is to inform the public of the opportunity for comment on this matter.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Jason Smith, CSBO, 550 S Carbon Hill Road, Coal City, Illinois, 815-634-2287.

The corporate & special purpose property taxes extended for **2024** were **\$28,729,691.90**.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for **2025** are **\$35,829,206.14**. This represents a **24.71%** increase over the previous year.

The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for **2024** were **\$3,734,727.00**.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for **2025** are **\$3,731,277.51**. This represents a **0.092%** decrease over the previous year.

The total property taxes extended or abated for **2024** were **\$32,460,969.41**.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for **2025** are **\$39,560,483.65**. This represents a **21.871%** increase over the previous year.

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Wilmington Park District for 2025-2026 will be held on the 20th day of November, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilmington Park District located at 315 N. Water Street, Wilmington, Illinois

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may appear at the hearing, and they will be allowed to give testimony.

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes as extended for 2024-2025 were \$622,661.00.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2025-2026 are \$660,778.00. This represents an increase of approximately 5% over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes as extended for debt service for 2024-2025 was \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service for 2025-2026 is \$0.00. This represents zero change.

- IV. The total property taxes as extended for 2024-2025 was \$622,889.00.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2025-2026 are \$660,778.00. This represents an increase of approximately 5% over the previous year.

Printed by Order of the Corporate Authorities of the Wilmington Park District, Will County, Illinois

# Midway Airport Shuttle

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**Manteno Metro Centre**  
Oak St., Downtown Manteno

## People need to re-think rebuilding after catastrophes

Dear EarthTalk: Isn't it foolish to rebuild millions of homes in areas ravaged by floods or wildfires given the likelihood that this extreme weather will keep occurring?

- Mike Aspen, Baltimore, MD

### EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

In recent years, the continued global prevalence of climate change has increased the number of weather-related catastrophes. In fact, eight of California's 10 largest wildfires have occurred in the past five years, resulting not only in the loss of lives but also significant property damage.

Due to this repeated phenomenon, many climate experts suggest that towns at a high risk of weather-related catastrophes should be abandoned, not rebuilt.

Financial, logistical and safety factors indicate that rebuilding in low-hazard areas can be significantly more beneficial than rebuilding in high-hazard areas.

Building new homes in areas at high risk of flood or wildfire contributes up to \$3 billion to disaster-relat-



SCIENTISTS AND oil company executives have known about the climate risks of our profligate fossil fuel use since the 1950s.

ed costs annually.

At the current rate, experts predict that some 220,000 homes could be built in locations exposed to high wildfire hazards by 2030, making for unprecedented financial loss from property damage.

In the case of Greenville, California, for instance, rebuilding is predicted to cost around \$1 billion, yet most residents do not plan to return, largely because experts think the area could be destroyed again in the next 30 years.

"Governments can save billions of dollars each year and keep people safe from disasters by building just a small percentage of new homes away from the highest-risk areas for wildfires and floods," says Ryan Ness, Director of Adaptation at the Canadian Climate Institute.

To make matters worse, the use of fire-resistant material to rebuild is costly and thus not required by law, leading to increased risk. Though urban planners stress the need for fire-resistant design, officials often push for rapid reconstruction, thus waiving environmental permits and zoning regulations.

Beyond the lack of fire-resistant material, the location of rebuilt homes increases the dangers that residents face as the frequency of weather-related disasters such as droughts, floods and wildfires has increased fivefold since 1970 and have led to the deaths of 2 million people globally.

Furthermore, wildfires do not just destroy homes—they degrade air quality, water supply and forests,

causing permanent detrimental effects.

The Canadian Climate Institute recommends building housing and infrastructure in low-hazard areas, moving away from high-risk zones.

Another recommendation is to create, maintain, and make publicly available maps that show where hazardous areas are to warn potential residents. Moreover, the Institute also suggested reforming disaster assistance programs as a way to deter risky urban development.

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

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[teammgresham@amfam.com](mailto:teammgresham@amfam.com)  
(815) 476-6364



\*Customers who bundle home, auto and life policies may save on their auto and/or home policies. Discounts may vary by state, property, policy form and company underwriting the auto and/or home policy. Discounts may not apply to all coverages on an auto or home policy. Discounts do not apply to life insurance policies. Products not available in every state. American Family Mutual Insurance Company S.I. & its Operating Companies, American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53763 60924 22535 - 04/24 - 24028512

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- Men
- Women

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**(708) 465-3198**

**SUNDAY FUNDAY!**  
DOORS OPEN AT NOON! FIRST RAFFLE AT 2PM!  
It's NOT BINGO but a RAFFLE like BINGO... You play it like BINGO!! Lots of cash prizes!!! BIG PRIZES!!!

**QUEEN of HEARTS**  
Every TUESDAY at 553 W. Kennedy Rd. Braidwood  
You must play BINGO to participate.  
Doors open at 4pm. Drawing is held at intermission.  
**Queen of Hearts Pot is \$16,235.00**  
For BINGO players only on Tuesday nites and see the QUEEN rules at the BINGO hall for rules and regulations.

**Braidwood Post 039 BINGO**  
Tuesday Night Flash Max Bingo

|            |        |                              |
|------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Pull Tabs  | 6:30pm | Hot Food, Snacks & Beverages |
| Bingo      | 6:30pm | 553 Kennedy Road             |
| Doors Open | 4:00pm | Braidwood, IL 60408          |

**Home of the "Big Guy"**  
Commander Bill Kiley  
815-216-2570

## Women of the Moose to hold craft show

The Women of the Moose, Wilmington Chapter 781, will hold a vendor/craft show on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Moose Lodge on West River Road in Wilmington.

The show will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be various vendors and crafters who will have tables displaying their items. The chapter will have lunch available for purchase. There will also be a raffle table sponsored by the Women.

Contact Janice Hopwood at 815-922-9039 for more information.

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[morrishospital.org/cvspecialists](http://morrishospital.org/cvspecialists)

## Chamber seeks entries for Christmas parade

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce will host a lighted Christmas parade Saturday, Nov. 29. The parade will start at 5 p.m. at Wilmington Middle School and travel on Ryan to Water Street to the post office. Community groups and local businesses are invited to enter for free. This year's theme is "Christmas trees on parade". We kindly ask that no entries have a live Santa Claus on their float as the Chamber has already received confirmation from the North Pole that Santa will be attendance.

**Deadline to sign up is Thursday, Nov. 20.** Information will be sent to parade entries including map with the lineup. Submit the following information by email to Marty Orr at: [wilmingtonchamberparade@yahoo.com](mailto:wilmingtonchamberparade@yahoo.com). Line up at 4 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Organization/business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of entry (float, equestrian, walkers, antique vehicle, decorated vehicle, if other, describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Is your entry political, No - \$0, Yes - \$50: \_\_\_\_\_

Total dimensions of entry (including vehicle pulling float, trailer etc): \_\_\_\_\_

If there will be any type of sound (siren, music, horns, etc) please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

# Matching Angels 2025

Double the impact of your donation!  
The first \$6,500 in donations received through December 14th will be matched.  
Mark your donation "Angel Fund" and mail to:

Kuzma Care Cottage  
635 S. Main St., Wilmington IL 60481  
or donate online at:  
[www.kuzmacarecottage.org](http://www.kuzmacarecottage.org)

# The Chicago way of dropping out of office

You likely already know that U.S. Rep. Chuy García (D-Chicago) dropped out of his reelection race in a way that essentially handed his seat to his top aide.



**CAPITOL FACTS**  
Rich Miller

After his doctor advised him not to run again because of his heart condition, and his spouse who has multiple sclerosis which didn't respond to her most recent treatment asked him not to run again as well, and the fact that they'd just adopted a grandchild of his late daughter, García said he decided the Friday before the Monday petition filing deadline to drop out.

decided the same day to back his chief of staff Patty García to replace him on the ballot.

The literally last-minute petition filing meant that people who would've run if García had announced his intent earlier were shut out of the race.

Some people don't buy García's story, saying they heard the day he announced that rumors were circulating a few weeks before about how García might not run again. But those rumors have circulated quite often since his 2023 mayoral loss, mostly second-hand.

When I told García that some felt cheated by

his decision, the incumbent said that while he respects their views, he followed all the rules. And he did do that.

I was also interested in knowing how he managed to keep this hand-off project a secret. García said his organization collected 2,500 signatures for Patty García (no relation) over the weekend, so he said he was also surprised that nobody figured it out before he dropped the bombshell late Monday afternoon.

"I kept looking at my phone every little while [during the weekend], because I expected calls from mayors, trustees, political operatives, or just some of our super voters to see if everything was okay, or if Patty García had gone rogue or something, or we had had a falling out."

But, he said, "Not one

call." Chuy is one of the longest-serving politicians in Chicago (he was first elected to the Chicago city council in 1986), but word didn't get out. That's quite something.

Rep. García and I also talked about the history of Latino political success on the city's Southwest Side and in the suburbs and his role in it. He said he recognized early on that the demographics were starting to change in that part of the world many years ago.

"We were following that, we were waiting for the ripening of the conditions," he said.

García said they would constantly probe the machine over the years for possible openings, and analyzed "the old organizations and how they work," including then-Speaker Michael Madigan's operation. But, he said, it was crucial to watch not only demographics, but "especially understanding citizen voting age population and when it was a

time to make the move." Huge numbers of Latinos were not old enough to vote back in the day, but time eventually solved that impediment. Hence, "the ripening."

Years ago, I wrote that Madigan had essentially thrown in the towel to García, agreeing to drop his support for White incumbents in city and suburban Latino areas against García's progressive candidates as long as his own direct sphere of influence, mainly his 13th Ward and the 23rd Ward, were left alone.

"We were able to deal from a position of strength," García said, "because it was becoming more evident what was happening."

It wasn't a one-way street by any means. No progressive House Latinos joined the 19 House Democrats who successfully called for Madigan's ouster, for example.

I've known García since he was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1992. Back then, so few Latinos

were in the Senate that they joined the Black Caucus, which Chuy eventually chaired. He lost a primary in 1998 to a machine-backed candidate and was eventually elected to the county board and then Congress.

One of the things he said he's most proud of is bringing younger Latinos into politics, and, in the past several years, helping women get elected.

"We've, over the past 10 years, redeemed ourselves by empowering more women, because that was one of the biggest shortcomings. That's the case for women generally, but certainly we've tried to intentionally correct that, and I feel really good about that," García said.

And the latest recruit is his chief of staff, Patty García, whether some people like it or not. Chuy studied the machine well.

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

## Gardner-South Wilmington High School Annual Statement of Affairs

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
School Business Services  
217-785-8779

SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT NAME: Gardner-South Wilmington High School DISTRICT TYPE:  Elementary  High School  Unit  Joint Agreement

RCDT NUMBER: 24-032-0730-17-0001

ADDRESS: 500 E Main St, Gardner, IL 60424

COUNTY: Grundy/Kankakee

NAME OF NEWSPAPER WHERE PUBLISHED: The Free Press

**ASSURANCE**  
The Annual Statement of Affairs has been posted on the district's website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the School Code no later than December 1. (Put "X" in blue box if yes.) Yes

|                                      |    |                          |          |
|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|----------|
| SIZE OF DISTRICT IN SQUARE MILES     | 54 | TAX RATE BY FUND (IN %)  |          |
| NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE CENTERS         | 1  | EDUCATIONAL              | 1.210000 |
| NUMBER OF CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES     |    | OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE | 0.250000 |
| FULL-TIME                            | 20 | BOND & INTEREST          | 0.408582 |
| PART-TIME                            | 5  | TRANSPORTATION           | 0.120000 |
| NUMBER OF NON-CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES |    | MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT     | 0.018120 |
| FULL-TIME                            | 7  | SOCIAL SECURITY          | 0.112040 |
| PART-TIME                            | 20 | WORKING CASH             | 0.050000 |
|                                      |    | FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY | 0.050000 |
|                                      |    | TORT IMMUNITY            | 0.024410 |
|                                      |    | CAPITAL PROJECTS         | 0.030000 |
|                                      |    | SPECIAL EDUCATION        | 0.180000 |
|                                      |    | LEASING                  | 0.050000 |
|                                      |    | OTHER                    |          |
|                                      |    | OTHER                    |          |

### REPORT ON CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$25,000 AWARDED DURING FY2025

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. Total number of all contracts awarded by the school district:   | 0      |
| 2. Total value of all contracts awarded:   | \$0.00 |
| 3. Total number of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and locally owned businesses: | 0      |
| *If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.   |        |
| 4. Total value of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by person with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:   | \$0.00 |
| *If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.   |        |

### PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

| Person, Firm, or Corporation | Aggregate Amount | Person, Firm, or Corporation | Aggregate Amount |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| WorldHuis Farms Sunrise      | 2,545.40         | Xerox                        | 11,068.86        |
| Quality Floor Care           | 2,560.00         | Korellis Systems Conrol.     | 11,073.99        |
| Filament Essential Ser.      | 2,600.00         | Dwight Township H.S.         | 11,450.00        |
| The Lincoln National Life    | 2,635.60         | Garaventa USA                | 11,625.00        |
| Orkin                        | 2,753.00         | Gordon & Backhus Glass       | 11,868.10        |
| Mike's Candy Stand           | 2,826.00         | BC Faletti, LLC              | 12,125.00        |
| Robbins Schwartz             | 2,876.25         | Garrett Maintenance In       | 12,463.00        |
| Matrix Entertainment         | 3,200.00         | Constellation New Energy     | 12,597.79        |
| Christa Rosen                | 3,731.44         | Common Goal Systems          | 13,477.28        |
| Cintas Fire Protection       | 3,885.74         | Powerschool Group LLC        | 13,613.98        |
| The Music Shoppe             | 3,937.10         | Delta Dental of IL           | 13,706.39        |
| BSN Sports LLC               | 4,371.86         | The Englert Group LLC        | 15,356.25        |
| Popejoy Plumbing INC.        | 4,520.89         | TRS                          | 24,139.18        |
| Music Celebrations           | 5,000.00         | IMRF Benefit                 | 25,711.04        |
| Scene 75                     | 5,383.00         | Twin Supplies, LTC           | 28,170.00        |
| Equitable                    | 5,681.28         | Engle                        | 39,125.67        |
| Universal Dance Association  | 6,132.00         | CDW Government Inc.          | 47,402.60        |
| Dwight Country Club          | 6,265.00         | Trico Mechanical             | 51,562.00        |
| Diamond Indoor Trap Range    | 6,270.00         | PSIC                         | 58,946.81        |
| Fatlan Trucking & Excavating | 6,331.04         | Gordon Food Service          | 69,576.26        |
| Pamcor Inc.                  | 6,508.50         | IL Dept of Revenue           | 89,477.75        |
| Bushue HR INC.               | 6,648.00         | Guiding Light Academy        | 104,810.33       |
| Valic                        | 6,700.00         | Grundy Area Vocational       | 116,288.06       |
| IL Assoc of School Boards    | 7,307.00         | TRS 9.0%                     | 138,396.35       |
| Waste Management             | 7,478.13         | Camelot Therapeutic School   | 151,182.28       |
| Rivals 5 Technologies CO     | 8,241.40         | BMO Harris                   | 171,269.71       |
| Mack and Associates          | 8,500.00         | Grundy Count Sp. Ed.         | 306,596.96       |
| Johnson Control              | 9,012.42         | Blue Cross Blue Shield       | 311,089.87       |
| Grundy Supply                | 9,097.18         | Standard Bank FICAMED.       | 314,619.70       |
| BSN Sports                   | 9,538.35         | Bank of Pontiac              | 332,493.75       |
|                              |                  | IL Central Bus               | 511,640.47       |

### PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OF \$1,000 TO \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

| Person, Firm, or Corporation | Aggregate Amount | Person, Firm, or Corporation | Aggregate Amount |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Walsworth Publishing         | 1,033.40         | Shayla Loring Photography    | 1,757.69         |
| Bloomin Vinyl                | 1,070.10         | VSP                          | 1,784.84         |
| Jason Bross                  | 1,080.00         | Robert Ortega                | 1,802.00         |
| Rebel Athletic               | 1,145.81         | Raption Technologies LL      | 1,831.00         |
| Sherwin Williams             | 1,200.46         | Friendly Signs Inc           | 1,992.10         |
| Peoria Rivermen              | 1,242.00         | Country Cabin Mixes          | 2,030.00         |
| Brittany Cochran             | 1,361.00         | Video Surveillance System    | 2,119.37         |
| Prairie Farms                | 1,478.87         | Jostens                      | 2,122.27         |
| Ideal Environ Eng Ser        | 1,500.00         | NWEA                         | 2,175.00         |
| The Sanders Group ARS        | 1,526.00         | New York Life                | 2,208.00         |
| At Your Service Pros         | 1,600.00         | Village of Gardner           | 2,250.99         |
| Crumb                        | 1,669.50         | A.L.M. Lawn Service          | 2,276.38         |
| American Water Treatment     | 1,724.36         | Misty Southard               | \$2,381.85       |
| Logoworks                    | 1,731.55         | Gardner South Wilmington     | \$2,500.00       |

### GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

| Salary Range: Less Than \$39,999 |                     |                     | Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$54,999 |                     |                         | Salary Range: \$55,000 - \$74,999 |                       |                       | Salary Range: \$75,000 and Over |  |  |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| - Boudreau, Cassandra            | - Harris, Marshall  | - Samples, Shayla   | - Paige Jett                      | - Sippel, John Sr.  | - Titus, April          | - Jennifer Fisher                 | - Leondre Kemp        | - Lee Pucel           | - Michael Babjack               |  |  |
| - Chapin, Carol                  | - Hirsch, Braeden   | - Tiffle, Devin     | - Jennifer Fisher                 | - Tiffle, Devin     | - Tjofimchuck, Patricia | - Ralph Countryman                | - Jammie Johnston     | - Cassandra Boudreau  | - Norm Lardi                    |  |  |
| - Del Real, Elizabeth            | - Huston, Carla     | - VanDuyne, Raleigh | - Heather Henderson               | - VanDuyne, Raleigh | - Williamson, John      | - Landon Phillips                 | - Harmony Lewandowski | - Georgian Benson     | - Gavin Bafia                   |  |  |
| - Diamond, Danielle              | - Jursasits, Julie  |                     | - Reed Millette                   |                     | - Debelak, Walter       |                                   | - Heather Henderson   | - Mackenzie O'Connell | - Logan Conger                  |  |  |
| - Diamond, Michelle              | - Lestina, Janette  |                     |                                   |                     |                         |                                   | - Joel Micetich       | - Deb Partain         | - Tami Finn                     |  |  |
| - Fatlan, Benjamin               | - Medlin, Hollie    |                     |                                   |                     |                         |                                   | - Danielle Ward       | - Tim Horrie          |                                 |  |  |
| - Fatlan, Seth                   | - Nicolo, Bethany   |                     |                                   |                     |                         |                                   |                       | - Austin McDowell     |                                 |  |  |
| - Finn, Matthew                  | - Przybylski, Paige |                     |                                   |                     |                         |                                   |                       | - Samantha Brassard   |                                 |  |  |
| - Halpin, Christopher            | - Rynearson, Rhonda |                     |                                   |                     |                         |                                   |                       |                       |                                 |  |  |

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 19, 2025.

## South Wilmington CCSD 74 Annual Statement of Affairs

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
School Business Services  
217-785-8779

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2025

SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT NAME: South Wilmington CCSD 74 DISTRICT TYPE:  Elementary  High School  Unit  Joint Agreement

RCDT NUMBER: 24-032-0740-03

ADDRESS: 375 Fifth Street, South Wilmington IL 60474

COUNTY: Grundy/Kendall

NAME OF NEWSPAPER WHERE PUBLISHED: Coal City Courant

**ASSURANCE**  
The Annual Statement of Affairs has been posted on the district's website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the School Code no later than December 1. (Put "X" in blue box if yes.) Yes

|                                      |    |                          |         |
|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|---------|
| SIZE OF DISTRICT IN SQUARE MILES     | 14 | TAX RATE BY FUND (IN %)  |         |
| NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE CENTERS         | 1  | EDUCATIONAL              | 2.32323 |
| NUMBER OF CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES     |    | OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE | 0.52584 |
| FULL-TIME                            | 10 | BOND & INTEREST          | 0.1089  |
| PART-TIME                            | 0  | TRANSPORTATION           | 0.15297 |
| NUMBER OF NON-CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES |    | MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT     | 0.04105 |
| FULL-TIME                            | 3  | SOCIAL SECURITY          | 0.05131 |
| PART-TIME                            | 22 | WORKING CASH             | 0.04781 |
|                                      |    | FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY | 0.04781 |
|                                      |    | TORT IMMUNITY            | 0.20522 |
|                                      |    | CAPITAL PROJECTS         | 0       |
|                                      |    | SPECIAL EDUCATION        | 0.01913 |
|                                      |    | LEASING                  | 0.04781 |
|                                      |    | OTHER                    |         |
|                                      |    | OTHER                    |         |

### REPORT ON CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$25,000 AWARDED DURING FY2025

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. Total number of all contracts awarded by the school district:   | 0      |
| 2. Total value of all contracts awarded:   | \$0.00 |
| 3. Total number of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and locally owned businesses: | 0      |
| *If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.   |        |
| 4. Total value of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by person with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:   | \$0.00 |
| *If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.   |        |

### PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

| Person, Firm, or Corporation   | Aggregate Amount | Person, Firm, or Corporation         | Aggregate Amount |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| QuickBooks Payroll Service     | 2,785.00         | Brandt & Associates, P.C             | 11,250.00        |
| Illinois Assn of School Boards | 2,850.00         | Plattville Coatings Inc              | 12,200.00        |
| Alarm Detection Systems, Inc.  | 2,998.80         | CDW Government                       | 16,424.00        |
| 95 Percent Group LLC           | 3,070.00         | Guiding Light Academy                | 19,657.26        |
| Image System/McGrath Office    | 3,215.52         | Piggush Simoneau, Inc                | 24,878.00        |
| Grundy Supply                  | 3,312.64         | Prairie State Insurance Cooperative  | 24,891.60        |
| Gordon Food Service            | 4,330.08         | GSW High School                      | 25,499.89        |
| Nicor                          | 4,602.88         | North Township School Treasurer      | 30,563.19        |
| BC Faletti, LLC                | 4,650.00         | Gardner Grade School                 | 36,429.88        |
| Apple Inc.                     | 4,790.00         | BMO - MASTERCARD                     | 41,279.22        |
| Amplify Education Inc          | 5,030.50         | Tatro Painting & Decorating          | 49,949.00        |
| ComEd                          | 5,151.94         | Illinois Central School Bus          | 144,096.14       |
| McGraw-Hill LLC                | 5,193.84         | Grundy County Special Education Coop | 238,578.94       |
| Gassensmith & Michalesko Ltd.  | 6,828.00         |                                      |                  |

### PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OF \$1,000 TO \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

| Person, Firm, or Corporation        | Aggregate Amount | Person, Firm, or Corporation         | Aggregate Amount |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ideal Environmental Engineering Inc | 1,035.00         | Lease Direct (Goes to Image Systems) | 1,710.00         |
| Outback Pumping Services Inc        | 1,200.00         | ExploreLearning                      | 1,730.55         |
| SHAW MEDIA                          | 1,267.10         | Mr Jeremy Heck                       | 1,773.42         |
| IASA                                | 1,415.15         | Perfect Pastries Fundraising Inc     | 1,956.00         |
| Cintas Fire Protection              | 1,435.40         | Prairie Farms Rockford               | 2,486.10         |
| IESA                                | 1,455.00         | Christopher Longtin                  | 2,500.00         |
| Village of South Wilmington         | 1,546.58         |                                      |                  |

### GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

| Salary Range: Less Than \$39,999 |                       |                       |                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| - Stefanie Caccello              | - Leondre Kemp        | - Lee Pucel           | - Michael Babjack |
| - Paige Jett                     | - Jammie Johnston     | - Cassandra Boudreau  | - Norm Lardi      |
| - Jennifer Fisher                | - Harmony Lewandowski | - Georgian Benson     | - Gavin Bafia     |
| - Ralph Countryman               | - Heather Henderson   | - Mackenzie O'Connell | - Logan Conger    |
| - Landon Phillips                | - Joel Micetich       | - Deb Partain         | - Tami Finn       |
| - Reed Millette                  | - Danielle Ward       | - Tim Horrie          |                   |
|                                  |                       | - Austin McDowell     |                   |
|                                  |                       | - Samantha Brassard   |                   |

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Cell 815-671-1356  
mluckett@farmersagent.com

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# Major trail improvements at Starved Rock

### Check trail access online before visiting

Starved Rock State Park, including the Starved Rock Lodge and other park amenities, will remain open to visitors during an \$18 million trail improvement project that is expected to get underway this winter and continue through 2026.

The work will allow the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to reopen several closed trails and expand the hiking and recreational opportunities at Starved Rock, which is Illinois' most visited state park,

attracting more than 2 million visitors annually.

The park, in LaSalle County, features numerous timber trail bridges, stairways, boardwalks and retaining walls that have deteriorated over the years and require repairs or replacement. In addition to making trails safer and more accessible, the project will enable IDNR to better control erosion and protect plants and habitat from excessive foot traffic.

"It's been 30 years since Starved Rock has benefited from a significant trail improvement project like this," said IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie. "The park, the lodge and other ameni-

ties will never close during this project. Even if a specific trail is temporarily unavailable, there will be other beautiful trails to explore, as well as the Starved Rock Lodge and additional nearby state parks for visitors to enjoy."

Trails and canyons where work will take place include:

- Tonti Canyon and LaSalle Canyon trail system - Renovate or replace 10 separate trail bridges, install three new timber stairways, and install new timber boardwalks with fence.

- Lower French Canyon River Trail Bridge and Jacob's Ladder - Replace three existing trail

bridges, replace several timber stairways, install new timber stairways and fence, and expand the boardwalk from the bridge to the existing stairway on Jacob's Ladder.

- Pontiac Canyon - Replace the trail bridge and replace the timber stairway and fence.

- River Trail - Replace several existing trail bridges and install new timber boardwalks with fence.

- Campunula Trail - Install a concrete path and replace the existing trail bridge.

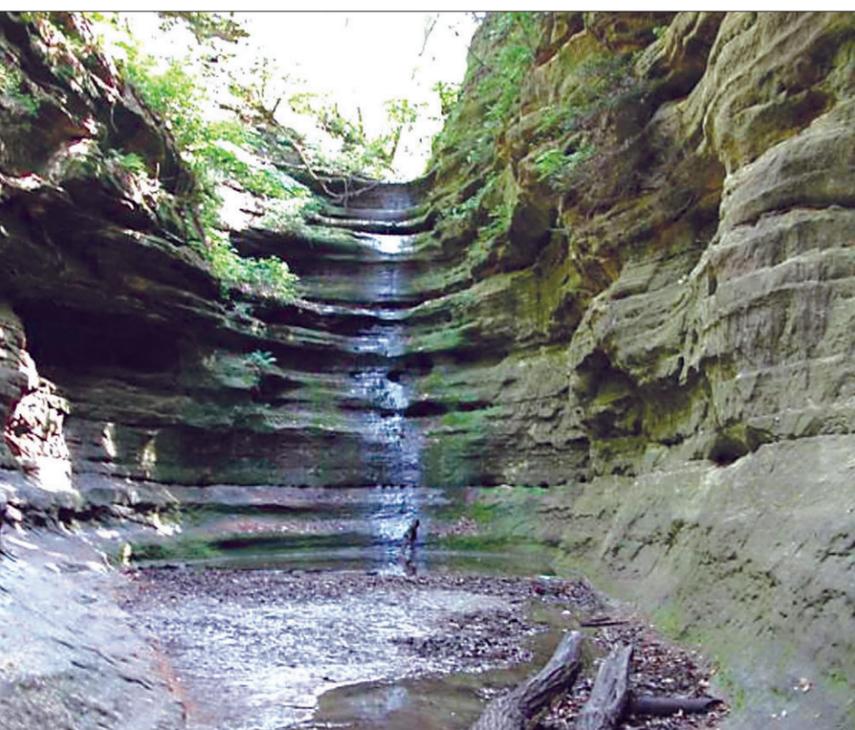
- Lodge Bridge to St. Louis Canyon - Replace existing decking.

The Illinois Capital Development Board is executing the project. It's part of a total \$37.2 million state investment in Starved Rock State Park, which also includes constructing a sanitary wastewater system, upgrading the water filtration system and replacing vault toilets.

Visitors may notice work occurring as soon as this month as workers begin tree removal. Some hiking activities could be temporarily disrupted from time to time. Most of the visible construction, which may include transporting materials to remote areas of the park via barge and helicopter, will happen in 2026. Construction will be staggered to minimize the number of trails closed at the same time.

The Starved Rock Lodge, its hotel, restaurant, gift shop and event spaces will remain fully open throughout the duration of the project.

Visitors planning trips to Starved Rock are encouraged to visit the park's website and Facebook page in advance.



File photo

STARVED ROCK STATE PARK near Utica, IL is the most visited park in the state due to its trails to scenic waterfalls and rocky canyons. Works is underway to bring \$18 million in trail improvements.

# Grundy County collecting gently used toys for gifting

The Grundy County Land Use Department is hosting its annual Gently Used Toys Event now through Friday, Dec. 12.

People may donate items that are in good

working condition such as toys, games, puzzles, books, DVDs and dolls to the following locations:

Grundy County Administration Building - 1320 Union, Morris. Coal

City Public Library - 85 N. Garfield, Coal City. Morris Public Library - 604 Liberty, Morris. Fossil Ridge Library - 386 W. Kennedy Road, Braidwood.

Grundy County residents are being thanked in advance for their generosity and to all the libraries who assist in this most worthy event. Over 100 boxes of toys have been collected in the past and the children are most appreciative of them.

Donations will be distributed to needy Grundy County families, and the Rotary International Club in time for the holidays.

Anyone who has questions or needs toys for your family, can contact (815) 941-3228 or (815) 941-3229 for more information.

Reuse and give the gift of fun to a child this season! Thank you, Grundy County!



REUSE AND GIVE the gift of fun to a child this season by donating used toys in good condition at the Coal City Library, 85 N. Garfield St.

# Illinois 9th for railroad fatalities

Illinois ranks ninth in the U.S. for railroad fatalities with a rail danger score of 41/100. The Prairie State has a population of 12,653,074 and averaged 46 rail fatalities annually between 2019-2023. The state recorded 0.37 average rail fatalities per 100,000 residents with 0.15 fatalities at highway crossings per and 0.20 fatalities involving trespassers.

Montana is the worst state in the nation for rail fatalities with a score of almost 70/100. Many of its rural crossings do not have signals or gates.

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8pm-12am

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NOV 1 — DEC 15

**DECEMBER CASH GIVEAWAY**

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On Dec 15, two (2) \$1,000 winners will be drawn

www.accelentertainment.com

Winner must present ID to claim prize.

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Purchase will not increase chances of winning.

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See management for full rules or more information.

Gambling problem? Please call 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2637).

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**Gardner Fire Protection District's**

**Annual Turkey Raffle & Chili Supper**

**November 21, 2025**

**Doors Open at 4:00pm**

**Turkey Raffle at 6:00pm**

**All you Can Eat Chili**  
Dinner, Soft Drink and Dessert

**Adults \$10.00**

**Seniors and kids under 12 \$7.00**

**\$1.00 Drafts**

**Blackstone Griddle & Package Grill Cover Tools \$100.00 Gift Card**

**50/50 Raffle**

**Packed with Raffle Baskets, Gift Cards & more**

**50 Turkeys & 50 Hams**

**Up for Grabs!**

**Prizes Drawn All Night!**

**Gardner American Legion**

**426 Industry Dr**

**Gardner, IL 60424**

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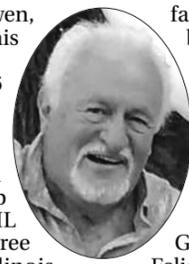
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# OBITUARIES

## George Bowen



DIAMOND— George L. Bowen, 79, of Diamond, passed away at his home on Monday, Nov. 10, 2025. He was born on Sept. 7, 1946 in Batavia, NY to George L. Bowen Sr. and Zoa (nee Wilbur) Bowen. He grew up as the youngest of four children and graduated from Rich Township High School in Park Forest, IL before earning his bachelor's degree in business from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. George married Patricia L. Piecholak, and together they raised their family of three children. He worked for Reliance Trading Company in Bedford Park, IL as the director of inventory control, retiring after 30 years. George had an easy going personality and was fun to be around. When asked if he wanted to do something, his answer was usually "Sure, why the hell not?". He was a dedicated family man who enjoyed a good meal, traveling and sharing a beer (and plenty of laughs) with friends and

family. George especially loved being a grandfather and never missed cheering for his grandchildren at their many sporting events, recitals, and school celebrations. George is survived by his children, Ronald (Christine) Bowen, Jason (Andrea) Bowen, and Kristina (Darren) Morris. George had 10 grandchildren: Felicia, Amanda, James, Emily, Ellen, Gail, Macy, Mallory, Max and Jack. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia, in 2012; his parents, George and Zoa Bowen; his brothers, Kenny and Roger Bowen and his sister, Shirley Mann. Cremation rites have been accorded. A family "Celebration of Life Party" will be held at a later date. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrari-funeral.com](http://www.ferrari-funeral.com). Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## Leave the leaves to help nature, yard

Don't waste your time fighting mother nature, by raking leaves to "clean" your lawn. A light covering of leaves provides shelter for pollinators over the winter. If you have mature trees and are concerned about a heavy covering, mow them and this will speed decomposition while still protecting firefly and other larvae. Leaves also act as a natural fertilizer, providing nutrients to your lawn, trees, bushes and flowers. Piles of leaves around trees and bushes can also serve as an insulation blanket during the winter, holding in precious moisture during the dry windy season.

If you still feel the need to tidy your lawn, consider adopting these options:

- Chop the leaves with a mulching mower but leave them on the lawn and they will decompose naturally
- Rake leaves off the lawn to use as mulch in garden beds
- Make compost: Combine fallen leaves ("brown material") with grass clippings and other "green material" and keep moist and well mixed. You'll have nutrient-rich compost to add to your garden next spring

Make a "leaf-free path" while leaving the rest of the lawn more natural.

## Illinois' outdated tax law leaves homeowners, taxpayers on the hook

BY CATRINA BARKER THE CENTER SQUARE

Illinois remains the only state that hasn't reformed its property tax sale system after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Tyler v. Hennepin County* that governments can't keep more than what's owed in back taxes, a delay that's now fueling lawsuits and could cost taxpayers millions. Lylena Estabine, policy researcher with the Illinois Policy Institute, explained that if Illinois residents fall behind on their property taxes, even by a few hundred dollars, that debt can be sold to private investors who, if not repaid with interest, can take the homeowner's entire property. "Since 2019, about 1,000 homeowners in Cook County, including 125 seniors, have lost their homes over unpaid property taxes," Estabine said. "Rather than reimbursing owners for their home's value minus the debt, investors take the entire amount. Researchers found investors in Illinois collected \$148 million more than they were owed between 2014 and 2021." Estabine said that in May 2022, about 37,000 Illinois properties were listed for tax sales, and 54% of those homes owed less than \$1,000 in back taxes.

In other words, thousands of homeowners faced the risk of losing their entire homes over relatively small debts. "That's why it's referred to as home equity theft," Estabine said. "Now, the Supreme Court recently ruled in *Tyler v. Hennepin County* that this is unconstitutional because investors are taking more than they're owed. That violates the Fifth Amendment, which says you can't take someone's property without fair compensation." Following *Tyler*, Cook County paused its tax sales, but Estabine said "that delay isn't going to stop the lawsuits that are already in motion over the damages that homeowners have incurred because of this law." Estabine said lawmakers must act quickly, especially in Illinois, which has the highest property taxes in the nation. "It's really incumbent upon them to figure out how we can not just deal with the issue of delinquent property taxes, which happen because property taxes are so high, but also how we can make structural changes that can lower the property tax rate for homeowners across the state." Estabine says the lawsuits are coming from multiple directions: some are filed by homeowners seek-

ing compensation for lost home value, others by tax buyers whose certificates have become "worthless" because counties cannot legally proceed with sales, and in some cases, counties themselves are suing the state, arguing that lawmakers' failure to update the property tax statute has left them vulnerable to legal liability. "There was actually a bill introduced, House Bill 3146," Estabine said. "It would require counties to return any sale proceeds above what's owed to the original homeowner, and that would eliminate the issue. But it didn't pass. What passed instead was legislation allowing the tax sales to be paused so no new issues could occur now that the property tax sales are illegal. Really, that's just buying time." If lawmakers fail to act, counties could face millions in claims, potentially leaving taxpayers on the hook, according to Estabine. "Without an updated statute, counties are kind of on their own figuring out how to collect these delinquent taxes," Estabine said. "Because the current law is still on the books, they might not have authority to stray from it, and that puts them in a tough situation where you're damned if you do, damned if you don't."

## Caught speeding makes for costly insurance

Speeding in Illinois doesn't just come with a fine — it can cause a major jump in your car insurance costs.

According to new data from LendingTree, Illinois drivers face one of the largest insurance rate increases in the country

after a speeding ticket, turning even a minor infraction into a costly mistake for drivers across the Prairie State.

In Illinois, average premiums rise from \$2,105.42 to \$2,691.58 after a single speeding ticket (for going 11-15 mph over) — a 27.8% spike, ranking eighth-highest in the nation. That's an extra \$586.16 per year — about \$49 per month, placing Illinois among the top 10 biggest dollar increases in the U.S. Over three years, that adds up to nearly \$1,759 more in insurance costs from just one ticket. Younger drivers are hit hardest: a 20-year-old's premium can rise by more than \$1,100 annually, compared with around \$550 for older drivers. "Speeding isn't just dangerous — it's expensive. Drivers with a speeding ticket are more likely to get into accidents, and insurers pass those higher crash risks onto drivers through steep rate increases," said LendingTree auto insurance expert and licensed insurance agent Rob Bhatt.

# Help available for Get Covered Illinois

Open enrollment for Get Covered Illinois is underway through Jan. 15, the annual opportunity for Illinoisans to enroll in, renew, or change their health insurance plans. Nearly 466,000 Illinoisans purchased health coverage through Get Covered Illinois during open enrollment last year, a 17% increase from the previous year. This year, Illinoisans will experience a new marketplace. Enrollees will apply for and enroll directly on [GetCoveredIllinois.gov](http://GetCoveredIllinois.gov) now that Illinois has officially transitioned to a state-based marketplace. They will also have access to increased support that is more tailored to their needs. There are other, less welcome changes happening this year. Marketplace enrollees across the country will face substantial premium increases. On average, Illinois enrollees will see a 78% increase in their monthly premiums for 2026, and some, particularly those living in Southern Illinois, will see significantly higher increases. "While Illinois' transition to a state-based marketplace is a milestone we are immensely proud of, it

comes at a time when Illinoisans are facing rising costs," said Ann Gillespie, Director of the Illinois Department of Insurance. "Policies implemented by the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans are forcing premiums up. Illinoisans shouldn't have to choose between health care and keeping food on the table." Since 2021, the federal government has offered enhanced tax credits to make health insurance more affordable for millions of Americans. Those enhanced tax credits are expiring at the end of this year unless Congress acts to extend them. There will still be tax credits available, but the amount will be less generous, and fewer people will qualify. Despite rising premiums, Illinoisans still have options. "We've built a strong marketplace with hundreds of plan options offered across the state," said Morgan Winters, Director of Get Covered Illinois. "Every plan includes essential health benefits like no-cost preventive care, emergency coverage, and mental health services." There are also lower-cost plans available for most enrollees. Bronze

plans offer lower monthly premiums than Silver or Gold plans, though deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs are typically higher than at other metal tiers. Get Covered Illinois can help customers review and understand their options. Get Covered Illinois launched the "Here to Help" campaign to bring awareness to new and improved support services available to customers this year. In a year when accessing health insurance may be more confusing and more expensive, Get Covered Illinois wants residents to know that help is available. Get Covered Illinois is urging residents who are concerned about losing health coverage to reach out to a navigator who can help them understand coverage options available to them. Brokers can assist customers in choosing marketplace coverage that meets their needs and budget. For coverage starting January 1, customers must enroll by December 15. Open enrollment ends January 15. Visit [GetCoveredIllinois.gov](http://GetCoveredIllinois.gov) or call 1-866-311-1119.

## Gambling bill inches closer

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill aiming to revive the state's moribund horse racing industry passed the Illinois Senate but did not receive a vote in the Illinois House. House Bill 2724, sponsored by state Sen. Patrick Joyce, D-Essex, would sunset the extraordinary power state lawmakers granted to Hawthorne Race Course in a 2019 gaming expansion law to veto any harness racetrack development within 35 miles of its existing track in Stickney, IL. This is intended to put pressure on Hawthorne to develop a harness racetrack and casino in southwestern Cook County or allow another developer to do it. "They have yet to build a casino at their location in Stickney, and yet still have veto power over a racino in the south suburbs," Joyce said, arguing that the veto power was given for good reason but not intended to last in perpetuity. "This bill is intended to help move the needle." The bill would also sanction a harness racetrack and casino in downstate Macon County. The state's horse racing handle slid from \$514 million in 2022 to \$490 million in 2023 to \$478 million in 2024, the low-

est in 40 years, according to data from the Illinois Racing Board. And the number of foals being bred in Illinois has declined precipitously over the past few decades. FanDuel Sportsbook and Horse Racing in Collinsville, previously known as Fairmount Park, and Hawthorne are the only two tracks still operating in Illinois, with the latter the only one offering dates for harness racing. Famed Arlington Park closed in 2023 and has been demolished. The Chicago Bears have plans to build a new stadium there. Advocates say new racinos could help revive the industry, with revenues from gambling partially going to increased purses at the tracks. But gambling industry bills are never simple in Illinois due to many players often with competing interests. Hawthorne opposes the legislation and is seeking to maintain its veto power. Video gambling terminal operators in Decatur also oppose the racino, worrying it could cut into their margins. The bill passed the Senate 49-8. It can be immediately voted on in the House when lawmakers return in January. **Lawmakers approve protections for**

**public officials** State lawmakers also approved legislation aimed at protecting public officials from threats and harassment by allowing them to shield certain information, like phone numbers and home addresses, from public disclosure. House Bill 576, sponsored by state Rep. Katie Stuart, D-Edwardsville, would allow state lawmakers, constitutional officers, state's attorneys, public defenders, county clerks and other elected officials to request that government agencies, businesses and individuals redact or refrain from posting their personal information on public websites. It would also allow a public official to use their campaign fund to pay for personal security and security upgrades to their home, including security systems, cameras, walls, fences and other physical improvements. It comes amid a startling rise in violence and threats aimed at public officials. *Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

## Department on Aging offering free help to make Medicare open enrollment decisions

The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is encouraging everyone with Medicare to check if their plan still meets their needs and budget during this year's Open Enrollment Period, which runs through Dec. 7. Individuals can get free help comparing health and drug plan options by contacting the state's Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). "Your health needs can change from year to year, and so do Medicare plan costs and coverage," said SHIP Director Sandy Leith. "Now's the time to review your current Medicare coverage to make sure it still meets your needs. To help you make an informed decision, the Senior Health Insurance Program uses trained volunteers to offer trusted, unbiased Medicare counseling to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers." SHIP counselors are available in person and online throughout the year, but they are especially helpful during Open

Enrollment now to Dec. 7, when people with Medicare can join or switch health and prescription drug plans for the coming year. For those who switch plans, coverage starts on Jan. 1, 2026. SHIP counselors are cautioning beneficiaries to check their Medicare drug coverage, as there are fewer plans to choose from for 2026 and some premiums have doubled in cost. There are also four drug plans with \$0 premiums. "The right plan for you is the plan that will cover ALL of your current prescription medications," said SHIP Director Sandy Leith. "Everyone currently on Medicare Part D or a Medicare Advantage plan will have received a letter from their current plan detailing changes for 2026. Please read your letters to make sure your plan will still be offering Medicare for 2026. In some instances, you may have to change plans due to a non-renewal. When in doubt, call Medicare to double check."

To get help understanding your Medicare options and how you can save money on costs, call or visit a SHIP site near you. You can also compare 2026 coverage options and shop for plans using Medicare's Plan Finder or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE to talk with a customer support representative. TTY users should call 877-486-2048. The Medicare Support Hotline is available 24/7, except for some federal holidays. About IDoA: IDoA serves and advocates for older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering quality and culturally appropriate programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life. For information about the Department's programs and services for older adults and persons with disabilities, visit [ilaging.illinois.gov](http://ilaging.illinois.gov) or contact the Senior HelpLine toll-free at 1-800-252-8966, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**THANK YOU**

\_Transplant Benefit For Liz Veronda\_

Our sincerest heartfelt thank you to all the family, friends, volunteers, donors and area businesses, for your encouragement and continued support of my lung transplant journey!

We are truly grateful and blessed for your kindness, encouragement and generous support!

Jeff & Liz Veronda



# Coal City Community Unit School District No. 1 annual statement of affairs

## PUBLIC NOTICE

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
School Business Services  
217-785-8779

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
June 30, 2025

|                                       |   |               |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT NAME: | Coal City CUSD 1                          | DISTRICT TYPE | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary<br><input type="checkbox"/> High School<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Joint Agreement |
| RCOD NUMBER:                          | 24-032-0010-26                            |               |   |
| ADDRESS:                              | 550 S CARBON HILL RD, COAL CITY, IL 60416 |               |   |
| COUNTY:                               | GRUNDY/WILL                               |               |   |
| NAME OF NEWSPAPER WHERE PUBLISHED:    | COAL CITY COURANT                         |               |   |

**ASSURANCE**  
The Annual Statement of Affairs has been posted on the district's website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the School Code no later than December 1. (Put "X" in blue box if yes.)

Yes

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| SIZE OF DISTRICT IN SQUARE MILES            | 54  |
| NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE CENTERS                | 5   |
| <b>NUMBER OF CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES</b>     |     |
| FULL-TIME                                   | 181 |
| PART-TIME                                   | 0   |
| <b>NUMBER OF NON-CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEES</b> |     |
| FULL-TIME                                   | 135 |
| PART-TIME                                   | 20  |

| TAX RATE BY FUND (IN %)  |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| EDUCATIONAL              | 2.000000 |
| OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE | 0.500000 |
| BOND & INTEREST          | 0.392400 |
| TRANSPORTATION           | 0.200000 |
| MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT     | 0.048300 |
| SOCIAL SECURITY          | 0.060300 |
| WORKING CASH             | 0.030000 |
| FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY | 0.050000 |
| TORT IMMUNITY            | 0.006000 |
| CAPITAL PROJECTS         | 0.000000 |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION        | 0.040000 |
| LEASING                  | 0.050000 |
| OTHER                    |          |
| OTHER                    |          |

### REPORT ON CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$25,000 AWARDED DURING FY2025

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Total number of all contracts awarded by the school district:   | 11             |
| 2. Total value of all contracts awarded:   | \$4,805,710.00 |
| 3. Total number of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by persons with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:<br>*If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right. | 0              |
| 4. Total value of contracts awarded to minority owned businesses, female owned businesses, businesses owned by person with disabilities, and locally owned businesses:<br>*If there are no contracts of this nature, please enter "0" in box to the right.   | \$0.00         |

### PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

| Person, Firm, or Corporation                | Aggregate Amount | Person, Firm, or Corporation          | Aggregate Amount |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| ACT Education Corp                          | \$10,608.00      | J.K. TROTTER ENTERPRISES INC.         | \$34,485.00      |
| ACTIVE INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES                | \$13,500.00      | Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP   | \$10,901.93      |
| Aguirre, Brooklyn                           | \$3,042.52       | JOLIET PUBLIC SCHOOLS                 | \$29,707.41      |
| ALARM DETECTION SYSTEMS                     | \$2,776.47       | KING MUSIC                            | \$11,790.00      |
| AMALGAMATED BANK OF CHICAGO                 | \$2,860.50       | Knowledge Matters                     | \$3,885.00       |
| AMALGAMATED BANK OF CHICAGO                 | \$3,732,727.52   | Kriha Boucek LLC                      | \$24,807.00      |
| American Capital Financial Services         | \$58,446.20      | KS StateBank                          | \$22,173.69      |
| AMERICAN EXPRESS                            | \$12,000.00      | Laguna Tools                          | \$6,227.10       |
| AMERICAN FUNDS                              | \$170,346.30     | LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS          | \$3,106.81       |
| AMERICAN HARLEQUIN                          | \$7,190.00       | Larson Equipment & Furniture Co.      | \$175,300.00     |
| Amplify                                     | \$8,528.80       | LEAF                                  | \$72,775.20      |
| Apple Financial Services                    | \$79,281.65      | LearnWell                             | \$5,073.78       |
| ArbiterSports LLC                           | \$63,336.00      | LEVEL DATA                            | \$6,084.40       |
| Bank of Pontiac                             | \$3,060,951.72   | Lifted                                | \$19,325.00      |
| Blue Spruce Tree Care & Construction Inc.   | \$15,100.00      | Liminex Inc. dba GoGuardian           | \$19,930.00      |
| BMO Financial Group                         | \$1,044,770.10   | LITE CONSTRUCTION INC.                | \$4,320,271.10   |
| BP - Credit Card                            | \$14,352.45      | LOW VOLTAGE SOLUTIONS, INC.           | \$20,892.00      |
| Buckeye Power Sales Co. Inc                 | \$5,887.03       | MACK & ASSOCIATES P.C.                | \$18,125.00      |
| Camelot Therapeutic Schools LLC             | \$360,061.59     | MacLean Enterprises / UnderFence      | \$2,960.00       |
| CARDIAC LIFE PRODUCTS, INC.                 | \$6,589.25       | McCullough Implement Co               | \$9,811.94       |
| CARROLL SEATING COMPANY INC.                | \$2,950.00       | McGraw Hill LLC                       | \$37,133.90      |
| Cengage Learning                            | \$11,999.42      | Midwest Event Solutions LLC           | \$6,000.00       |
| Cengage Learning                            | \$39,822.90      | MNW Telecom Inc.                      | \$25,533.00      |
| Center For Psychological Services           | \$112,500.00     | MORRIS HOSPITAL                       | \$7,150.00       |
| CINDER RIDGE                                | \$7,075.00       | MPS - BFW High School Publishers      | \$24,446.71      |
| Clark, Valerie                              | \$3,900.00       | Murphy, Melissa                       | \$2,500.00       |
| COAL CITY ES ACTIVITY FUND                  | \$2,946.47       | Naperville Psychiatric Ventures       | \$6,052.80       |
| COAL CITY HS ACTIVITY FUND                  | \$12,709.97      | NCS PEARSON INC                       | \$15,778.00      |
| COAL CITY MS ACTIVITY FUND                  | \$13,334.00      | NEARPOD LLC                           | \$21,725.00      |
| COALER CREATIONS                            | \$8,776.00       | Neuco, Inc.                           | \$4,615.54       |
| COLLECTIVE LIABILITY INSURANCE              |                  | Nevsimal, Kevin                       | \$3,000.00       |
| COOPERATIVE                                 | \$263,345.00     | Newsela                               | \$7,656.00       |
| College Board                               | \$29,696.70      | NextEra Energy Services               | \$687,135.79     |
| Community Unit School District #308         | \$108,082.02     | NICOR GAS                             | \$96,313.87      |
| Computer Logic Group, Inc.                  | \$10,993.00      | Old Second National Bank              | \$281,738.34     |
| ConneXion                                   | \$4,445.38       | OLM TPA (403B) Company                | \$63,419.00      |
| Conserv FS, Inc.                            | \$3,055.00       | PAVEMENT SYSTEMS, INC.                | \$3,254.00       |
| Cordogan Clark Consulting Services, Inc.    | \$193,872.90     | Performance Services Inc.             | \$141,099.00     |
| Covermaster                                 | \$3,165.39       | PHOENIX INDUSTRIAL CLEANING, INC.     | \$8,836.00       |
| Crisis Prevention Institute, Inc.           | \$2,929.88       | PHOENIX LEARNING SYSTEMS              | \$12,345.00      |
| D CONSTRUCTION INC                          | \$67,141.36      | PowerSchool Group LLC                 | \$22,849.83      |
| DISCOVERY EDUCATION                         | \$105,960.00     | PRAIRIE FARMS                         | \$70,171.21      |
| DOOR SYSTEMS INC.                           | \$2,817.71       | PRECISION CONTROL SYSTEMS INC.        | \$27,536.15      |
| DORazio Ford                                | \$128,140.76     | Proven IT                             | \$29,753.45      |
| Edlio, LLC                                  | \$12,318.00      | Public Consulting Group, Inc.         | \$17,291.96      |
| educational Benefit Cooperative             | \$3,945,237.23   | R.L. Sohoh General Contractors, Inc.  | \$2,000,949.58   |
| Educational Environments                    | \$763,000.28     | Reliance Standard Life Ins. Co.       | \$70,185.39      |
| Eisenhower Cooperative                      | \$15,497.65      | Renaissance                           | \$24,451.00      |
| ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES                     | \$12,845.58      | RIDDEL/ALL AMERICAN SPORTS CORP.      | \$22,244.23      |
| ELLIOTT ELECTRIC INC.                       | \$17,713.75      | Rival 5 Technologies                  | \$60,688.42      |
| EMS Ling Inc                                | \$16,188.17      | RIVERSIDE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.          | \$90,188.79      |
| Excel Edge                                  | \$2,700.00       | S.E.A.L. South, Inc.                  | \$40,132.25      |
| FSD, inc.                                   | \$19,045.00      | SARATOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT #60C         | \$11,900.00      |
| FAIRCUM                                     | \$13,166.66      | Savvas Learning Company LLC           | \$122,372.73     |
| First Eagle Bank                            | \$131,652.81     | Scholastic Inc.                       | \$13,836.90      |
| Five Star Technology Solutions              | \$10,660.00      | SchoolPass                            | \$6,960.00       |
| Follett School Solutions, LLC               | \$5,100.60       | SEIU LOCAL #73                        | \$11,146.81      |
| Franczek P.C.                               | \$10,732.00      | SERTOMA SPEECH & HEARING CENTERS      | \$3,452.81       |
| Frontline Technologies Group LLC            | \$18,060.50      | Sievert Electric                      | \$740,868.00     |
| Full Compass Systems Ltd                    | \$30,994.38      | SISTEK SALES & SERVICE                | \$3,300.41       |
| Garvey's Office Products                    | \$22,234.75      | Skyward Inc.                          | \$72,743.00      |
| Glade Plumbing and Piping Co.               | \$643,949.84     | SMG Security Holdings LLC             | \$16,120.00      |
| Glenn B. Stearns                            | \$14,400.00      | Smith Painting Services, Inc.         | \$24,385.00      |
| Goldstar Learning Inc.                      | \$18,649.70      | SOCIAL STUDIES SCHOOL SERVICE         | \$46,932.21      |
| GORDON FOOD SERVICE, INC.                   | \$527,329.47     | Soil and Material Consultants, Inc.   | \$8,756.13       |
| GRAINCO FS INC.                             | \$4,284.26       | SOUTHWEST MECHANICAL INC.             | \$10,047.24      |
| GREEN RIVER LINES INC.                      | \$3,600.00       | Sprout Educational Services P.C.      | \$58,032.76      |
| GRUNDY AREA VOCATIONAL CENTER               | \$613,992.19     | Stafford-Smith, Inc.                  | \$50,937.24      |
| GRUNDY COUNTY COLLECTOR                     | \$11,006.42      | Stalker Sports Floors                 | \$61,610.00      |
| GRUNDY COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION COOP        | \$72,185.57      | STATE DISB. UNIT                      | \$14,423.28      |
| GRUNDY SUPPLY                               | \$118,772.56     | STREATOR TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL         | \$3,000.00       |
| Grundy/Kendall Regional Office of Education | \$2,500.00       | Suburban Door Check & Lock            | \$2,503.80       |
| GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY             | \$372,804.27     | SUNBELT                               | \$73,509.10      |
| Guiding Light Academy                       | \$91,394.28      | TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM             | \$1,721,999.66   |
| HARRIS SCHOOL SOLUTIONS                     | \$12,074.64      | TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM            | \$99,030.87      |
| Health-e Pro                                | \$5,055.00       | TELESOLUTIONS CONSULTANTS LLC         | \$4,200.00       |
| HOBART SERVICE                              | \$5,408.03       | Terra Engineering LTD                 | \$7,992.00       |
| HORACE MANN LIFE INS CO                     | \$15,635.84      | The Sandner Group                     | \$7,200.00       |
| HPS LLC.                                    | \$9,433.82       | Thompson Electronics Company          | \$38,262.70      |
| Hudl  | \$9,850.00       | Timberline Billing Service LLC        | \$3,677.90       |
| I.E.A.                                      | \$123,209.10     | Trafera Financial Services            | \$113,171.00     |
| IASA  | \$6,235.00       | TRANE U.S. INC.                       | \$102,319.20     |
| IDEAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING INC.        | \$63,837.96      | TRS-Voya                              | \$22,628.57      |
| ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS       | \$12,359.00      | URS-Tennis Court Construction Company | \$5,910.00       |
| ILLINOIS CENTRAL SCHOOL BUS LLC             | \$3,088,221.36   | VALIC                                 | \$22,200.00      |
| ILLINOIS Central-8 Conference               | \$3,000.00       | Valley Fire Protection Services LLC   | \$2,580.00       |
| ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE              | \$855,273.86     | VILLAGE OF COAL CITY                  | \$24,842.52      |
| ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT               | \$596,815.65     | VILLAGE OF COAL CTY                   | \$142,016.95     |
| ILLINOIS STATE POLICE                       | \$4,500.00       | Vista Higher Learning                 | \$3,232.55       |
| Imagine Learning                            | \$3,960.00       | VISTA LEARNING, NFP                   | \$8,977.50       |
| INTERQUEST DETECTION CANINES OF CHICAGOLAND | \$2,840.00       | VSP                                   | \$36,446.56      |
| ISCorp                                      | \$3,000.00       | Weatherproofing Technologies          | \$14,760.00      |
| ITR Systems                                 | \$11,467.96      | Wet Solutions, Inc.                   | \$9,812.80       |
| IXL Learning                                | \$26,350.00      | Whitmore Ace Hardware                 | \$5,602.16       |
|   |                  | WHITT LAW LLC                         | \$105,486.06     |
|   |                  | Wolverine Brass                       | \$131,533.25     |
|   |                  | Wren, Aimee                           | \$3,033.28       |

### PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION \$1,000 - \$2,500. EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES

| Person, Firm, or Corporation                     | Aggregate Amount | Person, Firm, or Corporation                  | Aggregate Amount |
|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| Arnie Bauer Chevrolet                            | \$2,234.64       | MEDIEVAL COLLECTIBLES                         | \$1,551.36       |
| Asset Control Solutions, Inc.                    | \$1,110.00       | MICETICH, JACK                                | \$2,400.00       |
| Big Frog   | \$1,832.00       | Micetich, Joseph                              | \$1,800.00       |
| Blitt and Gaines P.C.                            | \$2,428.64       | MORRIS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL                  | \$1,698.00       |
| Bohac, Sara                                      | \$1,200.00       | Murphy, Melissa                               | \$2,500.00       |
| Brad Trotter & Associates                        | \$1,600.00       | National Trade Supply LLC                     | \$1,970.20       |
| BUSINESSOLVER.COM, INC.                          | \$2,474.88       | Orkin   | \$1,200.00       |
| CENTRAL RESTAURANT PRODUCTS                      | \$2,026.43       | Outback Pumping Services Inc                  | \$1,050.00       |
| CodeHS, Inc.                                     | \$2,400.00       | PRIEBE, HERB                                  | \$1,528.30       |
| Construction & Geotechnical Material Testing INC | \$2,327.50       | R.B. CROWTHER CO.                             | \$1,382.00       |
| Countryside Barns                                | \$2,151.00       | Raymond James & Associates, Inc.              | \$1,500.00       |
| DeltaMath Solutions Inc.                         | \$1,500.00       | Reed Custer High School                       | \$1,275.00       |
| Empower Health Services                          | \$1,053.00       | RICHES LOCK & KEY                             | \$1,884.75       |
| Fastlane Wraps                                   | \$1,500.00       | RIVERSIDE MEDICAL CENTER                      | \$1,750.00       |
| Filterbuy  | \$1,633.00       | ROBERTSON, DAVID                              | \$2,137.50       |
| FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER                             | \$1,253.75       | ROSETTA STONE LLC                             | \$1,200.00       |
| GRAFTON  | \$2,149.98       | Stith, Lisa                                   | \$1,780.81       |
| Grundy/Kendall Regional Office of Education      | \$2,500.00       | THE CENTER: Resources for Teaching & Learning | \$2,339.50       |
| HEART AND SOUL PRODUCTIONS                       | \$2,000.00       | TREES   | \$1,116.50       |
| IESA   | \$1,510.00       | True North Consultants                        | \$2,050.00       |
| Illinois State Board of Education                | \$1,189.59       | Typing Agent LLC                              | \$2,016.00       |
| JOHNS SERVICE & SALES LLC                        | \$1,266.00       | UCP Infinitec                                 | \$1,579.16       |
| JourneyEd.com, Inc.                              | \$2,450.00       | VOSS EQUIPMENT INC.                           | \$2,172.90       |
| Keppner, Colin                                   | \$2,000.00       | WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL                        | \$1,575.00       |
| Learning Technology Center                       | \$1,800.00       | Wiltz, Nicole                                 | \$1,200.00       |
| LessonPix  | \$1,744.20       | Xperience Cheer, LLC                          | \$1,820.00       |
|  |                  | Zeiters Septics Inc.                          | \$1,500.00       |

### Coal City Community Unit School District No. 1 GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$39,999

|                             |                      |                         |                         |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Acred, Rebecca              | FATLAN, JILL C       | Long, Kathryn           | STELLANO, HOLLY M       |
| Anderson, Jewel             | FEARDAY, RACHEL A    | Mahfield, Janet L       | STRLE, SHERYL L         |
| BARAJAS, MADILYN            | FEENEY, BRIDGET T    | MARMA, DANIELLE J       | Tapley, Debra L         |
| Barkley, Carmella           | FERRIAS, MIA K       | Marquez, Esdeyna        | Terrel, Joseph          |
| Barkley, Stephaine Luann    | FINCH, ZACHARY S     | Matthews, Hillary       | Terrel, Robert          |
| Barla, Paula Jeanette       | Fisk, Derek          | McCleary, Kevin H       | Tremer, Samantha T.     |
| Barnard, Richard B          | FOOTE, JOSEPH M      | McClenning, Christina L | VANDEWERKEN, TALAN      |
| BASIL, JENNA D              | Foite, Alecia A      | McDowell, Jerry Alan    | VANDUYNE, GABRIELLE     |
| BERGER, GAVIN C             | FRITZ, THEODORE V.   | Menard, Stephen A       | VanDuyne-Mueller, Julie |
| BERGER, NOLAN J             | GARNER, MASON S      | MENDOZA, AARON EA       | Vestal, Gavin D         |
| Bergmark, Renee             | GILL, HUNTER W       | Mendoza, Angelina M     | Vigna, Pamela S         |
| Berta, Colleen A            | Gossar, Beth A       | Micetich, Joel P        | Vignocchi, Andrew       |
| Bianchetta, Jaimie          | GRANGER, ABIGAIL L   | MICETICH, JULIAN E      | Vignocchi, Tina M       |
| Bieffeldt, Carol            | Green, Nolan         | MONTANA, SLOANE P       | WAGGE, KIMBERLY         |
| Bitner, Tiffany Marie       | Gubelman, Don E      | MORRIS, COOPER A        | WALLEY, DONNA           |
| BLANTON, MEGAN A            | Haddon, Cindie       | MURPHY, MATTHEW J       | Walsh, Julie Kristine   |
| Blazekovich, Haley P        | Hall, Jennifer Lynn  | NASH, TASHA L           | Washington-Mosley, Judy |
| BOHAC, FELICIA K            | HAMILTON, GABRIEL R  | Neal, Mercedes          | Watson, Anne Marie S    |
| BOVA, AMY M                 | HAMILTON, MASON D    | Nolan, Emily            | Watson, Benjamin S      |
| BUCK, TREY M                | Hancock, Susan       | Norris, James M         | WEBSTER, RYAN M         |
| BURBA, ALEXANDRA L          | HARDING, AUSTIN      | NOWDOWSKI, PAULA A      | White, Chad A           |
| Caher, Shannon              | Harmon, Donna        | OLSON, KARA             | Widlowski, Joseph       |
| CANCHOLA, MARIELA M         | Harney, Laura Moree  | OLSON, TERRI L          | WILKINS, CASSANDRA      |
| CARLSON, ALEX H             | HARVEY, ASHTON D     | ONSEN, CODY R           | Williams, Joy Nicole    |
| Carlson, Derek A            | Helland, Sara F      | Onsen, Lenny            | Willis, Jessica         |
| Carlson, Karen K            | Hertz, Kristi Jean   | Pendleton, Paul         | Willis, Nate            |
| Carpenter, Alison B         | Hill, Michelle       | Pensle, Gina Elizabeth  | WILLS, STACEY           |
| CARY, CAITLYN A             | Hood, Alissia        | PETROVICH, IAN D        | WOLCOTT, CALIN P        |
| Chapin, Carole J            | Hossack, Yolanda     | Phillips, Donald        | Wysocki, Lisa A         |
| Charles, Tara               | HOUSMAN, AVAH K      | PHILLIPS, TYLER A       |                         |
| Chernessa, Teresa           | HREN, MARIANNA J     | Pierard, Cindy R        |                         |
| CHILDERS, CAROLINE M        | HULBERT, AIDAN       | PLANETA, CARA B         |                         |
| CHRISTOPHER, TY T           | Huston, Andrea Marie | Planeta, Nikki L        |                         |
| CLOFFT, Keegan              | Hutchings, Daniel    | POWERS, MICHELLE Y      |                         |
| CLOE, EMILY A               | Hutchings, Janet     | POYNER, CADE J          |                         |
| CLUBB, GAVIN M              | JACKMAN, JULIE R     | PRATL, LAUREN E         |                         |
| CLODWATER (WILKINS), LISA R | JACKSON, JODY        | PATRICK, MICHAEL J      |                         |
| COLEGROVE, CASSAN-          | JACKSON, KYLIE M     | Rakes, Jennifer Ann     |                         |
| DRA T                       | Jerbi, Daniel        | REIBENSTEIN, MORGAN L   |                         |
| Johnson, Lisa               | Johnson, Lori A      | Reinert, Chad           |                         |
| Johnson, Lorl A             | Johnson, Travis      | Reszel, Ashley N.       |                         |
| Johnson, Travis             | JOLY, LISA M         | Rich, Erica L           |                         |
| Julio, Lisa M               | DAgostino, Shanan D  | RIGGI, BROCK            |                         |
| KARLE, AIMEE N              | DAVIDSON, KILEN JO   | Rivera, Eusebio         |                         |
| KASKY, HAILEY R             | DAVIS, KATHRYN A     | Roach, Stacey           |                         |
| Kavanaugh, Jennifer M.      | Davy, Kristina       | Roberts, Adam J         |                         |
| Kessler, Ronald A           | Dearth, Kelly A      | Rodriguez, Adam         |                         |
| KINDER, MELODY A            | DECKER, NICHOLAS D   | ROED, KALI              |                         |
| Kirchner, Michelle          | Deluca, E Gail       | Rose, Rachel A          |                         |
| Klepec, Kelly               | Depodesta, Amie      | Roseland, Lance         |                         |
| Kodat, Abigail F.           | Dobson, Allison J    | Rouse, Kirk             |                         |
| KOLNICKI, CORINNE B         | Donnelly, Krystena A | ROWADER, SARAH E        |                         |
| Kozlowski, Mary             | DOGAN, SARA E        | RYLE, AMBER             |                         |
| KRAMER, MAXX J              | DOOAZIO, BRODY A     | Sage, Jessica L         |                         |
| Krug, Brandy                | Dransfeldt, Kennedy  | Sawyer, Deborah K.      |                         |
| Krug, Gina M                | Dunkwine, Raquel J   | SCHMITT, JORDAN         |                         |
| Kruszewski, Heather         | DUNAVAN, CODY        | SCHMITT, KELLY N        |                         |
| Kuder, Amy Renee            | Eaton, Amanda        | Scrogham, Alison        |                         |
| Lardi, Kristina             | Ekkey, Cheri D       | SCROGHAM, ETHAN J       |                         |
| Larson, Sydney E            | ELMS, BRIAN          | SHEETS, AMANDA          |                         |
| Lepic, Mary Ann             | Endrst, Brenda Gail  | SHEPHERD, TAMMY         |                         |
| Leve Jr., Roy E.            | Endrst, Jennifer M   | Sieger, Cherie          |                         |
| LIND, KLOEY                 | Erhard, Kristen A    | Skubic, Frank           |                         |
| Linn, Michelle D            | Fatigante, Joseph M  | Smith, Alexander        |                         |
| Litchfield, Kenneth J       |                      | Smith, Tricia Lynn      |                         |
|                             |                      | SOLECKI, LORENA         |                         |
|                             |                      | Spoto, Emily            |                         |

Published in the Coal City Courant, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025.

## Braceville Elementary School District 75 Annual Statement of Affairs

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
School Business Services  
217-785-8779

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
June 30, 2025

|                                       |   |               |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|---|
| SCHOOL DISTRICT/JOINT AGREEMENT NAME: | Braceville Elementary School District 75    | DISTRICT TYPE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elementary<br><input type="checkbox"/> High School<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Joint Agreement |
| RCOD NUMBER:                          | 24-032-0750-02                              |               |   |
| ADDRESS:                              | 209 N Mitchell St Braceville, IL 60407 9068 |               |   |
| COUNTY:                               |   |               |   |
| NAME OF NEWSPAPER WHERE PUBLISHED:    |   |               |   |

**ASSURANCE**  
The Annual Statement of Affairs has been posted on the district's website and published in accordance with Section 10-17 of the School Code no later than December 1. (Put "X" in blue box if yes.)

Yes

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| SIZE OF DISTRICT IN SQUARE MILES | 8 |
| NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE CENTERS</   |   |

# CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED

Optometric Office Member to join our team. Qualifications: Leadership skills to build a working team; Previous experience in administrative services or other related fields; Ability to prioritize and multi-task; Strong organizational skills; Deadline and detail-oriented; Strong leadership qualities. Quickbooks skills a plus. Our goal is to build from low volume practice to a highly efficient business, increasing profit and employee compensation. Compensation based on CONFIRMED resume and EXPERIENCE. In Joliet across from St. Joseph Hospital. 331-249-7549. cc47-50

## HOME FOR RENT

2 or 3 bedroom home in Gardner, IL for rent or for sale. No pets. \$1,200/month. Call for details after 5pm. 815-302-4406. cc44-47

## LOST & FOUND

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

## REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 205 N. Matteson Street, Elwood, IL 60421 (Residential). On the 4th day of December, 2025 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **SERVIS ONE, INC DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES**, Plaintiff V. **TIFFANY N. CHIMMY; JACOB SAWYER; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**; Defendant. Case No. **23 FC 0838** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the

## SERVICE & REPAIRS

In home care for elderly or children. Call 815-993-6918. cc46-48

**Bubbles Cleaning Service**  
Dawn Boardman  
Business and Home Cleaning Service.  
Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly. Many references available.  
Please leave message 815-661-6180.  
cc41-13

**Julie's Remodeling**  
Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service!  
Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., Call Lee 815-791-5731.

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

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., Nov., 12, 19 & 26, 2025.

## SERVICE & REPAIRS

**Mike Collins Roofing**, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Free roof inspection. Low prices. Lic #104.007296 Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck47-17

## STORAGE

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

**WE ♥ OUR READERS**

## WANTED

**WANTED Volkswagen**  
\* Bug \*  
\* Bus \*  
\* Dune Buggy \*  
**Any Condition. Cash Buyer.**  
**Larry T.**  
815-671-8741

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

## PETS

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

## Part-time Dog Groomer Wanted!

Are you passionate about pets? I'm looking for an experienced groomer to join my team. I have a flexible schedule (grandma and mommy friendly!) and I'm open to negotiating hours and pay. If you're dedicated and easygoing, please contact me ASAP! Let's chat about how we can work together! Braidwood, Call Karen at 815-823-3844.

## Notice of foreclosure filed on 226 Apache Ct Unit C.

### LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION  
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF DISCOVERY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
DANIEL J. VOLZ; DENISE VOLZ; U.S. BANK N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF NRZ RECOVERY TRUST; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; COURT HOMES OF INDIAN OAKS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.  
Case No.: 2025FC001213  
Property Address:  
226 Apache Ct Unit C, Bolingbrook, IL 60440

### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:  
UNIT NUMBER 150, AS DELINEATED ON THE CONDOMINIUM SURVEY OF LOTS IN THE COURT HOMES OF INDIAN OAKS LOTS 1 THROUGH 8, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 9, IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH AND IN RANGE 10 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 22, 1971, AS DOCUMENT NO. R71-22878; AND PART OF LOTS IN THE COURT HOMES OF INDIAN OAKS RESUBDIVISION OF LOTS 9 THROUGH 14 BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER AND OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 9, IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH AND IN RANGE 10 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 6, 1972, AS DOCUMENT NO. R72-15217 AND LOT 27 IN THE TOWNHOMES OF INDIAN OAKS UNIT 5, BEING A SUBDIVISION IN SECTION 9, IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH AND IN RANGE 10 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 22, 1973 AS DOCUMENT R73-8025, WHICH CONDOMINIUM SURVEY IS ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A" TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP MADE BY HOFFMAN ROSNER CORPORATION, RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. R71-31159, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; TOGETHER WITH ITS UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN SAID PARCEL (EXCEPTING FROM SAID PARCEL ALL THE PROPERTY AND SPACE COMPRISING ALL THE UNITS THEREOF AS DEFINED AND SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION AND SURVEY) IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

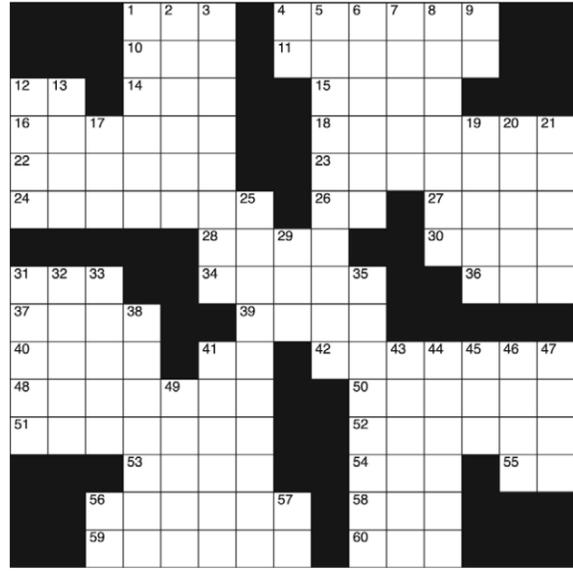
Commonly known as: 226 Apache Ct Unit C, Bolingbrook, IL 60440  
Names of the titleholders of record: Daniel J. Volz; Denise Volz.  
Date of the Mortgage: February 20, 1998.  
Name or names of the mortgagors: Daniel J. Volz; Denise Volz.  
Name of the mortgagee: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.  
Date and place of recording: March 2, 1998; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Will County, Illinois.  
Identification of recording: Document No. R98-020555.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before December 19, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinois-courts.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://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help> 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](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org). For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to [www.illinoislegalaid.org](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org). You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Lender Legal PLLC  
1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250  
Orlando, FL 32810  
Tel: (407) 730-4644  
Service Emails:  
cwinters@lenderlegal.com  
EService@LenderLegal.com  
Daniel J. Volz 16352-4164  
\_s/ Colin Winters, Esq.\_\_\_\_  
Colin Winters, Esq.  
Counsel of Record for Plaintiff  
ARDC # 6297980  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Nov. 19, 26 and Dec. 3, 2025.



## Notice of foreclosure filed on 1495 Misty Ln.

### LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION  
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR NEW CENTURY HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 2004-4, Plaintiff, vs.  
ALFONSO HENDERSON, JR.; ROMONA HENDERSON; THE BLOOMFIELD WEST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.  
Case No.: 2025FC000949  
Property Address: 1495 Misty Ln, Bolingbrook, IL 60490

### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit: LOT 158 IN BLOOMFIELD WEST UNIT 2B, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 18, LYING EAST AND WEST OF THE INDIAN BOUNDARY LINE, TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 10, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED FEBRUARY 25, 2004 AS DOCUMENT NO. R2004-032852, IN THE VILLAGE OF BOLINGBROOK, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.  
Commonly known as: 1495 Misty Ln, Bolingbrook, IL 60490  
Names of the titleholders of record: ALFONSO HENDERSON, JR.; ROMONA HENDERSON. Date of the Mortgage: November 10, 2004. Name or names of the mortgagors: ALFONSO HENDERSON, JR.; ROMONA HENDERSON. Name of the mortgagee: New Century Mortgage Corporation. Date and place of recording: November 22, 2004; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Will County, Illinois.  
Identification of recording: Document No. R2004211778. NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before December 12, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT. E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinois-courts.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://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help> 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](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org). For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to [www.illinoislegalaid.org](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org). You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Lender Legal PLLC  
1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250 Orlando, Florida 32810  
Tel: (407) 730-4644  
Service Emails:  
cstrong@lenderlegal.com  
EService@LenderLegal.com LLS15141-IL- HENDERSON  
\_s/ Chandray Strong, Esq.\_\_\_\_ Chandray Strong, Esq.  
Counsel of Record for Plaintiff  
ARDC # 6321577  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Nov. 12, 19 and 26, 2025.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- CLUES ACROSS
- Popular broadcast network
  - Train line
  - Go quickly
  - Straightforward
  - Canadian province
  - Swiss river
  - It can be straight or curved
  - Edit
  - Utter repeatedly
  - Gotten up
  - Sea vessel
  - Agents of one's demise
  - Not out
  - Something to scratch
  - A round water pot
  - Slang for cylindrical green fruit
  - Promotions
  - Masses of matter
  - Soviet Socialist Republic
  - Nightstand item
  - The content of cognition
  - Arab ruler
  - Northern U.S. state
  - Chewed in small bites
  - Hawaiian island
  - More thin
  - Of one
  - Rigid bracelet or anklet
  - Barbary sheep
  - Not even
  - Atomic #106
  - Haggie
  - Boxing's GOAT
  - Division of a group into opposing factions
  - Vietnamese offensive
- CLUES DOWN
- Horse-drawn carriage
  - Prejudices
  - Peacefully
  - University athletic official
  - Soldiers
  - Large mollusk
  - Take out again
  - Sour or bitter in taste
  - Songwriter Tunstall
  - Husk of wheat
  - Flexible covering in some birds
  - Energy
  - Night monkey genus
  - Small nails
  - Gotten up
  - Sea vessel
  - In a way, changes integrity
  - Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
  - Remember it
  - "Good Will Hunting" lead man
  - Pleasant facial expression
  - Sea vessel
  - Lacking poetic beauty
  - Tall, swift and slender dog
  - Sports personality Michelle
  - Robber
  - Liquefied natural gas
  - Snake-like fish
  - Sediment at bottom of a liquid
  - Crimean seaport
  - Bad grades
  - Popular S. Korean rapper



**Farmers National Company** L-2500578

**88.13± Acres**  
Kankakee County, Illinois  
Essex Township  
For Sale By Bids, bids due Tuesday, December 2, 2025 by 10:00 AM

**18.18± Acres**  
Will County, Illinois  
Jackson Township  
For Sale By Bids, bids due Tuesday, December 9, 2025 by 10:00 AM

For more information on property details, please contact:  
**Ryan Vance, Broker**  
Phone: (217) 372-5612  
RVance@FarmersNational.com Principal Office - Arcola, Illinois

**LIVE ONLINE**

**GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 AT 1:00 PM<sup>CT</sup>**

**125 ACRES± (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) • 1 TRACT**

The Collins Family Trust land is located 4 miles south of Seneca, IL or 12 miles southwest of Morris, IL. It is further described as being located in Section 18, T32N-R6E, Vienna Township, Grundy County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, don't miss this opportunity to purchase a well-located Class A farm that sells with an open lease for the 2026 crop year!

**COLLINS FAMILY TRUST**

Representing Attorney: Joseph H. Cantlin | Cantlin Law Firm  
760 E Etna Rd, Ottawa, IL 61350 | (815) 433-4712  
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

**SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS** (844) 847-2161  
www.SullivanAuctioneers.com License #444000566

**LIVE ONLINE**

**WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 AT 10:00 AM<sup>CT</sup>**

**15.90 SURVEYED ACRES • 1 TRACT**

The Huber land is located 4 miles southeast of Braidwood, IL or 20 miles south of Joliet, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 13, T32N-R9E, Custer Township, Will County, Illinois.

Ideally located and the perfect size for a homeseite or small farming operation.

**LANA HUBER**

Representing Attorney: Jeffrey L. Terry  
Schmiedeskamp Robertson Neu & Mitchell LLP  
525 Jersey Street, Quincy, IL 62301 | (217) 223-3030  
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

**SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS** (844) 847-2161  
www.SullivanAuctioneers.com License #444000566

**LIVE ONLINE**

**GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAND AUCTION**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 AT 1:00 PM<sup>CT</sup>**

**80.942 SURVEYED ACRES • 1 TRACT**

The Johnson farm is located 10 miles west of Morris, IL or 30 miles east of LaSalle-Peru, IL. The land is further described as being located in Section 29, T34N-R6E, Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, Illinois.

Farmers & investors, don't miss this opportunity to purchase a well-located investment grade farm!

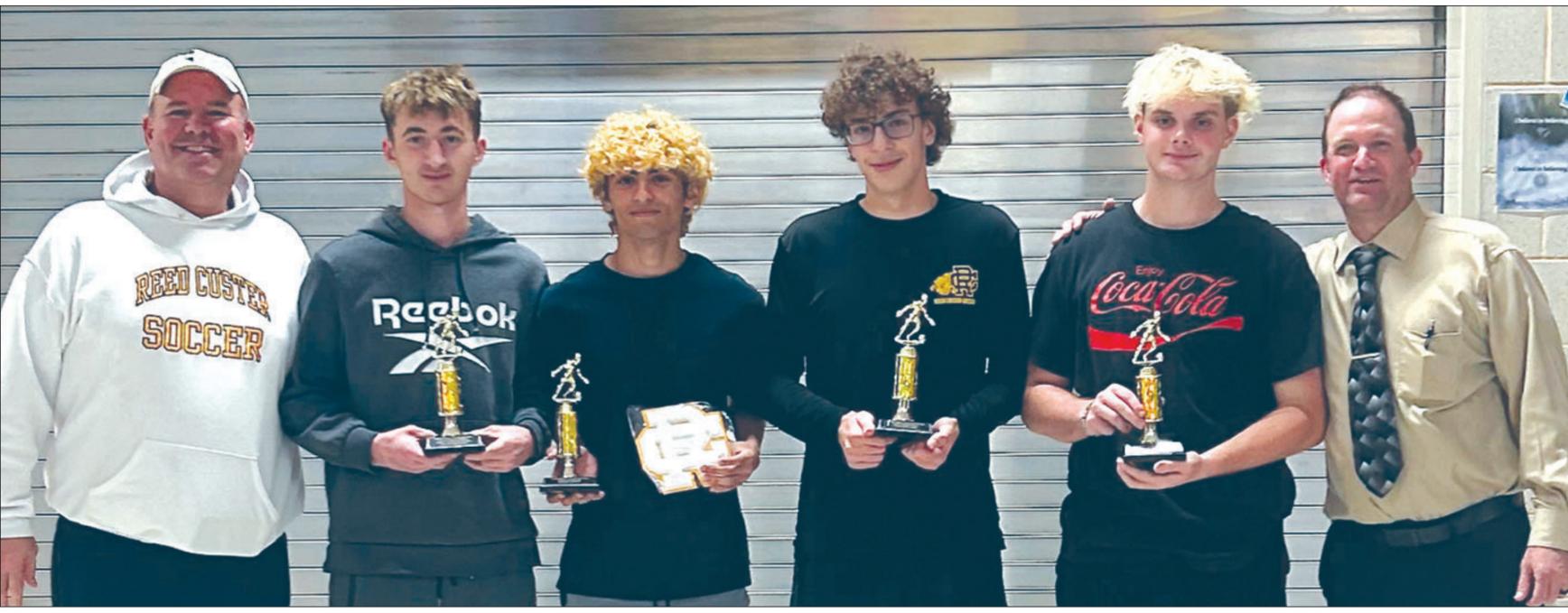
**STEPHEN W. JOHNSON**

Representing Attorney: Richard Burton  
Burton, Fuller & Associates, P.C. | (815) 433-3111  
227 West Madison Street, Ottawa, IL 61350  
Auction Manager: Kevin Haas (309) 264-7767

**SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS** (844) 847-2161  
www.SullivanAuctioneers.com License #444000566

# COMET SPORTS

## Reed-Custer athletes presented with Fall sports awards



REED-CUSTER SOCCER AWARDS for the 2025 season were presented to four outstanding players. Pictured (from left) are assistant coach Jim Randall, Conor Kochanny - recipients of the Juan Carlos Torres Spirit of Soccer Award, Jayden Bustos - Coach's Award, Vinny Bollino - Most Improved Player, Dylan Maschmeyer - Most Valuable Player and head coach Andy Gleixner.

Courtesy photo



VOLLEYBALL AWARDS presented to the Lady Comets for their outstanding contributions during the 2025 season include (from left) Alyssa Wollenzien - Sportsmanship Award and Most Inspirational, Reese Brown - Most Improved and Mackenzie Foote - Most Valuable Player.

Courtesy photo



RCHS GOLF AWARDS for the 2025 season go to (from left) Nathan Trucano - Most Improved, Johnathan Buchanan - Rockstar Rookie and Logan Bean - Most Valuable Golfer (boys). Not pictured: Katie Lantka - Most Valuable Golfer (girls).

Courtesy photo



REED-CUSTER awards for the 2025 football season go to (from left) Jeremie Knutson - Most Valuable Defensive Player, Jesse Tresouthick - Most Valuable Offensive Player, Kris Budick - Most Improved and The Standard and Dominic Alaimo - Most Valuable Lineman.

Courtesy photo



RCHS SIDELINE CHEER awards for the fall season go to (from left) Brooklyn Alaimo - Most Accomplished and Aubrey Harding - Most Valuable. Not pictured: Breanna Flores - Most Spirited.

Courtesy photo

**Geo's PIZZA**

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 40 years!"

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

**COUPON**

**GEO'S DELIGHT**

**One XLG Calzone and a Two Topping Medium Pizza**

(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

**ONLY \$34.99**

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**715 S. Broadway, Coal City**

**815-634-8858**

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Coal City High School Junior Class Presents

The Festival of Trees

**Assumption Catholic Church Berst Center**

**245 S. Kankakee St. Coal City, IL 60416**

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 10 am - 6 pm

Santa 3 pm - 5 pm

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 10 am - 5pm

**FREE Admission**

Local Live Entertainment

Refreshments