

PAGE 2
Comets earn
Director's award

COMET SPORTS
Final sendoff
for volleyball
seniors, parents



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MARK SMITH, (right) Industrial Arts instructor at RCHS, assists students in constructing a cabinet.

Photo by Rose Panieri

RCHS Industrial Arts class makes big impression with other small schools

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

It was a busy Tuesday at Reed-Custer High School and Mark Smith, the school's Industrial Arts teacher, was everywhere at once. Smith reigns over the AutoCad and 3D printer lab, guitar workshop, and woodworking shop. In his world, there is no such thing as a slow day.

His students and coworkers refer to Smith affectionately as "Chief," and it appears he has earned the moniker.

Tuesday was special since Smith was expecting a visit from John Glasgow and Hailey Winkleman of the Association of Illinois

Rural and Small Schools (AIRSS). Nevertheless, he had classes to run, places to be, and people to see.

"Their [AIRSS] goal is to provide rural school districts the opportunity to see exactly how their peers are doing," Smith said.

Since the AIRSS folks are stuck in traffic, Smith takes time from his demanding schedule to show off the school's industrial arts workshops. A private tour of this technological paradise is a rare and wonderful opportunity.

Role of computers in Industrial Arts

The high school's industrial classrooms are top of the line, thanks to

Smith's talent for attracting interest in the school's programs.

He's especially proud of the school's array of 3-D printers.

"There are printers that will print out concrete to build houses or bodily organs," Smith said. "They set up a program, and virtually slice it into layers and print it out."

Meanwhile, students on the other side of the room are learning AutoCad, a computer program used for 2D and 3D drafting, design, and modeling with solids, surfaces, mesh objects, documentation features and more.

"All of our classes touch the computer

because we run a manufacturing curriculum, and everything today is done virtually first before it's actually produced," Smith said. "The first class students have to take 'Introduction to Technology,' and they learn to put their own design on things."

Guitar pickin'

The diamond in the crown jewels of the industrial arts department is the guitar making lab. Smith made a deal with Taylor Guitars of San Diego, CA.

"I saw a video that Taylor Guitar put out and called the place," Smith said. "They asked if I was a teacher, and had me come out and trained me to make a guitar. From there we got the course. We're one of only five schools that have a special relationship with Taylor Guitar, and they send us all of the rough materials to build acoustic guitars."

It's an immensely popular class, and students line up to be a part of it. Some never get the opportunity since there's only so much room. Smith limits his classes to 15 students.

"Right now, we're working on necks [of the guitar]," Smith said. "See that scrap pile over here, these are all of the mistakes. It takes quite a lot of practice to get it just right."

Custom kitchen delivery

The final sector of the industrial arts triad is the woodworking shop, a wonderland of robotic machines that take most of the guesswork out of the

SEE RCHS CLASS PAGE 2

Splash pad, dog park could be installed by spring

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

In addition to the dog park being planned for next spring, it appears Braidwood residents will soon be getting a splash pad.

City administrator Tony Altieri said that in response to the demand from Braidwood residents, he has been exploring the possibility of a splash pad.

Commissioner Dale Walsh questioned whether plans for a splash pad were the result of recommendations from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) at a meeting held last December at Fossil Ridge Library.

Walsh also mentioned that he is aware that a splash pad was an amenity that numerous residents wanted.

"They were talking about ones for \$1 million and up, like the one in Naperville," Altieri said about CMAP recommendations.

The plans for a splash pad in Braidwood will be a tad more modest out of

budgetary necessity. There will likely be five or six different water attractions on the splash pad.

"We're looking to lease from the park district, and the location will be near the planned dog park at Center and Third streets," Altieri said.

At this time, the splash pad is in the planning phase, but there are plans to complete it at approximately the same time as the dog park.

Meanwhile, the city will move forward with the proposed dog park which will consist of two sections for dogs. The park will also include a pavilion offering shade, as well as a parking area.

"The cost of the dog park will be between \$225,000 and \$235,000," Altieri said.

The cost of the splash pad will be approximately \$110,000 for materials and \$50,000 installation.

Altieri said he's searching for match grant sources to assist in funding the projects.

Both the splash pad and dog park are slated for spring of 2025.

Council nixes variances for storage facility

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

At its Tuesday, Nov. 12 meeting, the Braidwood City Council approve a motion to approve an ordinance granting a map amendment to vacant property at the northeast corner of N. Walker and W. Third streets.

The property pin number is 02-24-08-105-023-0000 and it is owned by Thomas Labanowski, who wants to divide the 121 x 303 foot parcel into three lots, and create a "minor subdivision."

The lot has been vacant for at least 85 years.

The council approved the zoning of the property from agricultural to single family residential.

Variances denied

On another planning and zoning matter, the council denied the request for seven variances on the proposed Comet Self Storage planned for the northwest corner of W. Kennedy Road and S. Walnut Street.

On July 9, the council approved a motion granting a special use permit for the property to operate a self-storage facility.

In November, KA Development Holdings, LLC, requested the seven variances. The variances

involve setbacks resulting in the facility being closer to the street and surrounding properties. The variances also for approval to eliminate landscaping along the west and east property lines.

"The seven variances were for lot of setbacks on all sides of the north property line," George Kocak, chairman of Planning and Zoning, said. "There were also landscaping variances."

The plan commission noted that, among other issues, the variances will impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent properties.

The city council denied the request for all seven variances.

Property tax levy

The estimated property tax levy for 2025 is \$2,000,195, which is less than 105 percent of the amount of property taxes actually extended the preceding year.

The 2025 property tax levy is proposed for the final action at the city's Tuesday, Dec. 10 regular city council meeting.

SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 2



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City council,

continued from page 1

Dial-a-Ride update

City administrator Tony Altiery updated the council on the Will County Dial-a-Ride program that became available to residents several months ago.

"We have 400 people who signed up for the program," Altiery said. "Not sure everyone is using the service, but that's a good number."

If you're 60 and older or have a disability, you may be eligible for free or reduced rate transportation throughout Will County. To register call (815) 774-6346 or email colinphillips@willcounty.gov. To schedule transportation, call (800) 244-4410.

Blood drive plans

Mayor Hart asked for assistance from Josh Bolatto (ESDA coordinator) for assistance in planning blood drives.

Bolatto reached out to Versiti Blood Center of Illinois for information.

Versiti is a fusion of donors, scientific curiosity, and precision medicine, and provide science behind the medicine through Versiti's diagnostic laboratories, and is a non-profit 501c3 organization.

"The goal is to hold a drive at least once every six months at city hall," Bolatto said. "We're hoping either in January/February and again in June/July. Once we have the dates set, we'll be pushing out details and registration information on the city's website, Facebook etc. Pre-registration would be encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome."

FOIA requests

City clerk, Sarah Weaver said her office has received nine FOIA requests for 38 separate pieces of information.

Weaver also reminded residents that yard waste collection will stop at the end of November and resume April 1. Meanwhile, yard waste receptacles may be used as an extra trash can.

"There will be another Women's Personal Safety Workshop," Weaver said. "The last one was popular."

The workshop will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 3, in the council chambers, 151 W. Main St. There is more information in the breakout article.

Scarecrow contest winners

City administrator, Tony Altiery, announced the winners of the scarecrow contest. The first place prize of \$100 was presented to Verna Clark, who donated the money to the Braidwood Food Pantry. Kim Earling won the \$75 second place prize, which she donated to the annual Shop with a Cop. Gloria Bergman won the third place prize of \$50.

Bills and payroll

The council approved a motion by commissioner Kim Earling to pay city invoices in the amount of \$215,036.85. A motion to cover payroll in the amount of \$238,360.47, which included Oct. 25, Nov. 8, and police officer stipend.

Commissioner Ron Wilczak reported on police activity from Oct. 21 through Nov. 11. There were 461 total calls with 20 case reports, nine arrests with 13 charges, 194 traffic stops, 42 semi stops, and four parking tickets.

The Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA) devoted a total of 58.8 volunteer man hours in the month of October, bringing the annual average up to 263 hours.

Braidwood to host tree lighting

The City of Braidwood will host its annual tree lighting, across from city hall, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m., followed by the 14th annual lighted parade.

The festivities will end at the fire department with Santas appearance highly anticipated. For more information, please contact Angie Hutton, 815-353-3053.

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

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

Please make checks payable to: Braidwood Police Charity Fund.

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

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

Reed Township gives notice of Republican Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on December 3, 2024, a caucus of the Republican party in the Reed Township, Will County, IL will be held at Main Street Banquet Hall, 173 E. Main St., Braidwood, IL, 60408 commencing at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Reed Township Supervisor, Reed Township Highway Commissioner, Reed Township Clerk, Reed Township Trustees and Reed Township Assessor.
Dated: Nov. 14, 2024.
Thomas Nahas, Clerk
Presiding Officer
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 13 and Nov. 20, 2024.

RCHS class, continued from page 1

creation of woodworking projects. Eight students are busy puzzling together cabinets and shelving, some are special order.

"Here we have a solid maple cabinet for a couple in Naperville," Smith said. "People order custom cabinets and, along with a donation to the program they pay only for materials. Essentially, you get a \$50,000 project for about \$15,000 - all handmade."

A student is having an issue with a project,

"Hey Chief, can you take a look at this board for a second," he says.

And Smith is off to guide the student, patiently providing a solution to the dilemma.

The entire workshop is computerized, making working with saws and other equipment safer. Despite the technology, the sound, and aroma, of wood being sawed fills the air, much as it did 50 years ago.

"Hey Chief, we got a delivery of boards," a student yells, panic edging his voice. "There's a lot more than you expected. We're going to need a forklift."

And Smith is off to perform some problem-solving that would flummox even a super-computer.

Funding the classes

Since 2016, when Smith began his teaching career at RCHS, he has masterminded the Industrial Arts program.

Before becoming a teacher, Smith worked in the marketing industry. His skills and connections were of great import when it came to improving the school's workshops.

"All the equipment here was about 50 years old," he said. Through the school's funding, industry supporters, and through grants, we have replaced nearly every single piece of equipment in the shop," Smith said. "We've had tremendous support from the community, from the

school administration, and from my 70 industry supporters who have donated \$3.5 million."

The workshop is a treasure trove of state-of-the-art equipment. Under minimal guidance from "The Chief," the students piece together boards of lumber that are "magically" transformed into cabinets, shelves, signage, and other useful furniture.

Promoting rural schools

No sooner does Smith complete the unloading and stacking of lumber do the representatives of AIRSS arrive.

Winkleman drove up from "as south as you can go and still be in Illinois," and Glasgow from west Central Illinois, not exactly a hop and a skip, but certainly worth their while. Word of Smith's programs have spread far and wide, and AIRSS was intrigue by Smith's accomplishments.

The duo are in charge of paying visits to all rural and small schools in the state, and that can be a challenge.

"Essentially, AIRSS represents this school district to our state agency - the legislature in the governor's office," Glasgow said. "We're documenting all the amazing CTE work going on in this district so we can promote it and show it off to other schools. Introduce what one school is doing to another school district."

The Rural IL CTE Project is a collaborative effort between the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Western Illinois University Seymour Center of Rural Education to support rural and small school districts to grow and sustain their careers and technical education (CTE) program.

The program is a tool that creates an open line of communication and dialogue to support rural schools in Illinois. Rural schools exist in all

Illinois counties, except Cook County.

"The state of Illinois has 852 public school districts 515 have at least one rural building, and 416 districts are completely rural," Glasgow said. "That doesn't get expressed in state policy. It's a disadvantage to really small districts. Our role is to represent the majority of our school districts in the policy."

The goals of the organization are to advocate for better policy, legislation, and funding to improve all Illinois rural and small schools while preserving the concept of local control, to provide advice, counsel and testimony to governmental agencies, private entities and members of the Illinois General Assembly and to elevate teachers' and students' access to quality education opportunities.

"Last year, through this CTE project, we had the opportunity to survey 240 of the most rural and high school districts in the state," Glasgow said. "One of the things we heard loudest and clearest was districts know there's more they could do with CTE, but they want other case studies from peers on how to do it."

AIRSS is the voice for rural schools like RCHS, schools that may be under-funded in comparison with urban and suburban school districts.

The visit by Glasgow and Winkleman goes far in letting the state board of education know that, like their city and suburban counterparts, rural schools are worthy of recognition and adequate funding. Without AIRSS, state leaders would not be aware that enriching programs like the Industrial Arts class are a unique and innovative component, giving students the opportunity to excel in society.

Meth seized in traffic stop in Grundy Co.

The Illinois State Police (ISP) have arrested two suspects for felony possession of methamphetamine, after a traffic stop in Grundy County.

Tamiko L. Kearney, 39, from Marion, IA, and Jonathan Q. Carter, 35, from Chicago, were in possession of 900 or more grams of methamphetamine which is a Class X Felony.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, at approximately 1:23 p.m., an Illinois State Police trooper conducted a traffic stop on a Chevrolet

Camaro on Interstate 80 westbound in Grundy County.

During the traffic stop, numerous indicators of criminal activity were observed. A subsequent search revealed suspected methamphetamine. The total approximate weight of the methamphetamine located was 1811 grams.

Kearney and Carter were taken into custody and transported to the Grundy County Jail pending a pre-trial release hearing.



CONGRATS TO Collin Monroe (Criminal Justice) and Margaret Dockery (Agriculture), both seniors at Reed-Custer High School, on winning the October GAVC Director Award for their respective programs, one of the highest honors recognized at the Grundy Area Vocational Center is the Director Award. Every month throughout the school year, instructors have the opportunity to recognize one exceptional student. Both first year and second year students are eligible. Criteria for this selection include attendance, citizenship, leadership skills, professional attitude, ability in practicum activities, skills, and classroom assignments and teamwork.

Varsity Panther victory

The Panthers picked up their first win of the season by defeating Dwight, 37-12.

The boys were led by Logan Baumgartner and Corbin Stahl with 8 points each. Caden Atwell and Samuel Crotty added 6 points and Axel Garcia-Diaz contributed 5 points.

Dylan Leonard shut down the middle last night early on and was rewarded with his first bucket of the season. The Panthers will look to add to their win total Friday night.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

The heart of a small town, the post office

Many, like myself, complain about mail delivery. What used to take three days, now takes a week. But time was when there was no delivery at all.



Sandy Vasko

Everyone had to come to the post office to get their mail. The post office was the heart of every small town. Today we look at the local history of the post office.

One of the biggest differences between then and now was the location of the post office. Now, the post office is a separate building owned by the Federal government. Then, the post office was located wherever the post master wanted to put it, and it changed whenever there was a change of postmasters.

Since everyone in town was obliged to come to the post office to get their mail, many postmasters located it in their own store so that there was a steady stream of potential customers. This made the job doubly lucrative.

The job of postmaster was an appointed one, and the appointment came straight from Washington, D.C. Those who wanted the job often had to take a trip there to show themselves to the members of the House and Senate. Other times the local Congressman would push the appointment of a friend or relative. I am also assuming that many times money was exchanged to grease the wheels of government.

Additionally party politics came into play. When the administration changed from Republican to Democrat or visa-versa, it was common practice to appoint postmasters of the right persuasion.

In Braceville George P. Augustine had served faithfully as postmaster since 1870. But on September 4, 1885 we read in the Wilmington Advocate, "Joseph F. Dyer has been appointed Postmaster of Braceville, succeeding George P. Augustine, who has held the office for the past 15 years or more. It is

predicted that the Democratic lightning will very soon strike at the office in Coal City."

In Coal City in November of the same year we read, "Mrs. Margaret Kimman was appointed postmistress of Coal City this week, Mr. W. S. Kreyar, removed for "offensive partisanship."

In December of 1885 we read in the Chicago Times; "William Mooney, of Braidwood, Ill., who arrived in the city last night, is interesting himself in attempting to procure for Thomas Hennebry the postmastership of the town aforesaid. The other candidate for the position is Mrs. Margaret O'Donnell, who, like Mr. Hennebry is well fortified with recommendations."

"Mr. Mooney says the Democrats in Braidwood demand recognition, and it would be bad party policy to bestow the office on the lady, while the active workers request the appointment of Mr. Hennebry. Mr. Mooney will probably lose caste with the lady Democrats in Braidwood in case he persists in antagonizing Mrs. O'Donnell. Postmaster Huston's term of office expires Jan. 20th next, so the suspense will soon be over."

Note that it was not unusual for women to be made Postmasters. Equality in the workplace started in the post office. But in this case party politics won out and Thomas Hennebry was appointed postmaster.

Having said all of that, being postmaster was no small task. In February of 1875 we read, "Upwards of 15,000 valentines passed through the Braidwood post office on Monday last."

Besides mail, the local post office functioned as a bank. Postal money orders were a safe way to send and receive money, and those without a bank account could still use it. You could even get money orders to be paid in foreign currencies, such as the English pound, the German mark, etc. With a large immigrant population, Braidwood did

a thriving business in those.

We read in January of 1883, "During 1882 the receipts of the Braidwood post office were \$4,268.84 (\$141,765 today); 2,650 domestic and 764 foreign money postal orders were issued, amounting to \$43, 924.69 (\$1,458,655); 640 postal orders, amounting to \$9,726.41 (\$323,013), were paid here."

This shows us that much of the payroll of the mines did not stay in town, but was sent out of town to the miners' relatives in

other places.

So how much money did a postmaster make? Well in 1883 in Braidwood we read, "Postmaster Huston's salary was recently increased from \$1,700 (\$56,453) to \$1,800 (\$59,774) per year."

Today e-mail and the internet have taken the place of letters, and money orders are almost a thing of the past. Perhaps the Post Office has no future, but it did indeed have a past.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

Reed Custer CUSD 255U

255 Comet Dr Braidwood, IL 60408 2029

(815) 458-2307

7a - 4p

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Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

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

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	24,116,068	4,436,708	0	1,532,515	884,435	130,806	84,852	274,218	0
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	1,318,291	0	0	348,147	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	1,191,126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		26,525,483	4,436,708	0	1,880,662	884,435	130,806	84,852	274,218	0
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		21,028,783	3,592,926	1,910,200	1,554,424	595,321	0	0	383,685	0
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		(4,910,200)	(4,000,000)	1,910,200	(1,924,000)	0	9,000,000	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023		26,472,090	7,237,786	0	3,965,787	2,549,651	0	397,282	610,819	0
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		27,158,590	4,081,566	0	2,368,025	2,838,765	9,130,806	482,134	501,352	0
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		27,325,395	4,081,566	0	2,368,025	2,838,765	9,130,806	482,134	501,352	0

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

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
4038 ASP 13,860		HOUGHTON MIFFLIN CO	6,020	PROCARE THERAPY	24,205
ACOSTA FENCE CORP	40,880	HUB INTL	45,500	PURE MECHANICAL LLC	11,202
ACTIVE INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES LLC	2,574	IASA	3,647	R & R SEPTIC	8,985
ALPHA BAKING CO., INC.	11,745	IL ASSN OF SCHOOL BOARDS	10,804	REED CUSTER SELF INSURANCE	2,731,648
AMERICAN ASSOC OF SCHOOL CUSTOM SVCS	4,800	IL DEPT OF REVENUE	614,402	RENAISSANCE	4,607
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE	6,151	IMRF	491,426	RESILITE SPORTS PRODUCTS INC	67,805
ARTHUR GALLAGHER RISK MGMT	5,023	IL BONE & JOINT INSTITUTE LLC	42,000	RISK PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS	23,900
AT & T	18,336	IL CENTRAL SCHOOL BUS LLC	4,153	RIVAL5 TECHNOLOGIES CORP	32,304
BAKER TILLY VIRCOW KRAUSE LLP	42,500	IL CENTRAL 8 CONFERENCE	6,000	RIVERSIDE MEDICAL CENTER	2,730
BENNETT & BROSEAU	62,671	IMAGE GROUP PHOTOGRAPHY LLC	4,500	RIVERSIDE TECHNOLOGIES INC	4,798
BLEACHER AMERICA, INC.	74,580	ITR SYSTEMS	2,723	RIVERSIDE WORKFORCE HEALTH	12,092
BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM SVCS	4,190	IXL LEARNING	43,865	SANTANDER BANK N.A.	404,809
BRADLEY PEST CONTROL	3,780	JAKE THE STRIPER	2,775	SAVVAS LEARNING CO	90,365
BRAIDWOOD FIRE	6,000	JAMF SOFTWARE LLC	8,721	SCHOLARBUYS LLC	14,000
BYRNE & JONES CONSTRUCTION	158,768	JULI LAND SURVEYING, INC	3,250	SELF	110,595
CAMELOT THERAPEUTIC SCHOOLS LLC	114,052	JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PROTECTION	22,957	SENERGY ELECTRIC INC	10,188
CAREFREE	2,907	JJC	12,363	SOIL ENGINEERING & TESTING CONSULTANTS LLC	7,325
CIBZ VALUATION GROUP	5,700	JOLIET PUBLIC SCHOOLS	9,341	SOWIC	2,764,798
CITY OF BRAIDWOOD	222,764	KC COMMUNICATIONS	3,421	STAPLES ADVANTAGE	11,365
COAL CITY COMM UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT	1,847	KOHN LAW FIRM SC	5,419	STEPPING STONES GROUP	241,097
COLLEGE BOARD	3,147	LEARN WELL	10,422	STR PARTNERS LLC	153,000
COMMUNITY MATTERS	15,000	LIBERTY FIRE EQUIPMENT INC	5,081	TARPON TOWERS II LLC	7,143
CORNELL INTERVENTIONS, LLC	3,477	LINCOLN FINANCIAL	2,600	TEACHCENTRIC INC.	14,321
DAVIS EQUIPMENT CORP	79,500	LINCOLN REGIONAL SAFE SCHOOL	2,610	TRIS	1,242,684
DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS	486,361	MARTIN WHALEN OFFICE SOLUTIONS	27,382	TEMPLETON FUNDS DISTRIBUTOR	7,800
EDLIO	5,387	MAXSCHOLAR	11,470	TENNANT	3,222
EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS	37,471	MCGRAW HILL LLC	3,736	TERRY'S FORD	52,271
EMPOWER HEALTH SVCS	8,910	MECHANICAL PLUMBING & HEATING INC	62,152	TESTA PRODUCE	44,180
EMS LINQ INC	4,944	MIDWEST TRANSIT EQUIPMENT	31,596	TRAFERA LLC	114,881
EQUITABLE	46,350	MONROE TRUCK EQUIPMENT	2,550	TRS-NOYA SSP	9,620
ESIC	244,660	MOSS ENTERPRISES	19,000	URBAN COMMUNICATIONS INC	30,000
FAIRCOM	5,000	MUFFLER CONCRETE INC	13,995	US BANK EQUIPMENT FINANCE	10,985
FATLAN TRUCKING	25,750	NEW YORK LIFE	47,282	VALIC	22,440
FILTER SERVICES INC	10,081	NEWSLEA, INC.	17,823	VANGUARD ENERGY SERVICES	55,762
FIRST INVESTORS CORP	17,850	NICOR GAS	28,417	VANGUARD FIDUCIARY TRUST CO	79,810
FRONTLINE TECHNOLOGIES	2,782	NICOR GAS	4,907	VIRTEK	23,675
GEICO DATA INTELLIGENCE CORP	3,588	OPENHEIMER FUNDS	22,225	WALSWORTH PUBLISHING CO	13,000
GORDON FOOD SERVICE	208,491	PACIFIC LIFE INS CO	5,325	WHITT LAW	7,260
GRAINCO FS, INC	145,299	PLAYMOR SPORTS	3,000	WILCO	165,295
GREATLAKES COCA-COLA DIST	30,870	PLAYWORKS EDUCATION ENERGIZED	13,200	WILL CO TREASURER	17,545
GREAT MINDS	96,916	POWERSHOO GROUP LLC	52,946	WILMINGTON CUSD 209U	7,879
HARRIS SCHOOL SOLUTIONS	10,735	PRAIRIE FARMS	35,171	XEROX FINANCIAL SVCS	23,942
HEARTLAND BUSINESS SYSTEMS	349,027	PRECISION CONTROL SYSTEM INC	389,043		

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000		Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	
ALLEN, JAXON R		ALTIERY, LAUREN M.	
ALSBURY, AIMEE		ANDERSON, CHRISSEY A.	
ANDERSON, CHARLES H.		BARNETT, KATY R.	
BAGLEY, JACOB D		BIEDA, ELLEN M.	
BANACH, AMBER L.		COLLINS, HEATHER E.	
BEALLIS, HEIDI M.		COMPTON, JENNIFER L.	
BEAN, LOGAN J		CRATER, JENNIFER M.	
BECKER, BONNIE G.		CRONIN, COLLEEN M.	
BECHER, BRAEDAN L		DAGALE, DANICA A	
BEXSON, BENJAMIN E.		DAGALE, DOMINIQUE A	
BOLLINO, COURTNEY L.		DURAN, LILIVETTE	
BOLT, JEAN M.		GOAD, ANTHONY A	
BOYER, ALYSSA L		HENDERSON, KATIE L.	
BRAGG, KRISTI L.		HEN, JILL L.	
BRODINSKI, JOSEPH J.		JONES, CAREY A.	
BROZMAN, KATHIE J		LAGRANGE, TESSA L	
BUTLER, SPENCER S		LECKRON, MICHAEL E	
CARLO, NICOLE R.		LYNN, JARED L	
CARR, OLLIE E.		MARKU, FATBARDHA	
CARR, SHERYL A.		MASTERS, SHANNON R	
CARRASCO SANDOVAL, ANCELMO E.		MATHENY, KACI L	
CHAPIN, CAROLE J.		MORRIS, KERRY J.	
CLARK, VERNIA M		MORRISSEY, MELISSA A.	
CLARK, WILLIAM M		MURAWSKI, JAYDEN D.	
CLAVENNA, MEREDITH K.		OTHON, TINA M.	
COLOMBO, JANICE A.		PERVEILER, NICOLE L.	
COYLE, ASHLEY L.		PIERCE, KALTRINA	
CRABTREE, LISA M.		PRANER, NICOLE L	
CRISP, MICAH A.		SANDENO, JANET M	
DECKER, STEPHAN P		SHATS, JOHN V	
DICKEN, LILLIAN C		STELLANO, JUSTIN D	
DINELLI, JENNY M.		WILSON, KELLY R.	
DOCKEMEYER, KEVIN J.		YOAKUM, JESSICA I.	
DUBBERT, ALISON F.		Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	
DUBBERT, ALISON F.		ADAMS, PAULA M.	
DUBBERT, JAINA C		BELCHER, LISA A.	
DUBBERT, MICAH G		BENNETT, TERRY N.	
DUBROVICH, AIDAN J		BLANCHETTE, FAITH M.	
ELLIS, NOEL D.		BRODINSKI, ANDREA D.	
ELSNER, DEELAINE A.		CHRISTMAN, AMANDA S.	
EWERT, ROBERT C.		DAGALE, DOMINADOR L.	
FAUROT, KAITLYN R		FREDRICK, MICHAEL C.	
FRAUSTO, LOGAN E		HAARS, DIANA L.	
FRENCL, KARA D		HEADRICK, MICHELLE M.	
GARZA, LAUREN N		HOLLAND, LISA L.	
GASTELUM, VICTOR G		HOLST, GLENDA J.	
GERSCH, JENNIFER L.		KERR, HEATHER L.	
GNUTEK, ANTHONY J.		MARCHI, SUSAN E.	
HAMILTON, DELEE B.		MOTOT, AARON A.	
HAMILTON, RACHAEL L		PAYTON, MICHELE M.	
HELSING, JEREMY		PICKARD, KELSI N.	
HIGHBAUGH, APRIL L.		PROBUS, JAMES C	
HILL, CHARLOTTE R		STAHL, CASSIE C.	
HILLMAN, FRANCHINE		WINDSOR, NICOLE H.	
HOGAN, MELINDA A.		Salary Range: \$60,000 and Over	
HOUGHIN, KIRK A.		BENOIT, KAREN S.	
JERBI, DANIEL J.		CAREY, MARY K.	
JOHNSON, BENJAMIN		DUBBERT, DUANE L.	
JOHNSON, KIMBERLY A.		HEADRICK, WADE W.	
JOHNSTON, JANET M.		KELADITIS, LUCIANA	
JURICIC, MEDEA R.		LEVEILLE, JOANNE M.	
KEENAN, KATELYN N		NEWSON, DAVID R.	
KIMMEL, JEREMIAH D.		RICKEN, WILLIAM H.	
KOSLOWSKI, CHERYL A.		SCHOTT, STACY L.	
KUEHNI, DIANA L.		TRIPP, DAVID A.	
KUNTZ, JESSICA A.		VORIS, JOHN B.	
KUNZ, PEGGY C		WALSH, JUSTIN J.	
LEDLOW, TERESA L		WHITE, COURTNEY M.	
LEMBKE, MICHELLE M.		WILKEY, DANA L.	
LEPPER, KEITH A			
LESTINA, VALERIE J.			
LYONS, TODD W.			
MARMA, DANIELLE J			
MASULIS, NANCY L.			
MCGAREY, SUE			
MCLAUGHLIN, KERRY J.			
MOORE, PEGGY L			
MOTA, ALYSSA R			
MUELLER, DALLAS W			
MUELLER, PAIGE N.			
NORRIS, KATHY E.			
OGORMAN, ERICA S			
ORTIZ, MARIA			
PACHOLSKI, MICHELE L.			
PAYNE, KELLY L.			
PESCITANI, RACHEL N.			
PETERS, KAYLA G			
PHELAN, TARA L			
PORTER, MARK A.			
POWERS, PATRICIA E			
RANDALL, TRISTAN J			
RANDALL, ZACHARY J			
REESE, NICOLE M.			
REGIS, KATE			
REINBACHER, JAMES A.			
REITER, BETH			
RICKEN, MARYANN			
RIEKE, JENNIFER A.			
RITZE, JAMES W.			
ROBINSON, DAWN M.			
ROCK, TYLER N			
ROSINSKI, MICHAEL A			
SANCHEZ, ANTHONY P			

Braidwood to host tree lighting

The City of Braidwood will host its annual tree lighting, across from city hall, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m., followed by the 14th annual lighted parade.

The festivities will end at the fire department with Santas appearance highly anticipated. For more information, please contact Angie Hutton, 815-353-3053.

Custer Park Lighting of the Trees

The 12th annual Lighting of the Trees will be on Friday, Nov. 22, at 5:45 p.m., at the Custer Park Town Hall.

The Reed-Custer Madrigal singers and Madrigal instrument ensembles will perform Christmas music. Santa will be making an appearance around 6:45. Hot dogs & hot chocolate will be provided.

The event is free to the public.

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs

Friday, Nov. 22-LIHEAP, 1-3 p.m. This program provides financial aid to households with low incomes to help them meet their energy needs.

Monday, Nov. Fiction Addiction Book Club, 5:30-6:30 p.m. The book club meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 5:30 p.m. to discuss a book selected by one of the members. This group discusses a wide variety of books. Copies of the monthly book selections are available at the front desk for checkout. All readers are welcome to join.

Children Programs

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

Saturday, Nov. 23-Brookfield Zoo Holiday Magic Bus Trip, 1 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Join us on a bus

trip to explore Chicagoland's longest-running lights festival, featuring over two million twinkling LED lights. Apart from the dazzling lights, various activities and entertainment will complete your Holiday Magic experience. We will arrive early at Holiday Magic to admire the incredible animals and stay for the breathtaking lights! Registration is mandatory. To fully register for this trip, a completed waiver and a payment of \$10 per person are required.

Monday, Nov. 25-Kids Can Cook, 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. November Kids Can Cook-Thanksgiving Feast

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Last minute ideas

BRAIDWOOD—After reading last week's soundoff "Too late" I felt empowered and not afraid to make my comments as many have felt over the last five years. You can see the stress by an individual with the upcoming election in April. This same individual has a lot to lose in April 2025. I agree with the individual who did the "too late" soundoff. This same individual has been in position five years and seven months and now we're pushing to get things done especially using others' ideas who are no longer with the city because of this same individual. The recent idea I heard was the administrator is now pushing for a splash Pad. When this idea was brought up before his comment was it's too expensive and the city can't afford it. But now we have the money, moving money from where? Using the banned COVID money all municipalities received?

Election info missing

BRAIDWOOD—After talking with people that had picked up petition packets in city hall, there are questions on how the packets were put together by the city clerk. There was no mention on when packets were available to circulate, how many signatures were needed, where to pick up petition packets, what positions were up for election and terms, filing dates of petitions and where to file and no information of who to contact with questions. "The city clerk is the Local Election Official. Was the 2025 Local Election Guide looked at, doesn't see to be? There should have been a cover sheet with all this information along with websites and phone numbers for the State Board of elections and Will County Elections. There is a Candidates Guide on the State Board of Elections website that people could get answers to their questions. Might be time to print the local Elections Guide.

Be careful

BRAIDWOOD—To one of Braidwood's mayoral prospectives, be careful who you allow to help you with your campaign. You'd hate to have a vocal supporter who is known to push people in the opposite direction because of their self-entitled, opinionated, foot stomping, temper tantrum, wagon circling rhetoric. You'd hate to lose the election because one of your biggest supporters gives the rest of the residents a migraine from their constant whining and complaining.

Monkey Power

WILMINGTON—Only two weeks have passed with Trump as president-elect and already his dictatorship is forming. Matt Gaetz is the adolescent playboy Trump has chosen for Attorney General indicating Trump has no intention of appointing a qualified person to a position with any significant power. Gaetz will carry water for Trump, obey Trump's every command and basically serve as Trump's pet monkey. In essence, Trump would be in charge of the office of Attorney General, not Gaetz. The American people were warned about Trump's insatiable lust for power over and over again but nevertheless voters marched to the polls like lemmings to the sea. What were they thinking as they were voting? Exit polls indicate they were hoping their wallets would grow big and fat. But weren't they listening to Trump's

right-hand man, Elon Musk, who warned voters that they can expect economic hardships unless they belong to the super-rich? Yes, if Elon Musk has anything to do with the way Trump runs things, everyday people will be counting their pennies just the way Musk demands of his workers. On the other hand, Harris would have solidified the middle class which Trump ignores. But it's too late now. Come on now, did you really believe Trump would be honest with you? Irene

Thoughtful and sweet

GARDNER—Thought we could all use something uplifting during this time of disgrace in our country. So, I would like to thank the Coal City Early Learning Center, Grade School, Intermediate School, the Gardner Grade School, the CCD classes from Sacred Heart Church in Kinsman, and S. Lawrence Church in Wilmington for all the beautiful handmade cards for the Veterans in the area for Veteran's Day this year. We've been doing this project now for six years at Sacred Heart Church and we're still going strong. Our parishioners sign cards and the kids make cute handmade ones. We had cards for the Veteran's home in LaSalle and Manteno, the assisted living/nursing homes in Morris and the two in Dwight. We gave cards to the Coal City library for their celebration on Veteran's Day and to the high school for their Veteran's breakfast. We also had cards for the Legion Hall in Gardner and the VFW in Dwight. My grandkids and I went to LaSalle, hand delivered some cards and dropped off donations from our parishioners. We also stopped by the VFW and the Legion Hall to drop off some cards on our way back. The Veterans really enjoy seeing the kids and love the cards. We had over 400 kids' cards along with regular ones. I read every handmade card. They were so thoughtful and sweet. The kids really get it. We've already started our Christmas Card Project and we'll give cards to both Veterans homes along with all the residents of the Morris and Dwight homes. We'll also give cards to all of the VFW's and Legion Halls we can. Final note - these Veterans are not suckers and losers. They are our finest and we thank them for their service. God bless our service members and may God help us through these next four years. Donna Gabehart

It's havoc here

BRAIDWOOD—As we witness the ugly behavior of Trump and Republicans in general these days, we turn away in disgust. This is worse than the political free-for-all during Trump's first term. And wait until Project 2025 kicks in which will deal a further devastating blow to our country. Citizen behavior will be dictated by the regulations in the 922-page rule book which are appropriate for a totalitarian state rather than a democracy. Remember Big Brother? Family structures and behaviors will be outlined such that, if implemented, would send us back 70 years or so into the 1950s. Yes, things were simpler in the 1950s and Republicans think they can control us that way while Trump and his kleptocracy go about plundering, grifting and hoisting the national debt beyond the record level Trump incurred upon the people last time. Historians tell us that chaos is what dictators use to dominate the population. This is what Trump wanted for sure but is it what voters wanted?



West River Road

WILMINGTON—As a person that travels this road every day, and sometimes multiple times a day, it is heartening to see Wilmo PD running radar there. However, they are out there at exactly the wrong time. Weekdays between 5 and 6 a.m. it is like the Indy 500 out there with speeds of at least 75 mph in a 45 mph zone. Have never seen the PD out there at that time, never. The Gemini Giant would be paid for in no time with little effort there by the PD.

Grateful Veteran

COAL CITY—Thank you to the staff and students of the Coal City High School for hosting the veterans breakfast on Nov. 8. The choir and band did a great job playing the service songs. The food was delicious and the service was outstanding. A Grateful Army Veteran

Not his people

Our governor was on the news and he said that President Trump had better not try to take away any constitutional rights of his people, that the president would have to go through him. The only thing wrong with his statement is that the we are not his people. He works for all Americans and not one person in the state of Illinois is owned by our Governor. We are not his slaves. Our governor owes an apology for thinking when he was voted into office that he owned the citizens of Illinois. The governor's job is to protect the lives of all, not to protect any criminal activity and personally I believe our governor enjoys watching all the crime in Illinois which violates his oath of office.

Whining Democrats

COAL CITY—The Democrats have lost the election and now they are crying, whining and pouting because they lost their power. So now they are going to try to prevent every part of President Trump's agenda. But didn't the Democrats state that they believe in aiding everyone and the rule of law? But how soon they forgot about the people committing crimes and how they gave more aid to migrants than the its citizens. But Democrats believe they can give away tax refunds any way they want or impose laws against all to prevent them from having a decent life. Democrats talk with a split tongue and

there was a song that fits the Democratic agenda which is Two Faces Have I, by Lou Christie.

Own zip code

CARBON HILL—Diamond should get their own post office and zip code. They aren't even in Coal City. Carbon Hill doesn't have their own.

Peace will return

Irene wrote that Donald Trump gave Valimir Putin from the Soviet Union the OK to slit the throats of the Ukrainian people. Well Irene, you obviously watch too much MSNBC and CNN because there were no wars in the Ukraine when Donald Trump was president. The Middle East was relatively peaceful. He was the architect of the Abraham accord that brought peace to the Middle East. And then other people speak out and say there will be no checks and balances. How about the Inflation Reduction Act? It did nothing but build something for Democratic donors for Green Agenda Projects. How about the two car chargers that cost over \$300 million each? They had \$600 million and only got two of them. I love reading the sound-off column but I'm just surprised there are so many stupid people in Coal City and the surrounding area. Tom

Tax will continue

MORRIS—I said months ago the Governor Pritzker announced he was eliminating the 1 percent state wide grocery tax that the towns are going to put it right back on which they are doing right now. How stupid does he think he is? Pritzker wants all the illegal immigrants in here. Dick Durbin isn't any better. When is Coal City and Morris going to put that 1 percent grocery tax back on? They'll do this because they need the money but then they give out these 4, 5 or 6 percent pay raises every year to the city and county and employees and teachers make a fortune as it is including the administrators.

Put Kamala in now

WILMINGTON—I think Kamala should step down and let Biden be the 47th president for two months so she can use her newfound immunity powers to send Trump to Guantanamo. Everything is fixed.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR ELWOOD CCSD 203

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Elwood CCSD 203, for 2024 will be held on December 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the IMC of Elwood School at 409 North Chicago Avenue, Elwood, IL.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Tim Page, Superintendent of Elwood CCSD 203, at the Unit Office at 409 N. Chicago Avenue, Elwood, Illinois, 60421, telephone (815) 423-5588.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2023 were \$8,845,194.95.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$9,596,000. This represents an 8.5% increase over the previous year.
- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$0. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$0. This represents a 0% decrease over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended for 2023 were \$8,845,194.95.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$9,596,000. This represents an 8.5% increase over the previous year.

Jennifer Wedic, Secretary Board of Education
Elwood CCSD 203, Will County, Illinois

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 **2024** on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Coal City High School Learning Resource Center located at 655 West Division Street, 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 **2023** were **\$27,785,667.00**
- The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for **2024** are **\$34,249,023.00**. This represents a **22.9517%** increase over the previous year.
- The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for **2023** were **\$3,770,067.00**.
- The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for **2024** are **\$3,734,728.00**. This represents a **0.93736%** decrease over the previous year.
- The total property taxes extended or abated for **2023** were **\$31,625,734.00**.
- The estimated total property taxes to be levied for **2024** are **\$37,983,751.00**. This represents a **20.1039%** increase over the previous year.

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR WILMINGTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 209-U

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209-U for 2024 will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:15 P.M. at the Wilmington High School, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois 60481.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Kevin Feeney, Superintendent of Schools, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois 60481. Phone: 815-926-1751.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$9,513,003.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$11,891,254. This represents a 25.00% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$2,448,058.25.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$2,449,700.00. This represents a .067% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$11,961,061. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$14,340,954. This represents a 19.90% increase over the previous year.

Illinois lawmakers trying to figure out what they should do next with Trump presidency looming

Just about nothing happened in the first week of veto session in the Illinois House and the Senate.

The Democratic legislative leaders are still trying to figure out what their members want to do in the wake of Republican President-Elect Donald Trump's victory and whether that can be done. Whether that action starts in the second and final week of veto session, or in the lame duck January session or in the regular spring session is still up in the air as I write this.

"We're going to have to do something," House Speaker Chris Welch told me, but he couldn't say what that "something" was just yet.

"I think it's important that we let the conversations happen. Those conversations have to happen so that we come to alignment on that."

Asked about Trump's economic message of consistently railing against inflation and promising no



Rich Miller

income taxes on overtime, tips and Social Security, Welch said, "I think the economic message and what we've been through in this country was very important, and we're going to have to listen and acknowledge that."

"And as Democrats in Illinois, I think we've already done a good job of doing that, but we're going to have to continue to listen to the voters when it comes to that economic message. Listen, Trump won, and he won in a resounding way. We have to acknowledge that, and we have to be responsible."

Welch continued: "If we don't listen to voters here and make the necessary changes, particularly on the national level, quite frankly, I think nationally, they can do a lot more of what we've done here in Illinois. If we don't listen to the voters, we're not going to reverse what happened here on Tuesday."

When asked about the

projected massive budget deficit, the House Speaker said, "The Governor and I need to sit down and have some serious conversations about how we're going to approach next year's \$3.1 billion budget deficit and come to an agreement. I think it's important that we be in alignment and walk in the same direction on that, and we're prepared to do that."

Speaker Welch recently hired a new appropriations staff director. While praising the outgoing director, Welch said his new director Madeline McCune – a former House staffer who left to run the legislative shop for the Illinois Association of School Administrators – is drawing kudos from far and wide.

The House Democrats haven't been able to draft a budget during the past two sessions.

"I think she's going to take us to another level," Welch said of McCune. "There's a history there with the Senate team. There's a history with the Governor's team. And one of the things that we're going to have to do going into a very difficult budget year, we've got to work together. We have to all be clicking on the same page

and on all cylinders, and with Madeline there, we're not going to just not miss a beat, we're going to elevate our game."

Speaking of staff, Welch also acknowledged that he's telling his members to expect some significant changes in his operations during the coming year. "I have to acknowledge that we have to do things a little bit different," Welch said.

The House Democrats have had serious staffing shortages, under-qualified staff and major staff turnover problems. One of the reasons is a decades-old handshake agreement that the party caucus dollars are divided equally in both chambers, with the Senate getting more overall because their districts are twice as large as the House districts.

So, even though Welch has 78 members, his caucus is appropriated the same amount as the House Republicans, who have 40 members. And it receives less than the Senate Democrats, who have 40 members, and less than the Senate Republicans, who have a mere 19 members.

"We have to address that," Welch said. "And I'm gonna fight like hell to address that, because that's the way that I can address a number of my staffing issues."

"Where's the fairness and equity in that?" Welch rhetorically asked about the disparities. "And so, do know, as the leader of this chamber, that's one of the things that I'm laser-focused on. And the voters have spoken. They've elected 78 Democrats twice now, possibly more, and we're going to fight to make sure we have the proper resources to address the staff and the concerns."

Welch also promised to make further "necessary tweaks to elevate our game," in the coming spring session.

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

Chili and 100 turkeys

Fundraising supper going to make a lot of people happy

The Gardner Fire Department will hold its biggest fundraiser of the year on Friday, Nov. 22 that could have you extra thankful for the Thanksgiving Day feast.

Buy a raffle ticket, eat a bowl (or two) of chili, and you could head home a winner of a turkey.

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

Last year, with the help of Berkot's Super Foods, the fire district was able to introduce the turkey raffle. The response was great so the fundraiser was brought back for a second time.

The chili supper will be held at the Gardner American Legion Hall, 426 Industry Dr, with doors opening at 4 p.m. There will lots of raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for a portable generator, gun raffle and more.

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

The most important

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

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

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

Gas rising nationally, falls locally

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 3.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.19/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 21.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 27.8 cents per gallon

lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 0.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.516 per gallon.

Mohsen in Wilmington has fallen to \$2.99/g while Circle K is holding out for \$3.12.

In Braidwood, expect to pay \$3.04/g at Casey's, and up to \$3.23/g at Marathon.

Coal City Shell will run you \$3.04/g, and BP is \$3.07/g.

Morris offers gas for \$2.93/g at Casey's, but it's a relatively high \$3.24/g at Amoco.

Meanwhile, Bourbonnais gas has fallen below \$3/g at most or all stations. Gulf is charging \$2.82/g and Circle K has gas for \$2.88/g.

"Several states saw gas prices jump or 'cycle' last week, a behavior in which gas prices climb significantly after falling below a station's replacement price. This led the national average to see little meaningful change from last week, with many states experiencing a slow decline," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"However, the good news is that those states that saw large jumps last week will likely see some of the biggest declines at the pump this week."

The lowest price in the state was \$2.68/g while the highest was \$4.59/g, a difference of \$1.91/g.

Wilmington Public Library to host Holiday bus trip

The Wilmington Public Library District invites adult patrons on a festive holiday bus trip on December 5, celebrating a nostalgic Christmas on State Street.

Participants will visit the historic Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet for a day of guided tours, lunch and a special presentation by historian Dr. Leslie Goddard, who will share stories of Chicago's iconic holiday displays.

The trip is \$40 per person, payable upon registration. Patrons should arrive

at the library no later than 9:45 a.m., as the bus will depart promptly at 10 a.m.

- 10:30 a.m.: Tour of Jacob Henry Mansion
- 11:30 a.m.: Traditional pot roast lunch
- 1 p.m.: Christmas on State Street presentation by Dr. Leslie Goddard
- 2 p.m.: Tour of Old Central Church
- 2:30 p.m.: Departure back to Wilmington

Seats are limited. To reserve your spot, call the Wilmington Public Library District at 815-476-2834.

Chamber seeks entries for Christmas parade

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce will host a lighted Christmas parade Saturday, Nov. 30. The parade will start at 5 p.m. at Wilmington Middle School and travel on Ryan to Water Street to the post office. Community groups and local businesses are invited to enter for free. This year's theme is "A Charlie Brown Christmas". We kindly ask that no entries feature no live Santa Claus as the Chamber has already received confirmation from the North Pole that Santa will be attendance.

Deadline to sign up by Saturday, Nov. 22. Information will be sent to parade entries including map with the lineup. For additional information contact Marty Orr at wilmingtongchamberparade@gmail.com. Line up at 4 p.m.

Organization/business: _____

Contact person: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

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

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

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

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

PEOPLE WHO READ NEWSPAPERS ARE

STUDENTS WITH BETTER GRADES

It all starts with newspapers

Pet adoption fees for veterans, active service members waived

Will County Animal Protection Services (WCAPS) is waiving all dog and cat adoption fees for veterans and active duty service members during November as part of their "Pets for Vets" promotion event.

"This November we are showing our gratitude for those who have served our country by making it easier than ever to adopt a new family pet," said WCAPS Administrator Anna Payton.

"I welcome any active duty servicemember or veteran to make an appointment to meet any of our very adoptable dogs and cats."

Adoptable pets can be viewed in advance on the WCAPS Petfinder website -



Courtesy photo
DAMON THE DOG is up for adoption at WCAPS, you can find more information at IL1035.petfinder.com.



CINNAMON THE CAT is up for adoption at WCAPS, you can find more information at IL1035.petfinder.com.



Courtesy photo
KITKAT THE CAT is up for adoption at the Will County Animal Protection Service.



Courtesy photo
ADOPTABLE DOGS and cats from Will County Animal Protection Services, including Cinnamon, Damon, Wilma, and KitKat. Adoption fees have been waived in November as part of a "Pets for Vets" promotion event.

Providing a light for our children

The chaotic world we live in can often have parents scratching their heads about the best way to raise their children. Now, more people are turning to a concept called lighthouse parenting.

According to experts, lighthouse parenting combines important traits such as nurturing, loving and protecting while giving their children space to grow and learn on their own.

“[It’s like] a regular lighthouse that guides the ships from one place to another,” says Victor Mendoza, a behavioral health provider for OSF HealthCare. “That’s how it is with parenting. Just being there for your child and helping them get through difficult times. Sometimes [parents can] step in when they need to, and sometimes they let them try things out.”

The lighthouse parenting concept has been talked about for nearly a decade. It was coined by pediatrician Kenneth Ginsburg, MD, who literally wrote the book on the topic. But it has come to the surface again recently as a concept Dr. Ginsburg has described in interviews as “a return to common sense and what we know works.”

Mendoza says lighthouse parenting falls somewhere between two other styles — helicopter parenting and free-range parenting. A helicopter parent tends to hover, may be over-involved and is always evaluating risk that can prevent children from developing a certain skill. Free-range parents believe giving freedom promotes independence and self-confident children. For example, a helicopter parent might stand with their child on the tee-ball field, helping him or her get to the ball or run to the right base. A lighthouse parent might give their child some guidance before the game and watch the action from the sidelines.

"With lighthouse parenting, it allows your children a little bit of freedom," says Mendoza. "Obviously, you don't want to completely leave them in the dark and have them figure things out by themselves and not provide any sort of support. But just knowing when you have to step in and when you have to step back."

Mendoza says the biggest benefits of

lighthouse parenting include encouraging healthy boundaries, developing coping skills and creating a supportive relationship between parent and child.

And it's OK for your children to fall short of expectations from time to time.

"Letting them fail. Letting them learn from their mistakes. And allowing them to see if they can figure it out on their own," Mendoza says. "Having that dance with them in a way that we're going to move a little and we're going to step in a little bit. Sometimes we're going to move back a little bit. Just follow your gut."

Mendoza stresses that lighthouse parenting may not work for all parents and children. He says it's important to consider the child's age, needs, temperament and development. Lighthouse parenting is going to look different for younger children than school-aged kids or teens.

"Lighthouse parenting is not like this strict set of rules that you have to follow," Mendoza says. "It's like a guideline that you can incorporate into your parenting to help you be a more active parent or a more lighthouse parent and be there for your child."

Mendoza says the lighthouse parenting concept works in his practice. Some parents, he says, are willing to try a new style because of the way they grew up – in a home that lacked a good support system or parental involvement.

He adds children should understand that while they are loved, there are rules and boundaries for their behavior and actions.

Mendoza preaches patience when it comes to introducing a new parenting style. "It takes some time to practice and get used to it. So just be patient with yourself as a parent," he says. "Don't beat yourself up if you didn't get it right, or you felt like you didn't do a good job. That's what lighthouse parenting teaches you – learning from our mistakes and allowing yourself to engage in that lighthouse parenting and do it as best as you can."

For more information regarding behavioral or mental health support, visit the OSF HealthCare website.

Will Co. residents receive over \$2.7 million in federal assistance

WILL COUNTY - Will County residents who experienced damages or losses from the July 13-16 severe weather have received \$2,792,102 in assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual Assistance Program since a disaster was declared for the county in September.

This milestone comes as the application window for assistance from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) ends Dec. 13.

"This federal funding has helped hundreds of Will County residents recover financially from this severe weather event," said Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant. "I appreciate the efforts of our federal and state partners in supporting long-term recovery after these storms."

Federal assistance became available on September 20 after a Major Disaster Declaration was issued for Will County. Since the declaration, 2,500 applications for assistance have been filed for costs incurred during the July storms, including home repairs, temporary housing, property damage, and emergency purchases.

"With 2,500 registrations for federal assistance having occurred in Will County, this funding represents a crucial step in helping our residents recover and rebuild after the severe

Hike the heron rookery

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is offering a Take It Outside Hike—Winter Walk from 2-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Preserve, Plainfield.

Challenge participants are invited to join a hike to connect with fellow Goosechasers while collecting points, tips and tricks.

The hike will be no more than 3 miles. The challenge's Fall Frolic runs through Dec. 14. Register for the hike by Dec. 7 under the event calendar at ReconnectWithNature.org.

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TURKEY TROT
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Iron Bridge Trail - Midewin
2 miles North of Welcome Center

Sunday, November 24th
Check-in: 8am-9:45am
Race: 10am

*T-shirt included in entry fee!

*For every adult fee, choice to add
on a youth (13 and under) for \$20.

Register today at www.islandparkdistrict.com or www.runsignup.com

OBITUARIES

Ruth Ann Cooper

MCKINNEY, TX— Ruth Ann Cooper (Haaser), 94, of McKinney, TX peacefully passed on Nov. 13, 2024. Beloved wife of Hugh E Cooper for 68 years and survived by her children: Linda Weaver (Jeff), Pam Brunk (Jamie), Tina Nelson (Steve), Brian Cooper (Annie), Randy Cooper (Lisa); 12 Grandchildren (Jessica, Jill, Jaclyn, Tim, Olivia, Ryan, Aaron, Josh, Kelsey, Logan, Andrea, Kiefer); and eight great Grandchildren (Cooper, Maggie, Annabelle, Rynanne, Taylee, Ella, Connor, Palmer).



Ruth is preceded in death by her husband Hugh, and her three elder siblings, Anna Marie, Margaret and Bud. Raised in Bucyrus, OH, after high school graduation she enrolled in Stevens College to pursue a career in fashion design. Her college career was shortened when she met the love of her life, Hugh Cooper. After just three dates, Hugh proposed to "Ruthie"; the couple knew they would be life partners and were married on Sept. 1, 1952. Ruth was the foundation for the family,

working tirelessly to build a home, take care of her five children and to give unwavering support to her husband Hugh. From the very beginning, when Ruth hand sewed her wedding gown to her peaceful passing, she paid the closest attention to everything she did; from maintaining the house to preparing delicious and beautiful meals for the family.

Her husband's professional life afforded Ruth the opportunity to live in many places in the US, evidenced by her five children being born in four different states. Ruth loved gardening and took pride in her flowers, winning multiple Garden Club awards. She was a lover of cruises and visiting Europe to connect to her German ancestry. A lover of birds, she always had bird feeders for her little friends, with her favorite being hummingbirds.

Given distances and in lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made to Hidden Springs Memory Care, McKinney, TX.

Barbara Tryner

WILMINGTON—Barbara Jean Tryner, 91 of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Wednesday morning, Nov. 13, 2024 at The Cottages of New Lenox.



Born on Feb. 23, 1933, at the family home in Kankakee, Barbara was the eldest of six children born to Weldon Overton and Rufina Octavia "Billie" (Yott) Dyer. Barbara was raised in Wilmington, and graduated from Wilmington High School with the Class of 1951. A woman of great dedication, Barbara's early career began at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, followed by a devoted chapter dedicated to raising her family and caring for her home. Her professional journey later led her to the First National Bank in Wilmington, where she held numerous roles before eventually serving as the bookkeeper for the Law Office of Tryner and Francis, from where she formally retired.

A member of Island City Baptist Church and the P.E.O., Barbara embodied the spirit of community through service. She offered her time as an election judge and found joy in volunteering at Kuzma Care Cottage, contributing her kindness and dependability to those in need.

Barbara was an avid reader whose favorite pastime was settling in with a good book and a glass of rum and coke. She found joy in music and embraced opportunities to travel, collecting cherished memories along the way. Shopping trips with her sister Donna and daughter Vicki were special occasions, and a stop for ice cream, a simple pleasure she adored.

Family was the heartbeat of Barbara's life. She was never happier than when surrounded by her grandchildren, always ready with a full cookie jar and an abundance of juice boxes to delight them. Her relationships with her siblings were deeply cherished, full of laughter, shared stories, and unwavering support.

Survivors include her children: Vicki (Bruce) Witczak of Marseilles, IL and John Tryner and Amy (Daniel) Potempa, both of

Wilmington; her daughter-in-law, Colleen Schumacher of Wilmington; six grandchildren: Sue Ellen Schumacher (Eric) Welps and Michael (Elvina) Schumacher, both of St. Charles, IL; Lauren Witczak and Jacqueline Witczak (Matthew Greathouse), both of Ottawa, IL; and Alex Potempa and Molly Potempa of Wilmington; four great grandchildren: Braylen Zajda, Joey Welps, Rya Schumacher and Connor Welps, with another expected; one sister, Donna (Skip) Bolz of Wilmington; three sisters-in-law: Barbara Dyer, Karen Dyer and Marilyn (Rex) Webb and numerous nieces and nephews.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Joseph J. Tryner (October 3, 2015), daughter Cheryl Schumacher; son, Richard Schumacher; grandsons: Timothy Schumacher and Brian Schumacher and four siblings: Beverly, Ronald, Donald and Richard.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine Street in Wilmington on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until time of memorial service, 12:00 p.m. A private family inurnment will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington, where Barbara will be laid to rest with her late daughter Cheryl and near her late husband Joseph.

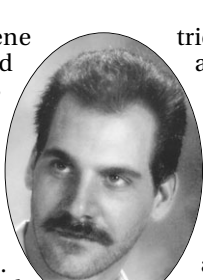
Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Barbara's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main Street, Wilmington, IL 60481.

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

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

Daniel Westrick

DIAMOND—Daniel Gene Westrick, 64, of Diamond, passed away Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024 at his home in Diamond.



Born Jan. 28, 1960 in Auburn, IN, Daniel Gene was a son of Herman and Betty (Nodine) Westrick. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School. After high school, Daniel attended Cosmetology School to be trained as a hair stylist. He worked for many years in the industry, most recently at C'zar Salon in Naperville, IL. He also worked for several years at Joe's Flower Shop in Lisle, IL.

Daniel was truly creative and his artistic flair was evident at an early age. He showed an appreciation for art while in school, through art class and working on set productions, and as an adult he enjoyed painting watercolors. Daniel loved all artistic mediums, from painting to theatrics and music, they brought him great joy. He was a simple man, with an eccentric side, whose direct, bold nature and sharp sense of humor will be truly missed.

Survivors include his partner of 31 years, Stephen Davis, of Diamond; one sister, Christina Fiedler, of Joliet and one brother, James Westrick, of California; and his niece and nephew: Nicole and Joshua Fiedler.

Daniel was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Betty, and one brother, Gary Westrick.

Per Daniel's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and no services are being planned at this time.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com upload photographs, and share Daniel's memorial page via social media.

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



DIAMOND—Charles W. "Bill" Tabler Jr., 63, of Diamond, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024 at his home due to injuries sustained in a house fire.

He was born on Jan. 25, 1961 in Morris, to Charles W. Sr. and Ramona (nee LeRette) Tabler. He was raised with his brother and sister in the Morris area, attending Immaculate Conception Catholic School and graduating from Morris High School class of 1979. He served his country honorably in the United States Navy and later became a journeyman electrician for Local #177 of Jacksonville, FL working for over 30 years.

Bill married Betty Ann Vasickanin on June 10, 1989 in Georgia. Together they raised five children including a set of triplets and eventually made their home in Diamond. A devoted father, he enjoyed taking his kids to the Morris Bakery before going out fishing with them. He was a talented baker with a specialty in chocolate chip cookies. Bill was a fan of Notre Dame Football and local trivia nights. He was a proud papa to his three grandchildren and enjoyed taking them to school and attending their activities. He was also fond of his granddogs, Huck, Bree, Raye, Ozzie, Baby Yoda, Vader and Leah.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Betty; his mother, Ramona Tabler, of Morris; his children: Charles (Marisol) Tabler, of Sierra Vista, AZ; Andrew (Megan) Tabler, of Coal City; Daniel Tabler, of

Charles W. Tabler Jr.



Diamond and Abigail (Grant) Van Haelst, of Coal City; his grandchildren: Ayden Tabler, Celia and Skyla Tabler and a baby girl on the way; his brother, James E. (Pam) Tabler, of Joliet and his sisters: Lee Ann (the late Joel) Franklin, of Morris; Peggy (Daniel) Edmier, of Carmel, IN; Cyndi Hughes, of Rensselaer, IN; Roberta (Kevin) Kane, of Villa Park and Valerie Hooper, of Wheaton. Bill loved and was loved by Dee (Don) Borchelt, Kathleen, Gregory and Caitlin Twarog, Judy (the late George) Wheat, numerous aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his son, Alexander G. Tabler; his father, Charles W. Tabler Sr. and his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Joseph and Delores Vasickanin.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee Street, Coal City. Inurnment will be private at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Morris.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com. Ferrari Funeral Services in Coal City is entrusted with arrangements.

Alexander G. Tabler

DIAMOND—Alexander G. Tabler, 26, of Diamond, IL, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024 at Morris Hospital due to injuries sustained in a fire at his home.

He was born one of a set of triplets on Sept. 9, 1998 in Chicago, the son of Charles W. "Bill" Jr. and Betty A. (nee Vasickanin) Tabler. The triplets joined two older brothers and the family eventually made their home in Diamond. Alex loved to swim in the backyard pool. He enjoyed fishing with his family, going to car shows and he especially loved watching the Pixar movie "Cars." He also liked attending Joliet Slammers Baseball games. Most of all, Alex was a loving son and brother.

He is survived by his mother, Betty; his grandmother, Ramona Tabler, of Morris; his siblings, Charles (Marisol) Tabler, of Sierra Vista, AZ; Andrew (Megan) Tabler, of Coal City; Daniel Tabler, of Diamond and Abigail (Grant) Van Haelst, of Coal City; his nephew and nieces: Ayden Tabler, Celia and Skyla Tabler and a baby girl on the way; his uncle, James E. (Pam) Tabler, of Joliet and his aunts: Lee Ann (the late Joel) Franklin, of Morris; Peggy (Daniel) Edmier,

of Carmel, IN; Cyndi Hughes, of Rensselaer, IN; Roberta (Kevin) Kane, of Villa Park and Valerie Hooper, of Wheaton. Alex was blessed with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, from both sides of the family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles W. "Bill" Tabler Jr.; his paternal grandfather, Charles W. Tabler Sr. and his maternal grandparents, Joseph and Delores Vasickanin.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee Street, Coal City. Inurnment will be private at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Morris.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com. Ferrari Funeral Services in Coal City is entrusted with arrangements.

Mary Int-Hout

BRACEVILLE—Mary Frances Int-Hout (Bottino), 98, passed away on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 in Braceville.

Born on Jan. 12, 1926 in Joliet, she was the daughter of Pete and Jane (nee Clellan) Bottino.

She is survived by two sons, Gregory

and Christopher; daughter, Pietertje; granddaughter, Kait; grandson, Kurt and great-grandson, Teo.

Cremation rites have been accorded. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements.

Health dept. offering vaccinations

The Grundy County Health Department is now offering Moderna Covid vaccinations for the '24-'25 season by appointment. Appointments are offered every week on Tuesday and Thursday 8 am-4:00 pm. Residency is not required.

For questions or to make an appointment, call the Grundy County Health Department at 815-941-3404. For more information on Covid-19 please visit www.cdc.gov/COVID.

Remember our veterans by sponsoring a wreath

Sponsor a wreath for one of over 90,000 veterans' graves at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, 20953 Hoff Rd, Elwood. The wreath laying will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Wreaths are placed after a 20-minute ceremony. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help place wreaths, dress appropriately for the cold.

Sponsorship is a tax deductible donation and may be made for a specific veteran or any veteran.

Complete the form below. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Wreaths Across America and mailed to: Wreath Project, C/O Will Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Rd., Joliet, IL 60433.

Sponsorships are being collected through Nov. 21 for the year 2024 campaign. Order online at Wreaths Across America website and include cemetery ID: ILALNE or group number ID: M00085P.

Grave specific sponsorship

Complete a separate form for each veteran. Sponsors who attend the wreath laying on Saturday, Dec. 14, can place the wreath on that specific grave.

Veteran's name: _____

Section and grave marker (required): _____

Contact phone number (required): _____

Will you be there to place the wreath yourself: Yes _____ No _____

Non-specific grave sponsorship

One wreath at \$17 or two for \$34 _____

Family: four wreaths for \$68 _____

Business: 10 wreaths for \$170 _____

Corporate: 100 wreaths for \$1,700 _____



Happy Heavenly Wedding Anniversary
To my wonderful husband...
The BEST 63 years of my life.
Love and miss you.

The Reed-Custer High School Class of 1974 50th Class Reunion

Date: Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024
Time: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Venue: TOP FUEL SALOON
275 South Hickory Street
Braidwood, IL
(Former Knights of Columbus Hall)

TOP FUEL is a full restaurant and bar; where you will be able to purchase your own food & beverages if desired. A room with chairs & tables will be available for our class to gather, catch up and share past memories & good times with each other. No other provisions will be provided. If you have any questions, please call:
Sherri Favero Lestina 815-250-8883

Feed the birds this winter with homemade suet

As the weather turns cooler, some birds start migrating to warmer locations. But many of our backyard birds stay right here in Illinois.

Believe it or not, some birds, like dark-eyed juncos, migrate to our backyards for winter because it is warmer here than the far northern areas where they live the rest of the year. Yes, even our coldest, snowiest days feel like a warmer retreat for those juncos!

But just because some birds have adapted to survive cold Illinois winters doesn't mean their needs stay the same as in the warmer spring and summer months. Just like we shouldn't wear our summer sandals in the snow, birds' bodies and behaviors change too.

They grow extra feathers to provide insulation, like you putting on a thick, warm coat when you play outside. They also eat meals with more fat and protein that provide extra calories birds need to keep up their energy.

We can't really help birds grow extra feathers, but we can provide a great

winter food source — suet! Suet is a fatty protein source mixed with seeds, nuts or fruit.

That sounds a lot like the protein bars you might eat before sports practice! But don't just unwrap a bar and leave it outside. Birds need a special blend. You might already have everything you need to make suet bird feeders for your feathered friends.

To get started on making a suet feeder of your own, start by gathering your ingredients and supplies. Here's what you will need:

- 1 1/2 cups lard or vegetable shortening
- 3/4 cup natural peanut butter or sun butter (chunky variety)
- 3 1/2 cups bird seed (stores offer lots of mixes to choose from)
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- Dried fruit
- A large, microwave-safe bowl
- Measuring cups
- A spoon

Place the shortening in the bowl. Melt in the microwave. Stir in the peanut butter. If it's too

hard, briefly microwave and try stirring again.

Once the peanut butter is well-blended, add the rest of the ingredients.

As the suet cools, it will start to harden, like your protein bar snack. Before it hardens, you can mold it into all kinds of shapes.

Get creative with things you already have around your house. Press it into an empty can or get fancy with an old jarcup. If you finish off a jar of peanut butter making the recipe, you can fill it right back up with suet. Just remember to add a stick for a perch!

Form into balls or use cookie cutters to make fun shapes. Remember to add a string so you can hang them in shrubs or from a bird feeder pole.

Once your suet feeder cools and hardens, hang it outside. Watch for hungry visitors. Which birds visit the most? Grab a bird book or look them up with a smartphone app.

Pro tip: Once the season turns to spring and summer and the weather is consistently warm, it's time to put the suet away. It can get melty or even moldy in the heat. Stick to just a seed mix instead.

The above was provided by www.reconnectwithnature.org administered by the Forest Preserve District of Will County.



Photo by Heather Van Zyl

A SUET feeder made from a teacup.

Veterans offered help to overcome suicide

Illinois is home to 537,000 veterans, including 49,000 women. At least 700 veterans are homeless, and 7% live below the poverty line on any given day.

In 2021, 6,392 veterans across the U.S. lost their lives to suicide, according to the 2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report.

These numbers highlight the urgent need for accessible support, ranging from housing and health services to financial assistance and job opportunities, all of which can help prevent suicide by addressing root causes of distress.

If you are in crisis, and contemplating suicide or self-harm, please do the following:

- Dial 988 and press 1
- Text 838255
- If you have hearing loss call TTY: Dial 711 then 988

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November 22, 2024

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

Raffle Baskets

\$1.00 Drafts

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Adults \$10.00
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Happy Thanksgiving

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Santa Claus will be visiting Festival of Trees
Sat., Dec. 7 & Sun., Dec. 8
3:30-4:30pm



COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CLASS PRESENTS
Festival of Trees

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

DIAMOND BANQUET HALL
55 S. DALY STREET, DIAMOND

Free Admission - Raffles - Entertainment - Refreshments

What to expect - Festival of Trees
Come see the beautiful trees and displays plus buy your raffle tickets for a chance to win one! There will be refreshments and entertainment for all ages to enjoy. All proceeds go to Promfest to give the high school students a safe after prom party.

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A Merry Day on Jefferson

Saturday, November 23rd

Come shop local vendors from 9am-Noon

United Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
309 E Jefferson Street
Gardner, IL

Talk about tennis balls effecting the enviroment

Dear EarthTalk: I often find old tennis balls in a nearby park, likely lost by dog owners. What is the collective effect on ecosystems of all these tennis balls?

-- June Jackson, via email

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Tennis balls, primarily made from rubber and synthetic materials, do not biodegrade and can persist in the environment for years. Made with a combination of rubber and felt, they contribute both litter and microplastics to our ecosystems.

Natural and synthetic rubber production is resource-intensive, often leading to deforestation and pollution in areas where rubber plantations are cultivated. The manufacturing process also consumes significant energy, and once discarded, tennis balls contribute to growing

plastic waste in ecosystems. While some tennis ball recycling initiatives exist, such as efforts to repurpose used balls into playground surfaces or dog toys, the majority still end up in landfills or scattered in natural spaces.

Also, when left in nature, tennis balls can present hazards to wildlife. Animals may ingest pieces of these balls, mistaking them for food. The felt cover on tennis balls can shed fibers over time, especially in wet or harsh conditions, potentially releasing microplastics and other synthetic particles into the soil and waterways. Studies on synthetic materials in the environment have shown that these particles can disrupt soil health and are increasingly found in water systems, where they accumulate and impact marine life.

Fortunately, some manufacturers are developing more eco-friendly alternatives. Wilson Sporting Goods, for example, introduced the Trinit Ball, which is designed to last longer and comes in a recyclable, unpressurized paper container, a step toward reducing both



Photo by Roddy Scheer

WHEN YOUR DOG'S tennis ball gets left behind in the bushes or woods, it can wreak havoc on the surrounding ecosystem.

waste and production impacts. However, these sustainable options are not yet widespread in dog toy collections, so responsible disposal and use are still crucial for pet owners who want to minimize their environmental footprint.

If you want to discard your dog's old tennis balls responsibly or you pick up others' long forgotten ones left behind on walks-take them to a nearby tennis center that hosts a collection bin from RecycleBalls. This innovative company takes apart old tennis balls

and repurposes their constituent parts into a wide variety of other applications.

While one or two tennis balls left behind might seem inconsequential, the cumulative impact is not. Retrieving and disposing of used tennis balls properly or opting for eco-friendlier toys-can help reduce this environmental impact and keep natural spaces cleaner for everyone.

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

VFW to host free Thanksgiving Dinner

VFW Post 5422 will be hosting a Community Thanksgiving Dinner. This dine-in only meal will be served on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, from noon to 3 p.m. at our building in Wilmington.

Dinner is free of charge and open to all. We invite you to join us, not only for a great meal, but also a great time with

some great folks.

Reservations are not necessary, but if you would like to sign up, so we can estimate a head count, you may contact Connie Cerutti (815) 351-8975 or there is a sign up sheet at the bar.

If you would like to donate a dish for this meal, please contact Connie.

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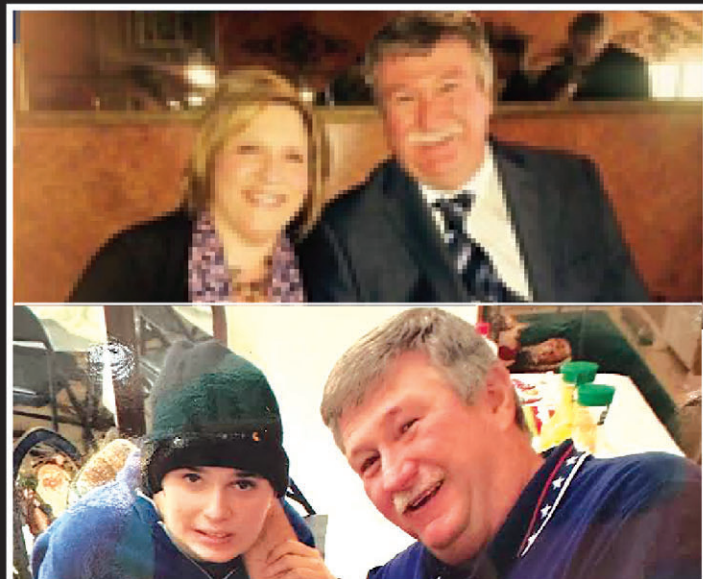
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BUM'S AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP TACKLE SOME OF THE EXPENSES FOR THE TABLER FAMILY

Due to the tremendous response from our community, Bum's Tavern and Other Local Businesses are working together to help support the Tabler Family. Bum's Tavern will sponsor the Monday Night Football Fundraiser where 25% of all dine-in food and non alcoholic beverage sales will be donated to the Tabler Family - a local family who lost everything in a tragic house fire, including two family members.



WEEK 1

Monday, Nov. 18

Matching Sponsors

Jerry Hallahan - State Farm
Lori Bonarek Realty

WEEK 2

Monday, Nov. 25

Matching Sponsors

BDR Properties
On The Rocks

WEEK 3

Monday, Dec. 2

Matching Sponsors

Weber Micetich Chiropractic
Salon Suites

WEEK 4

Monday, Dec. 9

Matching Sponsors

Bank of Pontiac
City Lights

WEEK 5

Monday, Dec. 16

Matching Sponsors

Cardinal Transport
West Flooring

Support these local businesses that support our community!

FIELD GOAL DONATION

25% of all dine-in food and non alcoholic beverage sales will be donated to the Tabler Family by Bum's Tavern. Plus, two local businesses will match the donation each week!

TOUCHDOWN DONATION

Pick a football to help get the family needed items.

QUARTERBACK DONATION

Donate for a chance to win a liquor basket*
*Liquor basket winner must be 21 or older.

follow us on **facebook**

Check our upcoming events and specials!

WED., NOV. 20

RIB NIGHT
5 p.m.

25% of Tips donated to Tabler family

THUR., NOV. 21

Football! POT ROAST DINNER

\$1 Wings
25¢ per wing donated

FRI., NOV. 22

FISH FRY
5 p.m.

Happy Hour
4-7 p.m.

SAT., NOV. 23

PRIME RIB DINNER

Crab Eggroll
Appetizer 5 p.m.
DJ DEFCUTDON 8 p.m.

SUN., NOV. 24

Football!

\$1 donated for each **BLOODY MARY** for a cause

MON., NOV. 25

Tabler Football Fundraiser

TUES., NOV. 26

SINGO
7 p.m.

Happy Hour
4-7 p.m.



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

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*plus .0399% with credit card

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

AUTOS
2005 Chevrolet Express G1500 Carryall Van. Mileage is 25,500. No rust. \$8,000 or best offer. 815-476-7229. ca47-49

MISCELLANEOUS
Commercial buildings for rent or sale in Essex. 815-405-5020. ch43-50
Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

DUPLEX FOR RENT
3BR, 2BA Duplex in Mazon. Attached 2 car garage, 1,360 sq. ft. No smoking, no pets. Utilities not included. Credit check. \$1,650 a month and \$1,500 non refundable move in fee. Available on or after 1/1/25. Call 815-252-2150. cc47-49

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GARAGE SALE
Sports Collectible Sale: Baseball, Football, Basketball, Hockey, Racing, Braidwood, 159 W. Reed Street (Inside). Friday & Saturday, December 6 & 7 from 8am-4pm. Listen to Trading Post on WCSJ. 815-278-6012. ck47-49

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

MISCELLANEOUS
Cabinet Makers Delta Unisaw 10" 220 ext. table Delta Fence Pro Tool \$700. John Deere snow plow, 42". Like new, \$300. 815-458-0907. ck47

REAL ESTATE
SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE at 324 SUMAC STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 60481 (Single Family). On the 5th day of December, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A, THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-3** Plaintiff V. **JOSEPH SACZEK; LAKEWOOD SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;** Defendant. Case No. **23 FC 1211** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170 DULUTH, GA 30097 P: 708-668-4410 X 52109** 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. 13, 20 & 27, 2024.

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Charming 3BR home located in a country subdivision just minutes from downtown Morris. Shawn 815-474-6670. DS3605

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COAL CITY \$195,000
Well cared for 3 BR, 1 BA ranch home. This home has a deep lot with 1.5 car detached garage. Theresa 815-735-8494. TB560

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MORRIS \$169,000
Spacious 4.5BR, 3BA home w/ oversized 1 1/2 car garage in prime location near downtown Morris. Shawn 815-474-6670. NC206

CLUES ACROSS
1. Defunct airline
4. Beverage container
7. A team's best pitcher
10. Unit of liquid capacity
11. It comes before two
12. Male child
13. Type of wheat
15. One's mother
16. Upper side of an organism
19. United is one
21. Extraction process
23. A being with lesser divine status
24. People living together in a community
25. Luxury automaker
26. This (Spanish)
27. Semitic language
30. Period for a defined purpose
34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
35. Up in the air (abbr.)
36. American marsupial
41. Decadent dessert
45. Aquatic plant
46. About aviation
47. Summer footwear
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. With tin
55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
56. Wrapped in cloth
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
62. Born of

CLUES DOWN
1. Heat unit
2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
3. Guatemalan town
4. Of funny things
5. Actress ___ de Armas
6. Agents of one's downfall
7. Takes forcibly
8. Body lice
9. Large nest of a bird of prey
13. Unhappy
14. Popular holiday dessert
17. Habitual drunkard
18. Used of a number or amount not specified
20. Complications
22. Fail to win
27. Before the present
28. Musical genre
29. Flurry
31. 007's creator
32. Indiana Pacer Toppin
33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Feeling
38. Damage another's reputation
39. Mottled citrus fruit
40. Beauty product
41. They man first, second and third
42. Harness
43. Herb
44. Expressed concern
47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
48. Consumed
49. Nostrils
51. Gathered fallen leaves
52. Express good wishes
53. Monetary unit of Brunei
58. Japanese Buddhist festival



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Coal City Community Unit School District No. 1 annual financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

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

Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

Coal City CUSD 1

550 S Carbon Hill Rd Coal City, IL 60416 1663

815-634-2287

8 am to 4 pm M-F

School District/Joint Agreement Name

Address

Telephone

Office Hours

Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

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

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	24,847,412	4,464,367	3,626,635	1,708,036	1,177,315	35,635	537,979	448,564	358,863
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	34,020	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	1,843,459	0	0	1,449,655	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	1,401,116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		28,126,007	4,464,367	3,626,635	3,157,691	1,177,315	35,635	537,979	448,564	358,863
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		26,165,046	3,539,278	3,630,216	2,897,486	848,555	2,590,416		96,210	46,014
Other Sources/Uses of Funds	(2,000,000)		0	0	0	0	9,000,000	7,831,073	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023		16,935,231	2,942,505	4,303	2,377,480	694,279	565,712	1,013,077	1,037,638	416,156
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		16,896,192	3,867,594	722	2,637,685	1,023,039	7,010,931	9,382,129	1,389,992	729,005
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		17,190,036	3,867,594	722	2,637,685	1,023,039	7,010,931	9,382,129	1,389,992	729,005

PAYMENTS TO PERSON, FIRM, OR CORPORATION OVER \$2,500 EXCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES					Coal City Community Unit Schol District No. 1				
Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount		GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL				
All In Gear	3,150	LEAF	69,132	Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999		
Amalgated Bank Of Chicago	3,630,216	LearnWell	6,636	Acred, Rebecca	Harvey, Shian J.	Phillips, Tyler A	Barkley, Stephanie Luann		
American Capital Financial Services	48,993	Lite Construction INC	661,960	Aldridge, Klarissa	Helland, Sara F	Piatak, Vincent J	Barla, Paula Jeanette		
American Express	16,125	Logoworks	3,512	Anderson, Jewel	Henline, Mikayla R	Pierard, Cindy R	Bleifeldt, Carol		
Amplify Education Inc	156,657	Mack and Associates P.C.	17,750	Barkley, Carmella	Hertz, Kristi Jean	Planeta, Cara B	Budde, Carol L		
Apple Financial Services	67,125	Macmillan Holdings LLC	9,860	Barnard, Margaret Carol	Hiles, Susanne M	Powers, Michelle Y	Caher, Shannon		
ArbiterSports LLC	79,282	McCullough Implement Co	68,555	Barnard, Richard B	Holcomb, Madison E	Poyner, Cade J	Carlson, Karen K		
Arnie bauer Chevrolet	44,740	Micetich, JACK	3,000	Berger, Gavin C	Hood, Alissia	Poynton, James	Charles, Tara		
Bank Of Pontiac	18,945	Midwest Bus Sales	45,000	Bergmark, Renee	Housman, Avah K	Putrich, Michael J	Clampitt, Keegan		
BMO Financial Group	2,860,409	Midwest Event Solutions LLC	5,500	Berta, Colleen A	Hunter, Heather A	Ratazak-Brown, Trisha A	Eikey, Cheri D		
BP	959,972	MNW Telecom Inc	14,711	Bianchetta, Jaimie	Hutchings, Janet	Reinert, Chad	Endrst, Jennifer M		
BSN Sports	15,349	Morris Hospital	7,150	Bitner, Tiffany Marie	Jerbi, Daniel	Reszel, Ashley N.	Fisk, Derek		
Camelot Therapeutic Schools LLC	335,926	Naperville Psychiatric Ventures	4,805	Blanton, Megan A	Johnson, Griffin M	Rhodes, Debra L	Green, Nolan		
CharacterStrong	3,899	Nation Trade Supply, LLC	10,271	Blazekovich, Haley P	Johnson, Lisa	Rich, Erica L.	Hancock, Susan		
Cinder Ridge	4,044	NCS Pearson, Inc	29,073	Brumfield, Emma	Johnson, Lori J	Riffel, Cindy	Harmon, Donna		
Coal City Comm. Unit #1 HSA Advance	3,000	Neuco, Inc	8,780	Buck, Trey M	Joly, Lisa M	Ripplinger, Daniel	Hill, Michelle		
Coal City High School Activity Fund	15,735	NextEra Energy Services	612,248	Burba, Alexandra L	Jones, Aislinn Ruth	Roach, Hayleigh A	Hossack, Yolanda		
Coal City Middle School Activity Fund	5,328	Nicor Gas	96,517	Cabral, Cristal	Kainz, Holly	Roach, Stacey	Huston, Andrea Marie		
Coaler Creations	6,929	Northern Life	2,500	Carpenter, Alison B	Kaplan, Donna M	Rodriguez, Adam	Jackson, Jody		
Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative	268,911	Old Second National Bank	237,290	Cary, Caitlyn A	Kargle, Aimee N	Rodriguez,Roberto M	Johnson, Lori A		
College Board	23,486	OMNI TPA Company	73,950	Chapin, Carole J.	Kasky, Hailey R	Rose, Rachel A.	Kirchner, Michelle		
Committee For Children	8,084	Pavement Systems, Inc.	5,820	Charles, Emma B	Kavanaugh, Jennifer M.	Roseland, Lance	Krug, Brandy		
Computer Logic Group, Inc	10,768	Phoenix Industrial Cleaning Inc	9,430	Chernesky, Eliana A.	Kessler, Ronald A	Rouse, Kirk	Kruszewski, Heather		
Connexion	6,386	Phoenix Learning Systems	2,670	Chernesky, Teresa	Kinder, Melody A	Rowader, Sarah E	Litchfield, Kenneth J		
Conserv FS, Inc	14,777	Piano Network	13,466	Colavecchi, Joseph D	Klepce, Kelly	Sage, Jessica L	Marquez, Esdeyna		
Construction & Geotechnical Material Testing, Inc	2,970	PowerSchool Group LLC	17,987	Coldwater (Wilkins), LisaR	Kmatz, Lauren	Salmon, Lindsey A	McMullen, Jannell M		
Cordogan Clark Consulting Services, Inc	696,558	Prairie farms	63,658	Colegrove, Cassandra T	Kodatt, Abigail F.	Sawyer, Deborah K.	Mendoza, Angelina M		
Crisis Prevention Institute, Inc	5,943	Precision Control Systems Inc	52,843	Connor, Adeline Jane	Kolnicki, Corinne B	Scerine, Kim	Nolan, Emily		
D Construction, Inc	1,038,186	Proven IT	39,631	Coster, Hannah	Kostbade, Isabelle	Sheridan, Celeste	Pendleton, Paul		
Davidson, Amanda	6,708	Public Consulting Group, Inc	16,322	Cullick, John	Kozlowski, Mary	Shirkey, Hannah	Planetta, Nikki L		
Direct Fitness Solutions, LLC	228,004	R.L. Sohoh General Contractors Inc	41,929	Cvitanovich, Jacklyn N.	Kruger, Gina M	Shirley, Shannon	Rakes, Jennifer Ann		
Edlio, LLC	15,277	Rebel Athletic	6,288	Dagostino, Shanan D	Kuder, Amy Renee	Sieger, Cherie	Roberts, Adam J		
Educational benefit Cooperative	3,492,530	Reliance Standard Life Insurance Co	67,843	Davidson, Kilen Jo	Lardi, Kristina	Skubic, Frank	Scrogham, Aaron		
Educational Environments	25,826	RevTrak	2,647	Davito, Katherine L	Larson, Sydney E	Smith, Alexander	Vanderhoff, Alison R		
Eisenhower Cooperative	10,990	All American Sports Corp	20,277	Davy, Kristina	Lepic, Mary Ann	Smith, Tricia Lynn	Vignocchi, Tina M.		
Elan Photography	6,290	Risk Program Administrators	9,215	Dearth, Kelly A	Leve Jr., Roy E.	Smith, Zoe E	Watson, Anne Marie		
Elim Christian Services	112,239	Rival 5 Technologies	60,547	Deluca, E Gail	Lewis, Austin M	Solecki, Lorena	Williams, Joy Nicole		
Elliot Electric Inc	11,215	Riverside Technologies, Inc	83,702	Depodesta, Amie	Long, Kathryn	Spoto, Emily	Williams, Sophiya G		
EMS Ling Inc	13,043	Riverside Work Force Health	6,705	Diamond, Danielle M	Ludes, Dylan J.	Stanford, Shawna L	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999		
Excel Edge	2,975	Ryan's Collision Service	5,225	Donnelly, Ethan R.	Ludes, Gabriel	Stellano, Holly M	Christopher, Erin Elizabeth		
FairCom	5,000	Savvas Learning Company	391,285	Donnelly, Krystena A.	Mahfeldt, Janet L.	Tapley, Debra L	Christopher, Erin Elizabeth		
First Eagle Bank	82,855	Scholastic Education	19,293	Doogan, Sara E	Manietta, Shannon L	Terrel, Joseph	Dobson, Allison J		
Five Star Technologies Group LLC	10,320	School Pass	17,190	Dorazio, Brody A	Marma, Danielle J	Tibble, Emmaline J	Esparza, Denise		
Flinn Scientific INC	2,582	SEIU Local #73	13,257	Dransfeldt, Kennedy	Matthews, Hillary	Togliatti, Kristen M	Gagliardo, Lawanda P		
Follet School Solutions	4,881	Serv-Pro Of Frankfurt 9329	47,007	Drinkwine, Raquel J	McCleary, Kevin H	Tremer, Samantha T.	Gill, Ann M		
Franczek P.C.	17,022	Sistek Sales & Service	38,275	Druse, Richard	McClenning, Christina L	Tucker, Jori L	Hajdu, Leah		
Frontline Technologies Group LLC	16,958	SMG Security Holdings LLC	9,528	Durkee, Brianne L	McDowell, Jerry Alan	VanDuyn-Mueller, JulieA	Larson, Timothy A		
Fun & Function	9,319	Smith Painting Services, Inc	82,130	Eaton, Amanda	McGoldrick, Jason M.	Vestal, Gavin D	McSpadden, Michael		
Garvey's Office Products	25,582	Soil And Material Consultants, Inc	2,996	Erhard, Abigail R	Menard, Stephen A.	Vigna, Pamela S	Meyer, Danielle		
Gina's Motorsports of Monee	14,560	Southwest Mechanical Inc	10,068	Elledge, Tammy S	Mendoza, Aaron E	Waliczek, Alec D	Murphy, Matthew J		
Glade Plumbing and Piping Co.	52,967	Sprout educational Services P.C.	22,670	Elldred, Amy S	Meyerhoff, Ashley	Walsh, Julie Kristine	Oliver, Krystal Devan		
Glenn B. Stearns	15,000	Stalker Sports Floors	9,225	Endrst, Brenda Gail	Micetich, Joel P	Washington-Mosley, JudyM.	Pearson, Lynn		
Gordon Food Service, Inc	495,501	State Disb. Unit	11,504	Erhard, Kristen A	Micalhak, Alexandra M	Watson, Benjamin S	Radke, Jay		
Grainco FS Inc	8,659	Sunbelt	65,538	Fatigante, Joseph M	Montana, Sloane P	Watson, Joseph T	Radomski, Reilly G		
Grand Prairie Transit - Lockport	11,628	SwiftReach Networks, LLC	2,956	Feeney, Bridget T	Feeney, James O	Webster, Ryan M	Roeglin, Julie A		
Green River Lines Inc	4,200	Telesolutions Consultants, LLC	4,200	Fenney, James O	Finch, Zachary S	White, Chad A	Warner, Tracy L.		
Grundy Area Vocational Center	677,090	Terra Engineering LTD	24,038	Finch, Zachary S	Florian, Joseph J	Wickiser, Wyatt J.	Salary Range: \$60,000 and over		
Grundy County Collector	4,942	The Autism Helper, Inc	5,750	Florian, Joseph J	Footo, Alecia A	Widowski, Jonathan B	Anderson, Sara		
Grundy County Special Education Coop	67,017	Thompson Electronics Company	34,251	Footo, Alecia A	Fritz, Theodore V.	Widowski, Joseph B	Gregory, Tyrone		
Grundy Supply	168,248	Tiles In Style LLC	270,005	Fritz, Theodore V.	Garner, Mason S	Wilkins, Cassandra E	Hutchings, Daniel		
Guardian Life Insurance Company	362,945	Timberline Billing Service, LLC	3,513	Gill, Hunter W	Giardano, Jessica	Williams, Grace E	Williams, Travis		
Harmonic Design, Inc	3,535	Top Youth Services	6,980	Giordano, Jessica	Elizabeth	Williams, Ross E	King, Nicholas		
Harris School Solutions	13,881	Tradera Financial Services	128,947	Gubelman, Don E	Gubelman, Don E	Wills, Nate	Monbrum, Kristen K.		
Health E-Pro	6,445	Trane US INC	4,514	Haddon, Candie	Haddon, Candie	Wills, Stacey	Nino, Tracci Lea		
Hillmann Pediatric Therapy P.C.	23,227	United rentals	19,500	Hall, Jennifer Lynn	Hall, Jennifer Lynn	Wolles, Jeremy M	Olsen, Thomas		
Hobart Service	7,811	VALIC	22,325	Hamilton, Mason D	Hampton, Mason D	Wysocki, Lisa A	Swanson, Jennifer L.		
Horace Mann life Insurance Co	16,252	Valley Fire Protection Services, LLC	3,728	Hanley, Cindy Lou	Hanley, Cindy Lou	Young, Dylan M	Wickiser, Denny		
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	9,850	Vertigo	8,185	Harney, Laura Moree	Harney, Laura Moree	Phillips, Donald			
HPS LLC	3,932	Village Of Coal City	187,244						
I.E.A	115,479	VSP	35,039						
IASA	2,927	Vucsko, Stephanie	3,000						
Ideal Environmental Engineering Inc	7,848	Wet Solutions, Inc	10,305						
ILC	8,695	Whitmore Ace Hardware	4,976						
Illinois Association Of School Boards	12,174	Whitt Law LLC	151,004						
Illinois Central School Bus LLC	3,000	Wilmington Overhead Door	3,949						
Illinois Central - 8 Conference	6,500	Xperience Cheer, LLC	3,310						
Illinois State Police	3,960								
Imagine Learning	6,825								
Independence Plus Inc	3,195								
Interquest Detection Canines Of ChicagoLand	17,549								
ITR Systems	25,983								
IXL Learning	2,782								
Johnosn Controls Fire Protection LP	15,737								
Joliet Public Schools	25,204								
King Music	5,832								
Kriha Boucek LLC	22,174								
KS StateBank									

Coal City Community Unit School District No. 1

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range:
Less Than \$25,000

Acosta, Angela

Anderson, Kiana

Berger, Tiffany

Bohac, Felicia

Brontager, Lynnae N

Bova, Amy

Carboni, Gregory A

Conrad, Brittany

Cox, Amanda

Draino, Tarra

Druse, Cheryl

Elliott, Jenifer Sue

Feeney, Peggy Ann

Ganser, Michael

Gutierrez, David M

Heavener, Charles

Henderson, Heather

Himes, Rebecca

Ingalls, Nicholas D

Isenhower, Haley E

Jackman, Julie R

Jackson, Amanda N

Kempes, Lauren Christine

Krause, Anna H

LaGioia, Chiarina

Lefevre, Brittany E

Luttrell, Megan L

Lutz, Margaret M

Mailhiot, Christopher

Martino, Jennifer

Catherine

Mccoy, John W

Mettille, Lindsey Arianna

Nicola, Bethany Nicole

OKeefe, Maria

Prati, Lauren E

Rakes, Sandra

Regennitter, Jay N

Roether, Kaylee D

Schoonover, Tyler

Scott, Michael A

Sheldon, Linda M

Sieben, Anne C

Southall, Sarah

Stone, Cameron

Swink, Sofia H

Termes, Ann E

Terrel, Robert

Vaira, Nicole M

Vandergrift, Emily R

Wozniak, Connie D

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

Dehler, Charissa Marie

Schoonover, Lauren

Dzizabeth

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

Aichele, Katie Loraine

Bajt, Becky

Bell, Sarah

Bohac, Sara

Brimm, Andrew T

Clark, Valerie Rene

Connolly, Hope Ann

Dekruiff, Willow

Drey, Kathryn E

Egan, Belinda Patrice

Egan, Martin R

George, Melissa A

Gletty, Griffin D

Gubelman, Danielle Marie

Hancock, Todd M

Hayse, Emily J

Hill, Samantha Michele

Jackman, Ashley

Jacobs, Savannah J

Kren, Michael

Lange, Mikayla M

Macholz, Adam S

Marsala, Kassandra Lynn

McGrath, Casey

Minnick, Sonja R

Mullen, Jaclyn Marie

NOVAK, Rachel A

Perry, Matthew Russell

Pfeifer, Michael E

Perccell, Thomas G

Rivera, Joey

Schultz, Cristina

Smolik, Mackenzie B

Speed, Taylor Jo

Strunga, Kristen

Sweeney, Tara E

Taylor IV, Richard

Thelo, Grace M

Vucsko, Stephanie

Warner, Craig M

Watters, Lindsey

Wiltz, Nicole Marie

Salary Range:
\$60,000 - \$89,999

Aldridge, Veronica

Anderson, Allison M

Baer, Benjamin

Boresi, Bradley

Boresi, Nicole

Bronch, Julie Marie

Cade, Kate

Cyrkiel, Sarah

Czernicki, Kaitlyn

Dimitrijevic, Abby

Dransfeldt, Erin Lynne

Duff, Jillian

Dziujan, Laura C

Edgar, Zachary Edwin

Fatigante, Thomas

Fincher, Robin M

Fiske, Mark A

Forkal, Darcy

Fritz, Traci M

Gaffigan, Amy N.

Gerber, Cindy

Gemenz, Amy M

Hall, Tricia

Halliday, Emily

Hanley, Brooke

Harseim, Britt

Housman, Rebecca

Keppner, Colin Joseph

Kinzer, Emily Ann

Kiper, Keith B

Kodat, Ann

Krippel, Jean Marie

Loughran, Francis

Ludes, Katie Lynn

Malsky, Amanda L

Marsaglia, Margaret

Elizabeth

Matsko, Ashley N

McCleary, Steven

Merrill, Amy

Micetich, John Jack

Micetich, Joseph P

Mikula, Corey

Monrumb, Rodney Charles

Muscato, Jennifer

Nicholson, Neil

ODonnell, Riane

Owensby, Brea M

Patten, Amanda

Petersen, Brandon

Peterson, Allison M

Phillips, Angela

Quigley, Sarah

Rhodes, Jennifer L.

Roudis, Angela M

Sanburg, Sandra

Schmitz, Tracy S.

Siefken, Amy H

Smith, Andrea Dawn

Siobeck, Michelle Louise

Sobin, Kaitlin F

Sondergorth, Kimberly J

Spicer, Casandra A

Sthay, MaryKay

Stith, Lisa Marie

Swink, Sharon

Thetard, Katherine Jean

Traxler, Jessica

Trotter, Taryn B

Unger, Jeremy

Urquiza, Melanie

Vahle-Reck, Stephanie

VanDuyn, Meagan

Kathleen

Veronda, Sarah

Villafuerte, Hayley

Vironda, Jill

Walgren, Kailee Joan

Watson, Lori

Wilkinson, Abigail

Wren, Aimee L

Salary Range:
\$90,000 and over

Bornet, Cristin

Bruzzino, Terese M

Bunton, Ryan

Carlson, Tracy L

Castle, Tyler

Cowherd, Betsy

Davidson, Amanda

DePersia, Cecilia

Foley, Amy L

Friddle, Elizabeth

Haab, Kimberlee

Hamilton, Lori A

Hitchcock, James

Horrie, Gina

Kennell, Harlan

Kenney, Jennifer A

Kostbade, Michael

Krippel, Lucas Ryan

Larson, Chad

Larson, Jackie

Leman, Matthew

Leve, Andrew

Looper, James

Mark, Jacqueline

Masters, Mark

McMurtrey, Pamela

Miller, Tanya

Moir, Lori

Munsterman, Jennifer

Ness, Jennifer

Painter, Michelle R

Painter, Todd

Piatak, Gina

Quigley, Joshua

Rink, Jennifer

Roseland, Andrea

Schmitt, Brad

Sinkular, David

Skubic, Shelby

Smith, Jason

Spencer, Christopher

Stafford, Arthur E

Steichen, Kelly S

Stewart, Tiffany

Terrel, Constance

Togliatti, Tricia

Welch, Tara

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL

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

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, F/K/A, THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS
TRUSTEE FOR CWABS, INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES
2005-3, Plaintiff,
vs.
JOSEPH SACZEK; LAKEWOOD SHORES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION;
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;
No. 23 FC 1211

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the
above cause on the 22nd day of August, 2024, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will
County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 5th day of December, 2024, commencing
at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street,
Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder
or bidders the following-described real estate:
LOT 403, IN SEVENTH ADDITION TO LAKEWOOD SHORES, A SUBDIVISION
OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, IN TOWNSHIP 32
NORTH, AND IN RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN,
ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 17, 1961, AS DOC-
UMENT NO. 929059, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Commonly known as: 324 SUMAC STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: Single Family
P.I.N.: 08-24-01-303-038-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within
twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquir-
ing the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mort-
gagee, 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 pay-
ments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will
County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS
5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-
1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee,
shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and
(g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section
18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following appli-
cation of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant
to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the
amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court
order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeit-
ed to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170
DULUTH, GA 30097
P: 708-668-4410 X 52109
Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wed., Nov. 13, 20 and 27, 2024.

that on December 3, 2024, a caucus of
the Republican party in the Township
of Wilmington, Will County, IL will be
held at 120 N. Main Street,
Wilmington, IL 60481 commencing at
7:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominat-
ing candidates for the following offices:
Township Supervisor, Township Clerk,
Township Road Commissioner,
Township Assessor and Township
Trustees.

Dated: Nov. 15 2024.

Jonathan Jones
Presiding Officer
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on Nov. 20, 2024.

Attorney Wysocki files
Giardina estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF JOYCE E. GIARDINA Deceased;
No. 2024PR651

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of
the death of Joyce E. Giardina. Letters
of Office were issued to Evan J.
Giardina whose address is 310 S.
Reedwood Drive, Joliet, Illinois as
Independent Administrator, whose
attorney of record is Marilyn L.
Wysocki, June, Prodehl, Renzi &
Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road,
Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may
be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office,
Will County Courthouse, 100 W.
Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432,
or with the representative, or both, on
or before the 20th day of May, 2025 if
mailing or delivery of a notice from the
representative is required by Section
18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the
date stated in that notice. Any claim
not filed on or before that date is
barred. Copies of a claim filed with the
clerk must be mailed or delivered by
claimant to the representative and to
the attorney within ten (10) days after
it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Joyce E. Giardina
Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki

PUBLIC
NOTICES

COMET SPORTS

RCHS presents fall sports awards



RC GOLFERS who earned team and special awards for during the fall season were recognized during awards night. Trophy winners include (from left) Katie Lantka—Most Improved Golfer, IHSA Sectional Qualifier Award and All-Conference Award; Addison Brown—Most Valuable Golfer (girls), IHSA Sectional Qualifier Award and All Conference Award; Caedon Baumgartner—Rockstar Rookie Award; and Kyle Highland—Most Valuable Golfer (boys) and IHSA Sectional Qualifier Award.



FIVE COMET FOOTBALL players were presented trophies for earning team awards during the 2024 season. They are (from left) Dominic Alaimo—Most Valuable Lineman; Jeremy Eggleston—Most Valuable Defensive player; Landen Robinson—Most Valuable Offensive Player; Drew Emanuelson—Most Improved Player; and Owen Dooley—Mr. Comet Award.

RCHS sports schedules

BOYS BASKETBALL		
Varsity		
Nov. 15.....	host Meet the Comets	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 26.....	@Herscher/Bishop Mac Thanksgiving Tourn.	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 27	@Herscher Thanks. Tourn.	6:30 p.m.
Nov. 29	@Herscher / St. Anne Thanksgiving Tourn.	4 p.m.
Dec. 4	@Somonauk	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 6	@Wilmington	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 10	host Streator	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 13	@Manteno	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 17	host Herscher	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 18	@GSW	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 20	@Peotone	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 26-28.	@Seneca Holiday Tourn.	TBA
Jan. 8.....	@Serena	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 10.....	@Coal City	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 11.....	host Morris	12:30 p.m.
Jan. 14.....	host Lisle	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 21.....	host Wilmington	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 22.....	@Momence	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 24.....	@Streator	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 28.....	host Manteno	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 29.....	host Grant Park	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 1	@Beecher Shootout	6:00 p.m.
Feb. 4	@Herscher	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 5	host Clifton	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 7	host Peotone	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 10.....	host Beecher	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 14.....	host CC Senior Night	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	host Hall	12:30 p.m.
Feb. 18.....	@Lisle	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 24.....	@IHSA Regionals	TBA
Boys Freshmen		
Nov. 15.....	host Meet the Comets	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	host Wilmington	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	host Morris	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	@Streator	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	host Manteno	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 12	host Herscher	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	host Peotone	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 9.....	host Coal City	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 13.....	@Lisle	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	@Wilmington	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 23.....	host Streator	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 27.....	@Manteno	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 30.....	@Herscher	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	@Peotone	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 6	@Coal City	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 11.....	host Lisle	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 19.....	@Lisle Tournament	TBA
Feb. 22.....	@Lisle Tournament	TBA
GIRLS BASKETBALL		
Varsity		
Nov. 15.....	Meet the Comets	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 18.....	host Grace Christian	5 p.m.
Nov. 19.....	host Morris	5 p.m.
Nov. 20.....	host Wilmington	5 p.m.
Nov. 21.....	@RCHS	TBA
Nov. 23.....	@RCHS	TBA
Nov. 27.....	host GSW	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 2	@Wilmington	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 5	host Streator	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 9	@Manteno	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 10	@Prairie Central	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 12	host Herscher	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 16	@Peotone	6:45 p.m.
Dec. 19	@Somonauk	6:45 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL (CONT.)		
Varsity		
Dec. 26-28.	@Peotone Holiday Tourn.	TBA
Jan. 10.....	@Coal City	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 13.....	host Lisle	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 15.....	host Dwight	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 16.....	host Wilmington	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 23.....	@Streator	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 25.....	@Beecher	3:30 a.m.
Jan. 27.....	host Manteno	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 28.....	@Serena	6:45 p.m.
Jan. 30.....	host Herscher	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 3	host Peotone senior night	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 6	host Coal City	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 10.....	@Lisle	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 12.....	@Seneca	6:45 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	@IHSA Regionals	TBA
WRESTLING		
Varsity		
Nov. 15.....	Meet the Comets	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	host Morris & Princeton	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	@Prairie Central duals	9 a.m.
Dec. 12	host ICE Quad w/Lisle & Wilmington	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	@Clifton Central Girls Tourn.	5 p.m.
Dec. 18	@Pontiac, Ottawa Marquette & Seneca	5 p.m.
Dec. 19	host GCMS & Clifton Central	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 21	@Wilmington JV Invite	9 a.m.
Dec. 21	@Morris Girls only invite	9 a.m.
Dec. 27-28.	@Springfield Lincoln Rumble	9 a.m.
Jan. 9.....	@Streator quad w/Herscher	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 10.....	@Princeton Tournament	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 11.....	@Princeton Tournament	9 a.m.
Jan. 16.....	@Manteno ICE Quad w/Manteno & Peotone	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 17.....	host Comet Classic Invite	3:30 p.m.
Jan. 18.....	host Comet Classic Invite	9 a.m.
Jan. 23.....	host Coal City	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 24.....	host Dwight Senior night	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 25.....	@Coal City ICE	9 a.m.
Jan. 27.....	@Prairie Centralw/Ridgeview	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 29.....	@Sandwich w/Plano	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 31.....	@Lisle JV .ICE Conference	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 31.....	Regional girls	TBA
Feb. 1	Regional girls	TBA
Feb. 8	@IHSA Regionals	TBA
Feb. 14.....	@IHSA Sectionals @TBA	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 15.....	@Sectionls Girls	TBA
Feb. 15.....	@IHSA Sectionals@TBA	9 a.m.
Feb. 15.....	@Sectionals Girls	TBA
Feb. 20.....	@IHSA State @Champaign	1 p.m.
Feb. 21.....	@IHSA State @Champaign	8:30 a.m.
Feb. 22.....	@IHSA State @Champaign	9 a.m.
Feb. 22.....	@State finals Girls	TBA
Feb. 28.....	@State finals Girls	TBA
Mar. 1	@State finals Girls	TBA
VARSITY CHEERLEADING		
Nov. 15.....	host Meet the Comets	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	host Reed-Custer Invite	9 a.m.
Dec. 14	@Lincoln Way Central Invite	TBA
Dec. 15	@BBCHS	TBA
Jan. 12.....	@Buffalo Grove	8 a.m.
Jan. 15.....	@Coal City ICE conference	7 p.m.
Jan. 19.....	@Oak Forest	TBA
Feb. 1	@IHSA Sectionals	TBA
Feb. 7-8	@IHSA State	TBA
March 6.....	Winter Awards Night	6:30 p.m.



TWO REED-CUSTER football players received additional recognition during the awards night. Dominic Alaimo(left) and Landen Robinson were named to the All Conference team. Robinson also was named All State Academic.

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COMET SPORTS

Reed-Custer volleyball seniors, parents honored



Courtesy photo

RCHS SENIOR Cameron Wallace is escorted by her parents Jeff and Krystal Wallace. In the fall, Cameron plans on heading out to Louisiana to continue her education in college and work towards a degree in business so she can become a real estate agent. Her favorite memories include all of the little dance breaks at practice and before games.



Courtesy photo

RCHS SENIOR Emma Wilson is escorted by her parents, Clayton and Kelly Wilson. After graduation, Emma plans on going to Illinois State University to work towards a career as an early childhood education teacher. One of her favorite memories was having to play all around freshmen year AND beating Wilmington in regionals during her junior year.



Courtesy photo

RCHS SENIOR Kara Steffes is escorted by her parents, Tad and Nicole Steffes. After graduation, Kara plans on attending JJC and playing Volleyball there as well as working on her Associates degree in diagnostic medical sonography. She will eventually continue her education elsewhere to work towards her Bachelor's degree.



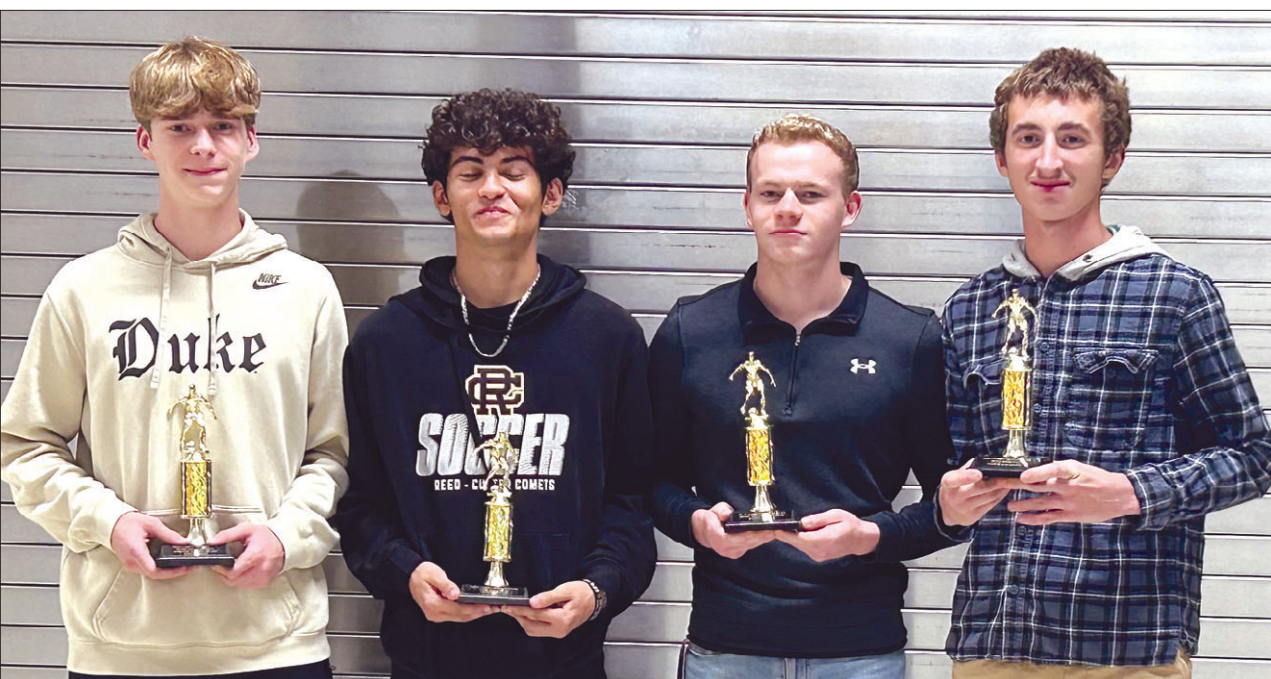
Courtesy photo

RCHS VOLLEYBALL SENIOR Leah Grace is escorted by her parents, Jason and Rachel Grace. In the fall, Leah plans on heading off to ISU and major in Family and Consumer Science Education. Some of Leah's favorite memories include the bus trips to away games and being by her friends. She will miss the friends she's made while being a part of the RC Volleyball team.

Team awards presented at Reed-Custer



THE LADY COMET volleyball players who were presented team awards last week include (from left) Alyssa Wollenzien—Sportsmanship Award; Leah Grace—Most Improved Player Award; Emma Wilson—Most Inspirational Award; and (not pictured) Kara Steffes—Most Valuable Player and All-Conference Award.



THE RC SOCCER team awards were presented last week to (from left) Josh Conger—Juan Carlos Torres Spirit of Soccer Award; Jayden Bustos—Coach's Award; Wyatt Crater—Most Valuable Player award; and Conor Kochanny—Most Improved Player award.



Photo by Eric Fisher

SERVING THE BALL for the Lady Comets last week is senior Cameron Wallace.