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Braidwood Lions return with tree sales for Christmas

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

That famous yellow trailer is back at Whitmore Ace Hardware.

The members of the Braidwood Lions Club spent this week getting set for this year's Christmas Tree Sales, an annual tradition spanning four decades now for the members of the Braidwood chapter of the service organization. The annual sales kick off on Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

Club Secretary Josh Bolatto said the Lions have been working diligently as the busy holiday season

approaches.

The tradition started as a simple tree sales fundraiser more than 40 years, and has continued to grow year after year.

"From where it started, selling trees, to eventually adding wreaths and now the grave pillows and blankets and artificial decorations, it's really gotten up there," Bolatto said.

The Lions have moved around a little over the years, looking for a spot for the tree sales that can accommodate the size, parking for customers, and that has good visibility. For several years, that spot has been in the parking lot at Whitmore Ace Hardware.

"Luckily enough, we got approached by the manager at Whitmore's to go over to their parking lot, and we said absolutely," Bolatto said. "It's been a perfect location for us ever since. It's a prime spot with visibility right on Route 53, it's got the parking area. Ace has been extremely generous over the years, they let us tap into their power so we can run everything that we need. We take up a good chunk of their parking lot for anywhere from three to four weeks, so, we got really lucky getting that spot. We definitely appreciate all that they do for us and their hospitality." The trees were purchased from a

tree farm in northern Wisconsin.

Trees will cost between \$65 and \$80 depending on size. When the gates open on Friday morning, customers will have approximately 220 trees to choose from.

The Lions will also have wreaths, grave pillows and grave blankets available.

The Christmas tree stand will be open from noon until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Sales are cash or check only.

"This is our second largest fundraiser that we do every year, next to Summerfest," Bolatto said.

In addition, volunteers with the Lions also started off the week hanging up this year's street decorations, which adorn light poles along Main Street, Kennedy Road, Comet Drive, and along parts of Route 53.

The Braidwood Streets Department assists each year in hanging those decorations, with the Lions picking up the tab for the power supply. Bolatto said they hope to be able to add even more decorations along School Street by the elementary school next year.

SEE LIONS, PAGE 2

BAHCC looks to partner with outreach organization

BAG Lady Outreach provides necessities to those in need

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC) is the most recent spot in Braidwood for the often used MicroPantry sites. Now, coalition members are looking to partner with another outreach program to help provide additional services for those in need.

The members of the BAHCC met for their regularly monthly meeting on Monday, Nov. 14.

MicroPanttries—weather-proof cabinets designed to hold donations of food and goods—first appeared throughout the area more than six years ago.

The pantries began popping up first in Joliet in late 2016, in front of E-Z Auto Sales on Larkin. Owner Jeff Eberhard placed the first cabinet there to address local need, but saw the potential for it to expand throughout the region.

The idea spiraled from there, with the pantries being built and placed outside businesses, public buildings, churches, and community centers. BAHCC members said their site has already gotten a lot of use.

During the Nov. 14 meeting, the members discussed partnering with BAG Lady Outreach, a volunteer organization based in Crete. Archana Liggins created the program in 2014, inspired by the outreach work she completed in her corporate role at a local food bank.

While working with local food pantries and group homes, Liggins recognized the need for additional services, including providing books, bags, personal hygiene items, toiletries, and other personal care items to those same folks who benefit from the good

SEE BAHCC, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

THE BRAIDWOOD ZOO WILL survive another winter. While the city of Braidwood continues with efforts to sell the site for commercial development, city leaders said movement on those plans are likely still several months away, leaving the park and zoo remaining at the Route 66 spot for the time being.

Braidwood Zoo animals will stay put for winter

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

As winter rolls in, there haven't been any changes just yet to the city's roadside attraction along Route 66.

But, city officials said negotiations are still in the works to bring commercial business to the site of the Braidwood Zoo sometime in the next year.

"We are working with a contractor right now," city administrator Tony Altiery said of efforts to develop the city-owned parcel.

Altiery said the expectation is a commercial/retail business including a drive thru lane, utilizing the site entrances both off Front Street and Oak Street.

"The business that is proposed to go there, the developer and the business have reached a rental agreement... but the corporate offices of the business that wants to go there has to review all the paperwork," Altiery said. "So, they sent all their numbers in to corporate to get a response back, showing that it will sustain itself at that property. They're expecting one to three months to get an answer back from corporate, whether they will allow for the traffic counts, all the numbers, would be adequate to sustain that business."

City leaders have expressed interest in relocating the animals of the Braidwood Zoo. But for now, the animals will continue to stay put in their "cage."

The Braidwood Zoo, an enclosed area



holding five animal sculptures created by late Essex artist Jack Barker.

The sculptures, which include a giraffe, bull, cow, elephant, and polar bear, were purchased by local businesses from Barker's

SEE ZOO, PAGE 2



Photo by Eric Fisher

RICHARD QUIGLEY, owner of Rich's Lock & Key in Wilmington and Quigley's Quality Cutlery in Braidwood, has been named the Wilmington Chamber's Business Person of the Year.

Quigley a lock for Biz Person of the Year

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

WILMINGTON — After 42 years of picking thousands of locks, Richard Quigley has a business philosophy that sometimes gets him in trouble, especially with his girlfriend.

The master locksmith and owner of Rich's Lock & Key in Wilmington admits he's a softy when it comes customers in dire need. Like the other day when he helped an woman who had locked her keys in the car. It was a rust-covered Buick that had seen better days. It took him just seconds to get inside.

Rich smiled at the gracious customer, sensed she was short of money, and announced she was lucky, it was senior citizens day, giving her a generous discount.

"I see they can't afford something or they're really short on money so I give them a discount. I probably do that

too often but in this day and age when I see someone down on their luck, I have a hard time charging them what it should be charged," Quigley commented.

"My girlfriend Kathy is always asking me why I do that. She says 'Richard you're never going to be a millionaire.' I don't plan on being a millionaire. I'm a millionaire in my heart when I take care of people, is how I feel."

It's exactly that business philosophy that influenced the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce in naming Quigley the 2022 Business Person of the Year. He will be the grand marshal Saturday at 5 p.m. when the annual Christmas parade marches through downtown Wilmington, followed by a brief ceremony

SEE QUIGLEY, PAGE 2



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Lions

"Our club purchases those, we maintain them, repair them, check them," Bolatto said. "There is a lot of money invested in that project, and that's been something that has been a tradition for us. They started that in the late 70s, so more than 40 years as well. Every year we try to buy some new decorations and help phase out some of the old ones... About two or three weeks before we get together, we plug them all in, check all the bulbs, replace them if they needed. They can cost anywhere from \$400 to \$600 each, so, we've been trying to buy

some new ones... with LEDs. So, they might look a little different as far as the shades and the colors, but the bulbs will last a little bit longer." The club purchased four new decorations just this year. The Lions are also preparing for a visit with Santa. The club will host that visit with St. Nick on Friday, Dec. 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring story time and pictures. The event, which will be held at the Lions pavilion at Old Smokey City Park, is free to attend, but donations are always welcome. All the club's events are made possible thanks to Lions members and volunteers. The club currently has about 25 members on its roster, but additional non-member vol-

unteers help throughout the year. "We use a lot of volunteers to help us," Bolatto said. "If we didn't have the volunteer help, we wouldn't be able to do it. We rely on a lot of people who aren't members but they still want to help us out. That goes for any of our events, from the holiday stuff to Summerfest, and then anything else in between. They help out quite a bit and we appreciate the help that they give us, because with them we wouldn't be able to do it." Funds raised by the Lions during events throughout the year, including via Christmas tree sales, broom sales, and Summerfest, are used for sight and sound humanitarian services for the local community,

as well as additional community service projects throughout Braidwood, such as the club's playground replacement project in conjunction with the Braidwood Park District at the Lions Kiddie Park. The Lions Club is an international service organization with more than 44,000 clubs and 1.3 million members, spanning throughout 206 countries worldwide. The organization aims to meet the needs of communities on a local and global scale. Information on all of the Braidwood Lions Club's events and activities can be found on the web at www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

BAHCC

work done by local pantries. BAG Lady Outreach supplies purses and bags filled with basic necessities that most take for granted. "People have this stigma of, I'm going to the food pantry, or I'm going to the turkey giveaway, or I'm going to get a coat," Liggins said. "Sometimes people don't like to do that. We know in some communities, people help people but they don't like to talk about it. But, if the help is there, we want to make sure people get those resources and that awareness."

Liggins partners with organizations to provide lockers, similar to Amazon lockers, where the items can be safely stored. Folks in need can request a bag, then pick it up at their nearest location. To date, BAG Lady Outreach has donated more than 30,854 bags, impacting more than 18,000 people in the region. The BAHCC and its partners are looking to find a suitable host site for those lockers in the area. Donations stored inside the lockers include deodorant, feminine hygiene products, lotion, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, wash cloths, and cotton swabs. Coalition members said the lockers would complement the MicroPantry in use at the BAHCC, as well as at the Fossil Ridge Public Library and Ignite Christian Church, which already address a need and provide an important service to the community. "Our MicroPantry has

been going, all the food has been going like wildfire and we've been restocking it since we started in September," BAHCC Program Director Pete Dell'Aquila said. "We've been restocking it pretty much every day, every other day... If kids aren't eating, then just imagine the lack of sanitary items they have available. It's just the next thing in line that gets neglected. How expensive feminine hygiene products are, and then with everything else going up, with food prices, how do people afford just their basic needs right now? I know there is a definite need here, more than half of our kids are on free or reduced lunch. So again, if they're not able to afford food, what else is getting neglected?" Dell'Aquila said the coalition is already working on some ideas for the lockers, but will also engage the school district as a potential partner. BAG Lady Outreach already provides the locker service for students in Joliet Township High School, an initiative made with the assistance and approval of the JTHS Board of Education. In the meantime, Dell'Aquila said the public is always encouraged to donate to the MicroPantry, and to utilize the cabinet if needed. "It's obviously going to use. We're very grateful for our relationship with the local food pantry," he said. "We're always looking for some more donations. If you can, please do. And please take from the MicroPantry if you can use it. We're just happy to be able to provide something extra to the community right now. It's obviously being utilized."

Quigley

under the gazebo at Claire's Corner park. Quigley has been generous to his customers and as a behind-the-scenes contributor to community organizations. He buys the candy (\$700 annually) for the Toostie Roll drive by the Knights of Columbus where he serves as the committee director, gives to the annual Blue Santa when children get to shop with police officers for Christmas gifts and supports youth fishing contests. Those are his favorite events among many others.

"In my eyes if I can make my customers happy and give back to the community then each day I can walk out of my shop happy. You know what, there are a lot of business owners always worried about the bottom dollar. I don't care. As long as it can pay my bills, I'm happy," Quigley said.

Humble beginning Wanting a career with stability, and something a little out of the ordinary, he took a correspondence course offered by manufacturer Foley and Belsaw, and learned how to pick and repair locks. From that, at age 25, Quigley started a business in his parents' basement.

He was hired as a correctional officer in 1981 and got caught up in the Illinois Department of Corrections' first lay-off ever a couple months later.

Quigley didn't give up on his job with the Department of Corrections. It took a year of calling and asking for it, but he did return to the big lock up. And if anything, lock work made him invaluable at the Joliet Correctional Center.

For the first 10 or so years Quigley was a correctional officer, working through the ranks to lieutenant, then became corrections locksmith, and closed his 28-year corrections career in 2008 as the acting assistant chief engineer/locksmith.

"I had a pretty good career there." Inside the limestone walls of the prison, Quigley did institutional-type work repairing gate locks, inmate cell locks — anything he does at the shop in Wilmington he did there, just on a bigger scale.

It was a pretty memorable career too, sometimes exciting, sometimes frightening, as it turns out — Quigley has a lot of stories to tell. He's been shanked and shived, collected several such devices that were hidden inside the locks he maintained, and was nearly thrown from the eighth-floor gallery in the west cell house.

Quigley was at Joliet Correctional Center when it closed in February 2002, and had the honor of turning out the last inmate to leave the facility. After that, he transferred to Stateville.

Meanwhile, through all of the jail-house hullabaloo, Quigley was a certified and bonded locksmith, running a thriving business on his days off and after hours. His first public business location was in the courtyard at Winchester Green, in with Wilmington Overhead Door.

"They were a big help to me in my life. When I couldn't be there, they ran my business ... They made sure my customers were taken care of, and I thank them very much," Quigley said. "They did wonderful for me."

Quigley later moved to a space all his own, the current location of Rich's Lock and Key in the Faletti Plaza. After he retired from his regular job, Rich's father, Ron, helped keep things going.

Quigley went through every course Foley and Belsaw offered, except the course on safe cracking. He admits it's not his forte — although he has been known to beat one now and again. He's still determined to learn how.

"I wasn't good at that; I didn't have time for it, that was the problem. So I don't consider myself a safe cracker, but I do work on safes," he said. "If they're open, I work on them."

Gifted with a mechanical mind and

skilled hands, he loves the challenge of picking a difficult lock and making a new key. One recent challenge was a customer who lost the key to a jewelry box. Quigley had a blank on the wall, burned it black with a candle and gingerly inserted it in the box. After a few joggles the black rubbed off where the pins made contact. With a small file he hand-engraved a new key.

Thankful for friends

Two years ago Quigley nearly lost everything, including his life, after contracting the COVID virus. He spent nearly four months in the hospital, first battling the virus and then infection which required four surgeries.

"They told me I was gonna die. I'm still trying to recoup from all that. I think the only reason I'm here today is the God up there and the power of prayers for me," Quigley said. "It was a real eye opener in that I am surrounded by good people who really care about me."

It was those people, most of them fellow Knights of Columbus members, who kept his Quigley Quality Cutlery knife shop on Main Street in Braidwood open.

"For not knowing the day-to-day operations of the business, they did wonderful. They had prizes for customers as an incentive and it was leading up to the holidays which is an important time for the sales. They were the best thing that ever happened for me," Quigley said. "Even to this day when I think about what they did for me it brings tears to my eyes."

After that experience he know he's fortunate to still be conducting business.

"I love my money but money is nothing compared to friendships and your health after you almost died," Quigley commented. "There are other business owners in this town who do more than I do. I try to help the community when I can because it's been good to me. But it's nice to be named the business person of the year, though. It's just one thing more that makes me want to give back to my town."

Fossil Ridge Library News

- Adult Programs**
Dec. 9-Bagels and Books, 10-11 a.m. Talk about holiday plans and share thoughts about the latest book you read over bagels and coffee.
- Child Programs**
Dec. 2-Kids Bingo, 3:30-4:30 p.m. A fun hour of everyone's favorite game and candy prizes.
Dec. 3-MIS Trip-Christmas Around the World, \$15 per patron, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Explore rich holiday traditions from around the globe while creating your own traditions with loved ones in Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Lights.
Registration is required for all programs. For more information call 815-458-2187 or email help@fossilridge.org.

Community invited to St. Vincent's Table

The table is set for the weekly St. Vincent's Table dinners. Dinners are offered each Monday from 4:30-6 p.m. and hosted by various community churches for local residents in need of a nutritious meal. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church will host the meals in August at the Berst Center, 180 S. Kankakee St. New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., will host the dinners in the month

Zoo

estate after his passing and donated to the city, then placed at the site in 2012.

In May of 2022, in a 3-1 vote, the council approved a resolution authorizing the sale of surplus real estate that makes up the site.

City leaders said commercial development was always the plan for the site, which was first acquired by the city back in 2008.

The potential development is expected to incorporate the entire property as a combination of the two lots.

The properties—151 N. Front St. and 305 E. Oak St.—were acquired by the city in 2008 and 2011, respectively, and in 2012 the combined sites were turned into the zoo and picnic area and roadside attraction. The animals were purchased by local businesses from Barker's estate after his passing, and the fencing around the zoo was provided by Exelon, now Constellation Energy.

A flagpole was added in 2016. In 2013, Braidwood was awarded \$116,800 from the state's Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development program (OSLAD). However, after the award, the state began putting more and more conditions on the funding, which the city couldn't meet. Therefore the grant funding never arrived, despite an OSLAD sign being placed on the pavilion.

Last spring, commissioners signed off on a resolution to sell the property, but have not announced who the potential buyer may be or what specifically will be developed at the site.

PERSONAL INJURY

B K M

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Claypool Drainage files financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE DRAINAGE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District did, on November 8, 2022 present and file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, their Financial Report for said District for the period ended October 31, 2022. Objections to the report must be filed with the clerk of the court within 10 days after the first publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District did, on November 8, 2022 present and file in the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, their Certificate of Levy of Annual Maintenance Assessment for said District for the period ended October 31, 2022. The total amount of the annual maintenance assessment contained in the assessment roll is \$252,148.60. Objections to the Levy must be filed on or before December 10, 2022. A hearing to confirm the levy has been set for December 13, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. before the Circuit Court of Grundy County in the West Courtroom of the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois. Corri Trotter, Circuit Clerk Robert Koerner, Ronald Maland and Joseph Brown, Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levee District Published in the Coal City Courant and Braidwood Journal on Nov. 16 and 23, 2022.

Will County Township Assessors to hold annual meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Title 3, Article 9, Section 15, of the Property Tax Code, the annual meeting of the Township Assessors with the Supervisor of Assessments will be held Monday, December 19, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Will County Office Building, County Board Room, 302 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL.

The purpose of this meeting is to assemble all assessors and their deputies for consultation and instruction in uniformity of their functions for the 2023 assessment year.

SIGNED THIS 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.

Dale D. Butalla CIAO-M Supervisor of Assessments
Published in the Free Press Advocate and Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.

Happy Thanksgiving



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PETITIONS FOR ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

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

Russ Toler
Administration Director
Braidwood Recreation Club

Award Winner

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

The bars of Braidwood: Just how bad were they?

Just how many times have we looked at the history of saloons in Braidwood. Answer, a lot. But today I am looking at them in a different way.

I have a tendency to lump them all together as places where trouble was a constant, and violence was common. I decided to look at the record of individual saloons to prove my point of view.

We start with the saloon of John Tracy. Tracy was born in Ireland and had seven children with his wife Anney, including a pair of twins.

The first incident we read of is from May 2, 1879 "A bloody fight, in which our colored brethren were engaged, occurred at Tracy's saloon on last "pay night."

And the following week, "Jabez Davis, colored, was arrested and lodged in the calaboose last Monday night, charged with the larceny of \$19.50 from the saloon of John Tracy.

On being brought before Squire Hielman the next morning no one appeared to prosecute and the prisoner was discharged. He now threatens a \$20,000 suit against Tracy for false



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

imprisonment."

On August 27th of the same year the editor of the Wilmington paper had this to say, "A Mrs. Tracy called on Monday in relation to an item that appeared in our last concerning mulatto twins born to a white woman in this city.

She said that if the item referred to her it was an infernal lie - one of many that gossiping tongues had told of her. If it meant some other woman, then she had nothing to say about it."

I'm afraid that's all we read about the Tracy's and their saloon, but I think we can say it was a "lively place."

The next saloon we look at was owned by George Gouldbourne, who opened one of the earliest saloons in Braidwood.

From 1868, "On Saturday night last, about 8 o'clock, the keeper of a saloon in Braidwood, named George Gouldbourne, stabbed James McCletlan in nine places, almost disemboweling to the unfortunate man. Gouldbourne was at once arrested by parties in Braidwood and brought to this city, where a warrant was served upon him by officer Whitson, and he was locked up until Monday morning, when, upon waiving an examination, he was committed to jail. We understand that the assault was most unprovoked, and the recovery of the victim extremely doubtful."

Next up the saloon of James Ward, 28 and

is wife of 19 and his one-year old son. From 1871, "On the 27th ult. A customer appeared at the bar of a Braidwood saloon, kept by Jas.

Ward, and tendered a \$5 note in payment for "drinks." Change being scarce, Ward proceeded to a trunk in a back room and took therefrom a roll of greenbacks with which he made change and placed the balance in his money till. One John Torry, a by-stander, espied the funds and coveted possession of them. His wits were set at work accordingly."

"Ward was soon afterward summoned to dinner, to which he proceeded after having quietly transferred the roll of bills from his till to his vest pocket, unnoticed by our hero, Torry.

The latter now commenced active operations, by taking six boxes of matches and half a quire of foolscap paper, and firing the house. He then gave the terrible alarm of "Fire, fire!" thinking of course, that Ward would frantically rush out and leave the money drawer for him to "tap." But, the best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft agley."

"Torry's little game was too transparent; the fire was put out quickly as were the expectations of the incendiary thief. Ward accused Torry of setting the fire on the spot, which charge was substantiated by evidence of eyewitnesses.

In brief Torry was taken before Justice Morgan, where he plead guilty and was bound

over in the sum \$1,000, in default of which the prisoner was conveyed to Joliet jail.

The incendiary and would-be thief made a full confession as to his motive in the attempt, and offered a bribe of \$60 - all he had - to officer Ward, for his liberty to go his way and sin no more."

In this case, the saloon keeper seems smart and quick. No one ever said saloon keepers were dumb.

Our last saloon keeper was a Bohemian. "John Roat, A Bohemian, keeps a saloon in Lower Braidwood, where he dispenses spiritual blessings, and is sometimes jubilant.

At such times John is unfortunate and liable to indiscretions, and his latest indiscretion was in resisting an officer who was about to arrest him for disorderly conduct.

It all ended in John's being conquered, and finally brought to the court, where he told of suffering untold miseries from the gentle handling he had received, and the thirteen hours he spent in reflecting on his errors while in durance vile. The court imposed a fine of \$10 and costs, but suspended the fine on condition of good behavior."

My conclusion is that saloons of old, like the bars and taverns of today, are mixed; some good and some bad. Just stay out of the bad ones this holiday season.

Over public objections, Love's Travel Center approved in Wilmington

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

WILMINGTON — An annexation agreement to allow a Love's Travel Center to be built at River Road and Route 53 narrowly passed the Wilmington City Council on Nov. 15, following a two hour public comment period where several members of the public asked for the city to reject the proposal.

Roughly 30 members of the public attended the hearing on Nov. 15, which was the second chance the public had to voice their concerns over the project.

A public hearing was held earlier this month before the city's Planning and Zoning Board, which unanimously rejected the proposal.

Love's intends to develop 11 acres of the 32 acre parcel to include a 13,000 square foot travel center and fast food restaurant, car and diesel gas pumps, truck scales, 62 car parking spaces, and 71 truck parking spaces. The site will include construction of a private road into the new development between Kankakee River Drive and River Road. The plan represents a \$15 million investment from Love's.

Commissioners with the Planning and Zoning Board and members of the public raised concerns over the project, including diesel pollution, traffic noise, air quality, light pollution, increased garbage, the potential to negatively impact property values for homes in Water's Edge, Northcrest and Foxtail Commons, negative affects on other local businesses, the potential for added crime, and the potential to increase truck traffic in an area already saturated with trucks.

Representatives from Love's returned to the City Council to answer some of those concerns.

"People are always going to think about your existing product that they are familiar with," Love's Real Estate Project manager Chad Bruner said. "So, the discussion [before the Planning and Zoning Board] kept going back to our location at Bluff Road and our location in Dwight. Those are interstate locations. Those are what we call a Tier 1/Tier 2 location. Those are full-on interstate truck stops. The proposal here is more like our Grant Park location about 30 miles east of here, which we are calling a Tier 3 or small Tier 2 location. At Bluff Road, for example, you have three restaurants, you have 100-plus parking spaces, you have a 12,000 square foot tire barn. You have 24 hours worth of truck traffic flowing through that thing."

Bruner said unlike highway locations that attract cross country interstate traffic, the location in Wilmington will address the trucks already traveling the corridor between I-55 and I-57, as well as existing truck traffic along Route 53 and Arsenal Road.

"We're using these [smaller locations] to catch local traffic," Bruner said. "Our customer base here is different. We're not catching that guy who travels from Mexico to Canada. We're catching that guy who is going from one interstate to the other one. Local guys."

Addressing community concerns, Bruner said the site will offer between 50 and 60 local jobs, and added that negotiations with city staff has resulted in an annexation agreement that addresses traffic, lighting and landscape

issues. He added that Love's would be agreeable to add or help fund landscape screening for homes across the street in Water's Edge.

Included in the agreement is a provision to conduct a second traffic study within the next 10 years, and for Love's to contribute to the addition of a stoplight if traffic and IDOT require it.

The agreement will also require the addition of turn lanes on Route 53.

Bruner said a traffic study conducted in 2020, with a multiplier of 1.5 due to the pandemic, showed that during peak hours, 400 trucks roll through Route 53 between Peotone Road and River Road per hour. Love's said the travel center would create revenue for the city by servicing the truck traffic that already exists.

"You have trucks in your town. You had trucks 10 years ago, you'll have trucks 10 years from now, you have trucks today," Bruner said. "What we're offering essentially amounts to a natural resource. You have something in your town that you can benefit from. Today you are not benefiting at all from those trucks rolling through that intersection."

But, members of the public said they weren't impressed with the latest presentation.

The general tone of public comment during the meeting was that trucks and truck traffic are already wreaking havoc on the city and its roads, and building a truck stop only benefits those damaging trucks, not residents.

Residents said that the public hearing did not address concerns raised earlier this month, including plans to include showers, washing machines, video gaming, liquor sales, and 71 truck parking spaces, which suggested to residents that the site will be a full service truck stop.

Residents said the city should look at other avenues to increase revenue, such as downtown development and tourism.

Water's Edge resident Roy Surdej gave a lengthy public comment, reiterating concerns he brought up earlier this month on noise, pollution, and the potential to negatively impact the community overall. Surdej urged the council to table the issue until the public's concerns could be addressed more thoroughly.

"I don't know if people are realizing this, but the concrete jungle is becoming very prevalent out this way," Surdej said. "If you go down 53, go down Manhattan Road. Look at that. And that's what's going to happen out here if we invite more trucks into this community. And maybe it won't affect you guys, because you don't live out by us. But it will affect the community, because eventually people are going to get sick and tired of coming in that direction. And it will attract trucks... There is an answer to this. There are better locations for this that will not have the direct negative impact on any part of the city as well as the community. We can still get the tax revenue and the jobs as well as divert truck traffic off of Peotone Road."

There was no public comment in support of the development.

After some questions and answers were exchanged between the petitioner and aldermen, however, city leaders expressed their own concerns should the project not be approved. The issue of most concern—without the annexation agreement, the truck stop



Photo by Marney Simon

LOVE'S REAL ESTATE PROJECT manager Chad Bruner (at podium) addressed members of the Wilmington City Council on Nov. 15. Despite several objections from members of the public, the council voted 6-1 to approve the annexation agreement to allow the travel center to be developed at River Road and Route 53.

can seek approvals though Will County, meaning the truck stop is likely to be built regardless.

Alderman Jonathan Mietzner said his main concern was that if the city rejects the project, then Love's or any other developer looking to build on that property or any property just outside the city limits likely won't bother with an annexation agreement, especially if the city is viewed as unwilling to work on such a deal.

"The county is not going to sit there and ask for the specific things that the city, the staff, the mayor have gone through to get this," Mietzner said. "I'm going to vote yes for this development. It's not perfect, but I see it this way: The city receives some of the benefits. If we do not [annex], we're going to end up with all the problems down the road, with no way really of resolving it."

Mietzner also said that without annexation, the area will be patrolled by Will County

instead of the Wilmington Police Department, meaning any issues that need the attention of law enforcement will likely have a longer wait time.

Aldermen also noted that the truck traffic is here to stay, and will increase with or without a truck stop.

"If we don't get in front of this, we're going to get run over like Elwood," Alderman Todd Holmes said. "I'm not willing to sit here and let that happen to the city... If we don't take this and govern it, where we can

police it and patrol it, we're going to turn into another Elwood."

Aldermen also noted that the addition of the travel center could help make up for some of the revenue that will be lost when D'Orazio Ford and Arnie Bauer Buick move out of Wilmington. Both dealerships have signed a development agreement to move to Braidwood by the end of 2024.

While members of the public expressed frustration that the issue was forwarded to the full City Council, the Planning and Zoning Board serves as a recommending body to the city, and are not the final say on any given project.

However, because the Planning and Zoning Board failed to recommend approval, the annexation proposal needed a supermajority—a total of six yes votes of aldermen—to approve the agreement.

The final vote was 6-1, with Alderman Kevin Kirwin the lone no vote. Alderman Leslie Allred was not present.

The truck stop is expected to break ground in spring, and be complete by late fall of 2023.

Reed-Custer High School The 22nd Annual Madrigal Dinner December 10 and 11, 2022

What is a Madrigal Dinner?

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Here's an idea

BRAIDWOOD—Why doesn't Diamond annex Braidwood? Diamond seems to be growing with new businesses all the time. Maybe then something good would come to Braidwood.

Behind closed doors

WILMINGTON—Who's running the show? There is a lot of talk in the community on the Wilmington Township. Seems that behind closed doors the truth is not being told. The citizens of Wilmington needs to open your eyes and ears. Is the Wilmington Township feeding you what they want you to know instead of you knowing what's really going on. You pay taxes to the Township and have the right to know the truth. Start asking and FOIA the township. Look at what happened with Wesley Township. Do you want this happening in your town? Maybe it's time to call on the Watchdogs of Illinois. I am sure the citizens of Wilmington are being blindsided and being played as a fool. I guess you could say welcome to the Jerry Springer show. Wake up to the facts before it's too late.

Sore losers

DIAMOND—Politically I am an Independent who in the past has leaned to the left and to the right depending on the agenda of that current administration at that time. I agree that after the 2020 election the Republicans were very sore losers and looked like cry babies. Although, after the 2016 elections on the day Trump was announced the winner there were cities burning down in protest. From an Independent's stand point, both parties look like cry babies when they lose an election. Can some of the readers please explain the difference in the two situations to me? Also, there was violence in both situations so I would like to hear other reasons.

Just as guilty

WILMINGTON—I agree with the caller who said politicians never seem to have a plan to address their issues. I read where the House plans to prioritize investigating Hunter Biden and impeaching Biden as soon as everyone is sworn in. That's all fine and dandy but how does that improve immigration, gasoline prices, and inflation? It sounds more like revenge than helping the American people. Same thing when Trump got impeached. What legislation got accomplished to help the American people? Both parties are guilty of this.

Deju vu daily

WILMINGTON—It's like the movie "Groundhog Day." Every morning I wake up and Donald Trump and Joe Biden are still political candidates. I can't wait for the morning I wake up and we have two new qualified candidates with actual leadership skills. Until then, it's the same incompetency day after day.

Split up Illinois

The residents of Oregon, who reside in the western part of the state, made it clear with their votes that they want to become part of Idaho and let the crazy liberals run the rest of the state. Can't say I blame them. They don't agree with the liberal policies that have ruined Oregon and want to get as far away from them as possible. Pretty much the same thing is hap-

pening in Illinois. There are 102 counties in Illinois. Bailey won 89 counties (88%) while Pritzker won 13 counties (12%). Unfortunately, for the residents in the 89 counties that voted for Bailey, they have to bow down to the destructive liberal policies that come from the left-wing liberal Chicago and collar county politicians. Perhaps it is time to split from the liberals in Chicago who want to tell the rest of they state how they should live. Let Chicago become the State of Chicago and let the rest of the state be the REAL state of Illinois minus all the left-wing liberal corruption and socialist agenda crap that comes out of Chicago and the collar counties. I think the residents in the 89 counties that voted for Bailey would be a lot happier. I know I would.

Leaf vac too

WILMINGTON—The city is going to purchase a Ventrac 2120 sidewalk snow removal tractor and operate the program utilizing seasonal help. The cost is \$36,392.00 followed by an estimated yearly cost of \$6,000 to maintain. If the city can afford to spend that much money on a piece of equipment to remove snow on two bridges I do not see why they can't bring back the LEAF VAC and use seasonal help. This will really relieve the burden on your elderly population. As for the Love's Travel Center proposal, we would be better off to annex it into the city under our ordinances rather than Will County taking charge and getting the taxes, being we are losing two car dealers.

Oath of office

SHADOW LAKES— On the news the head of Homeland Securities stated that the borders are closed. But not only is he dislusional but so are a lot of other public servants in Congress and this country. Since they live in protective bubble where life is filled with money they receive from the taxpayers for them to aid the American citizens but they only aid themselves. So the only solution would be to prevent the public servants in Washington, D.C. and around the country from receiving any finances from the taxpayers until they honor their oath of office to protect the lives of the American citizens and that would never happen because congress would have to put it to a vote and that vote would not include any comments by the American citizens. A lot of public servants need to seek aid to help them separate fact from fiction.

Green Wave coming to parade

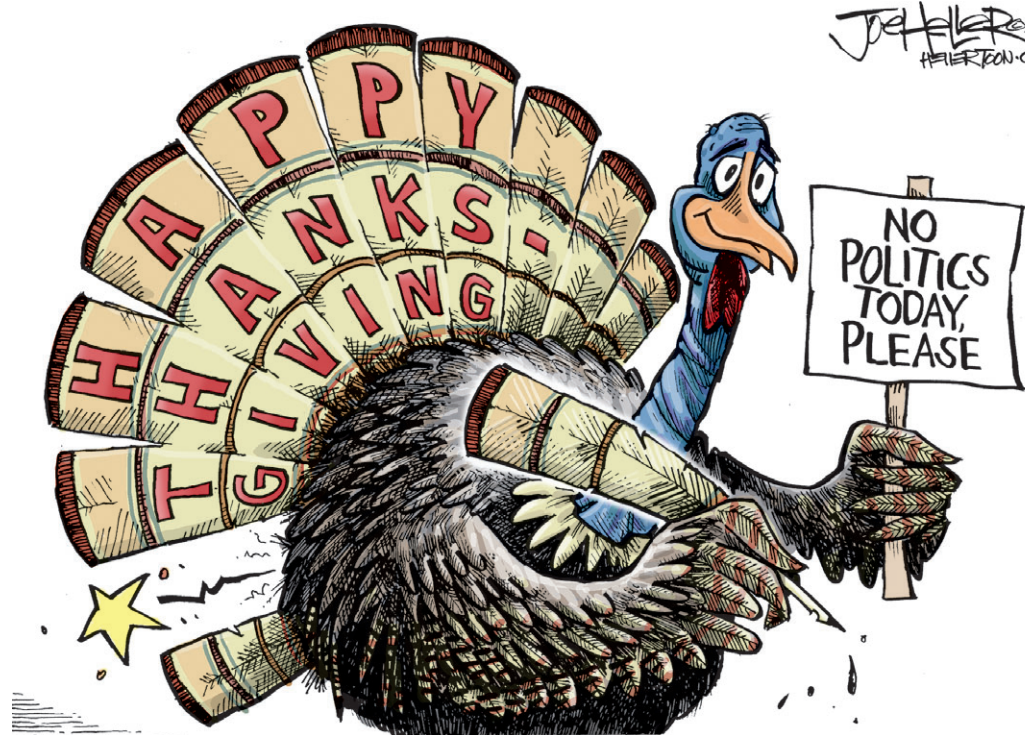
WILMINGTON—I, the Grinch, have had a very rough year. My troubles are bigger than inflation and electric sleds. Sadly it finally happened where no longer does Cindy Lou or Max want to partake in the grand parade. I blame all the new fun activities the downtown has to offer on their decision making. Which I like to see especially because they are not promoting gifts just fun time spent with family. I, the Grinch, thought about taking a back seat and skipping the grand parade, but then I was reminded just how long it took, to put a stop to the man in red's message and gift giving. Watch out Santa. The green wave is hitting this grand parade to continue spreading the word how Christmas perhaps doesn't come from a store perhaps Christmas means just a little bit more. The Grinch

Decision makers

BRAIDWOOD—It looks like our city administrator has put the snow removal process for this year in jeopardy. We just lost the large dump truck when the rear axle fell off. City streets commissioner has said money would be better spent on needed repairs not a wood chipper. But you have to remember it's the administrator who runs the city not the elected mayor. Please people, in the next election let's remove all of them.

Behind the scenes

BRAIDWOOD—The Nov. 16 issue of the Braidwood Journal did wonders for providing damage control to the city of Braidwood and, in particular, its administrator. Apparently embarrassed by



being out-manuevered by the village of Diamond in yet another of their development wins, two front page articles helped Mr. Altiery, who clearly speaks for the mayor and a majority of the council, explain away their inadequate performance as a governing body. In the top story he stated that "new tax dollars" are coming but everything is "in a behind the scenes phase." Delays are due to "everything is in engineering and attorneys." Not a single mention of strapping us taxpayers with millions of dollars of bond payments that the auto dealers don't have to repay, or the waiver of all building fees and permits, or the rebate of sales taxes that we homeowners will be on the hook for. As to Ultimate Rides he said "They're still waiting for material on their building." No mention that three years ago when a former commissioner wanted a few days continuance for approval, we were told that material was already on its way. If that was not true back then how can we believe what they say now? No mention of that. The second article was regarding the city's alleged transparency. Keep in mind that Mr. Altiery is the one who stopped videotaping meetings to begin with. Only when citizen pressure became too hot did they start again. And if they are so transparent, why don't they publish, by print or social media, proposed ordinances and resolutions, detailed agendas, a status on current accounts and expenditures, or notice of the upcoming city election? And why have the details of the bond issue never been made public? Other taxing bodies do these things and more. But not Braidwood where the favorite phrase is "File an FOIA," and I, personally have been told exactly that. At this point in time, the terms "transparency" and "City of Braidwood" are not synonymous. But with an election coming up, they must make it appear that they are. In reality, with this city council, everything is always "behind the scenes." In summary, all Mr. Altiery can point to is bring gambling, liquor and semi-trucks to Braidwood. I don't think that's what the citizens of Braidwood are looking for. I know I'm not.

A long wait

DIAMOND—Someone needs to notify IDOT about the lights by the Dollar Store. I don't know how they got onto the new timing but the wait time there is ridiculous for the lights to change.

Learn from this

BRAIDWOOD—So Jewel/Osco, along with Starbucks is going to open for business in Diamond. As I understand it, the Diamond Village Board didn't even have to bribe them by giving them \$2 million worth of real estate that local taxpayers will have to pay for. And Diamond didn't even have a high paid city administrator to bring it all about. In fact, they have no administrator at all. What they do have is a mayor with professional credentials who knows how to get the job done. I realize that Braidwood is populated with hard-working individuals like myself who aren't well versed in such areas as finance, economic development and other areas of local government. That is why the mayors appoint city attorneys and engineers. The same should hold true for the city administrator. Hopefully Braidwood voters will learn from this. It is a new era folks. City officials hiring the guy whose only qualifications for office is that he is friends with the mayor just won't do anymore. We need some professionalism in Braidwood, a trait that is sadly lacking with the present administration.

Cheap gas

WILMINGTON—Although gas prices have been low in Wilmington lately (thank you), Kankakee County has been ripping drivers off like there's no tomorrow. Why? Was it to anger voters at election time? I drive frequently in the western Chicago suburbs and I bought gas last week for \$3.69/gallon which is about 80 cents cheaper than everywhere in Kankakee County. Are politics so rotten that those with power will make people suffer just to influence their vote? Yes, I think so. But we can be grateful that our mid-term elections went fairly well. Democracy is hanging in there.

Irene

Proud of your vote?

SHADOW LAKES—I need to ask three of my neighbors who voted for Biden and Harris if they are proud of what's going on in our country with gas, food, supply shortages and Ukraine. If they are proud of that I would like to know. Anyone who voted for those people definitely believe in Communism.

Dan Hill

A person who cares

WILMINGTON—I would like praise Matt Baskerville for having the yearly memorial services at the funeral home. The families who lost loved ones during the year are able to come together and share and remember. He opens up the service to anyone in the community who wishes to attend. I have been honored and blessed to attend the services since 2011. I have gone every year and I've seen so many people that I know who lost someone during the year and I was able to go and remember Linda. Two years ago when Covid hit sadly he was not able to have the services and that was the year I lost Roger and really needed to be with other people. Matt still had the service online and I was able to see Roger's picture and hear his name read and take a moment to remember him. Every year Matt gives out a beautiful tree ornament and I know that brings comfort to the families as well as it has done for me for many years. Matt does so much for the community. He is a person who cares. He's not only a businessman but a member of your family. We are truly lucky to have him and his amazing staff to take care of our loved ones when we lose them. God bless them all.

Sheri Michaels

Unit 1 Schools test results

DIAMOND—Coal City Unit 1 test scores are exemplary and commendable. Only 65 of Illinois schools had scores to equal those of Coal City Unit 1. These scores are after two years of classroom lockdown. As a retired teacher I consider this achievement to be astounding. Nothing can replace the interaction and inspiration between teacher and students in a classroom. I believe this to be the reason for third grade's lower scores. Because of Covid mandates they were denied this magical classroom experience in first and second grade. This is where the foundation skills in reading and math are mastered. With the devoted and skilled teachers plus the curriculum supervisor, this deficit will soon be remediated. I am so proud of these students, teachers, auxiliary staff, principals, superintendent and school board. They have all been under pressures and stresses during Covid. We should all stand firm and applaud their concerted efforts. It is most deserving.

Sharon

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We are thankful for the many private donors who contribute food and money, and for the drivers who deliver food to the food pantries, and those who deliver to the homebound.

We would also like to thank the 80 plus volunteers who joyfully work to make this ministry possible. Some of their duties include planning, prepping, cooking, serving, delivering, cleaning up, dishwashing and baking for our meals. We could not serve the 200 meals per week we prepare without the help of all of the volunteers and businesses that contribute to our ministry.

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What to stock for the holidays

The 2022 holiday season is fast approaching! You may be ready to host friends and family, but is your home bar ready? A well-stocked bar is a cornerstone of entertaining and adding spirits to your home bar will not break the bank if you shop smart. There is still time to stock your bar for the upcoming holiday parties, let's get to work!

There are two key points to remember when stocking a home bar. First, start small. Your home bar is a work in progress and your entertaining needs will change with the seasons.

For example, don't load up on expensive rum, tequila, and tiki ingredients before the Christmas party. Make sure you have bourbon, gin, and scotch for a Manhattans, Martinis, etc. You can add the dark rum and tequila to your bar in the spring.

The second thing to remember, and this is perhaps the most important guiding principle to stocking your home bar is to stock your bar with spirits that YOU like.

Part of the reason that you keep a well-stocked bar is so that you can entertain your guests, but at the end of the day you don't want to be stuck with several expensive bottles that you bought only to impress your friends. Nobody should get more enjoyment out of your bar than you.

Okay, start small and buy stuff that you like. We're off to a good start. This round of bar

stocking will focus on the fall and winter bar, we will revisit this list for the spring and summer bar.

By the way, you will notice that most of the bottles on this list are around the \$20-\$25 price point or less. Stay around that price point when building your basic home bar.

All of the brands recommended this week are industry standard brands and will fare quite well as mixers and sippers. On the other hand if you already know that you love 18 year old single malt Scotch and have the \$150 to spend on the bottle, go for it.

Think of this list as a list of ingredients from which you will be able to build most of the classic cocktails. Pay special attention to the mixers. How many times (after the stores have closed) have you been missing a key ingredient to a classic cocktail?

Follow the guide below and that will not happen to you this Holiday season.

We will start with the primary spirits.

You will need a bottle of vodka. Not bank-breaking boutique vodka, but good vodka. I recommend Smirnoff Red Label or Tito's. Vodka and Tonic? Vodka and Cranberry? Vodka mixes with almost anything, and now you're covered.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

You don't have to go whiskey crazy when you stock your bar, start with one bottle of bourbon. Jim Beam, Evan Williams, and Wild Turkey are all great mixing bourbons that can be sipped as well.

Every home bar needs a bottle of gin, and if you are only going to have one type of gin in your bar make it a London Dry. Beefeater is tough to beat for taste and value. It's great in a Gin and Tonic and holds its own in a Martini.

If you only keep one bottle of Scotch on hand, make it a bottle of Dewar's White Label. Dewar's White is a solid blend that is great in a Rob Roy and smooth enough to sip.

If you have a few Scotch lovers in your crowd, grab a single malt in addition to your Dewar's blend. Keep in mind that a quality single malt will set you back around \$40 or more depending on your state and local taxes, so only grab that second bottle of Scotch if you are sure that you will need it. My favorite "every day" single malts are Highland Park 12, Glenfiddich 12, and Glenlivet 12.

In addition to spirits, keep your "crowd favorite" beer on hand, and a few reasonably priced bottles of wine.

We're not done! Unless you are going to serve every-

thing neat, you are going to need mixers. This is by no means a complete list, but from this list you will be able to build most of the classics.

Bitters are a must have in any bar. No need to get fancy here, reach for the classic Angostura Aromatic Bitters.

You're not going to get very far without some club soda and some tonic water. Always have a bottle of each.

Have plenty of cane sugar on hand if simple syrup is required for any of your favorite cocktails.

You will also need some fruit juices, for the fall/winter bar you will need orange juice and cranberry juice.

Soft drinks such as Coca Cola, Sprite or 7-up, and ginger ale are also part of a complete bar. All are essential mixers and are much appreciated by the designated drivers and non-drinkers in the crowd.

If Martinis and Manhattans are on the menu you will need sweet vermouth and dry vermouth, one small bottle of each. I recommend Noilly Prat vermouth, Martini brand vermouth also performs well in the classics.

Last but not least, literally the cherry on top. Don't forget the garnish! Maraschino cherries, lemons, limes, oranges, cocktail and cocktail olives should get you started.

Take this list to your local spirits retailer...odds are they'll be happy to see you!

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Social media impacting users' mental health

Over the last decade, social media has become an important tool for connecting with loved ones, keeping busy, and staying informed on local and world events, with social media usage increasing even more during the COVID-19 pandemic. Simultaneously, it is having a negative impact on the mental health of people across the country, causing an increase in anxiety and depression for many.

Studies around the world have shown the impact of social media on mental health, which brings along with it an increase in anxiety and depression.

"Right now, there are so many people who spend an inordinate amount of time on social media just because some people are stuck at home and kids are not going into schools. I think, in general, mental health can depend on what you are consuming on social media," explains Marybeth Evans, an OSF HealthCare licensed clinical social worker.

Evans warns to proceed with caution when scrolling through social media. Many people tend to highlight only the best parts of their lives which creates an unrealistic snapshot of their day-to-day lives. When others try to compare themselves to this unattainable perfection, it comes at a cost to mental health.

In fact, a documentary that came out during the pandemic called "The Social Dilemma" details a 5,000-person study finding that higher social media and screen time use correlated with self-reported declines in mental and physical health, and life satisfaction. So, how do we stop this spiral?

"Go through your apps. Make a list of what apps you feel better before you go on than after you go on. Figure out how much time you are spending on each app and be aware that apps can be addicting," Evans says.

Evans adds that it is also helpful to have mobile apps on your phone that are not strictly for social media use.

"Try to spend time on apps that are positive - maybe nature apps or something that you are interested in or develop a new hobby, learn a new language. But try not to spend much time on the apps that are just for the purpose of comparing one person to another."

Evans does not recommend avoiding social media altogether, but recommends taking the time to prioritize the apps on your phone and become aware of which ones tend to cause anxiety or stress so you can start to become mindful of this. If you prefer, you can even start a journal to track both the positive and negative feelings you experience when utilizing social media and other apps on your mobile device.

"Time yourself on apps that you spend an inordinate amount of time on and say, 'when my timer rings I'm getting off whether I'm right in the middle of something or not,'" Evans advises.

Allotting a certain amount of time each day for certain apps can be extremely beneficial for your mental health. Most importantly, do not let social media consume you. Set aside time each day to be "phone free."

"The more you click, the further into the rabbit hole you'll go - and I think we all can be free of that. Actually stay in the here and now. React to the people around us. Even in the cold weather, take a walk. Build a snowman. Do something fun that you maybe haven't done for a long time," encourages Evans.

If you or a loved one is struggling with mental health it is not an emergency, you can reach out to an OSF Behavioral Health navigator by calling (309) 308-8150. They can direct you to the right resource for what you're experiencing.

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The 14th annual Lighting Up Your House For the Holidays Contest. Enter your house or a neighbor's. Entry forms are available at Santa's mailbox at the Custer Park Fire Department, or use the one below, and return it to the mailbox by Friday, Dec. 15. Judging will be done that weekend.

For more information call Bill Marquardt at 708-372-2500.

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Morris Hospital Cardiology expands services

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has expanded its cardiology services with the addition of two new providers and the enhancement of a partnership with Loyola University Medical Center to provide electrophysiology care.

The Morris Hospital Cardiovascular Specialists' practice recently added cardiologist Dr. Hershel Wix and nurse practitioner Shere Pruss to a team that also includes board-certified cardiologists Dr. Syed Ahmed, Dr. Mary Menz, Dr. Sterling "Scott" Reese and Dr. Athar Saeed. Dr. Wix is seeing patients at the practice's Morris office at 151 W. High Street, and Pruss is assisting cardiologists at the Morris and Channahon locations. The additions give patients expanded access to all cardiology services.

Along with Dr. Wix and Pruss, Morris Hospital has also expanded its agreement with Loyola University Medical Center to further provide patients with heart rhythm conditions local access to electrophysiologists. Dr. Alexander Green and Dr. Sukit Ringwala, both board-certified electrophysiologists from Loyola University Medical Center, are resources available at the Morris Hospital Cardiovascular Specialists' Morris office for the diagnosis and management of heart rhythm conditions and implantation of cardiac devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators and implantable cardiac monitors.

"These enhancements demonstrate that we are committed to delivering the very best cardiovascular care to the community," says Patrick Durkin, Vice President of Ambulatory Services at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "Between our team of board-certified providers, partnership with Loyola University Medical Center, and advanced capabilities through our Cath Lab, Morris Hospital is uniquely positioned to provide the best possible heart care experience."

Morris Hospital's comprehensive cardiology services include diagnostic testing and advanced treatment in the Morris Hospital Cath Lab, along with cardiac rehabilitation to assure patients stay on the road to recovery.

As a cardiologist with more than 42 years of experience, Dr. Hershel Wix has expertise in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, blood pressure management, heart failure, circulation problems of the lower extremity and cholesterol management. After earning his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Wix completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics - Pritzker School of Medicine. In 2018, he was named Physician of the Year at Presence St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. He is board certified in both cardiovascular disease and internal medicine.

Shere Pruss, N.P.-B.C., a nurse practitioner specializing in cardiology, brings more than 21 years of nursing experience to the practice, including 16 years as a nurse practitioner focusing on cardiovascular conditions. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of St. Francis in Joliet and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pruss is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

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Tight supply to keep butter prices high

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

Consumers will likely pay more for butter into the holidays and prime baking season compared to last year no matter how you slice it.

Butter prices rose 24.6% in August compared to last year while the overall cost of groceries increased 13.5%.

Cheese, milk and other dairy prices are expected to remain elevated as well due to tight supplies and strong demand.

USDA recently estimated average prices of \$2.88 per pound for butter, up from \$1.73 last year, \$2.10 for cheese compared to \$1.67 a year ago and an all-milk price of \$25.60 per hundredweight in October versus \$18.53 in 2021.

"The whole dairy price situation was generated from events starting the previous summer," said Peter Vitaliano, vice president of economic policy and market research for the National Milk Producers Federation.

"Milk production went through a rate of increase of 5% year over year, but then it started dropping and went negative," he noted. "Coupled with recovering demand, it drove the price of key dairy products up, but that didn't bleed through to the retail level until this year."

Butter prices averaged \$3.08 per pound through the



File photo by Illinois Farm Bureau photographer Catrina Rawson

BUTTER, CHEESE, MILK and other dairy prices are expected to remain high into the upcoming holiday season.

week ending Sept. 10 as a reduction of milk output reduced the allocation of it to produce various dairy products, particularly butter.

The amount of butter in storage in August (282 million pounds) slipped 22% compared to the same time last year. But, while supplies are much tighter, Vitaliano doesn't foresee a "butter shortage" this baking season despite concerns to the contrary.

"When you say there's a butter shortage, to me it means that somewhere in the country you won't see it on the supermarket shelf," Vitaliano said. "That's not the case. Butter is available. It's just the price has gone up."

The cost of most dairy

products increased as milk prices climbed. USDA in October pegged average prices of \$21.90 per hundredweight for Class III milk, up \$4.82 from last year, and \$24.60 for Class IV milk compared to \$16.09 last year.

Issues such as record feed prices, challenges from ongoing drought in many parts of the country, the high cost of replacement cows and difficulty securing farm labor all contributed to the shrinking dairy cow herd and higher prices.

"There's a lot of constraints to expand milk production. We went through a year in which farmers were not expanding," Vitaliano said. "The cost of producing milk is

at an all-time high."

There were some positive signs, recently, though as milk output increased 1.6% in August. Milk cows on farms averaged 9.416 million head in July, 1,000 more than the previous month but 67,000 fewer than in July 2021, USDA reported.

And demand for dairy products remains strong, which is also bolstering prices.

"Consumption has been affected somewhat by higher prices, but dairy is generally price inelastic," Vitaliano said. "When the price goes up, people still buy it."

Meanwhile, the average price of a 40-pound block of Cheddar cheese recently declined by 12 cents.

"The U.S. the last several months has been the lowest-cost cheese supplier of any of the major exporting countries, so we've seen a big increase in exports," Vitaliano said. "I'm looking for exports to be a growing share of the total market, which is already approaching 20% of total (dairy) production."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Church to hold soup supper

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

They will be serving delicious homemade chicken noodle and stuffed green pepper soups. Each meal includes

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

Carry-outs are available. The cost is \$12 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 - 12; and children age 2 & under eat free. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

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Right to unionize amendment looks like it will pass

Ballot measure carrying 53% of total ballots

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois voters have approved a state constitutional amendment guaranteeing workers the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

Estimates compiled by multiple media outlets projected Nov. 15 that the ballot measure had support on an estimated 53% of the total ballots cast in the election, with more than 95% of the ballots counted. That's enough for approval under one of two paths to passage for a constitutional amendment in Illinois.

The amendment, which will be added to the Bill of Rights of the Illinois Constitution, states that employees have a fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively "for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work."

It also prohibits state and local governments from enacting laws that interfere with that right, including passage of so-called "right-to-work" laws, which prohibit requiring mem-

bership in a union as a condition of employment.

On election night, the Vote Yes for Workers' Rights campaign declared victory, but media outlets were slow to confirm that due to the complicated rules in Illinois for passing a constitutional amendment.

The state constitution provides two pathways for passing an amendment. It must either be approved by 60% of all those voting on the measure or by more than 50% of all ballots cast in the election.

According to projections, the amendment received about 2.1 million "yes" votes and 1.5 million votes against. That's 58.4% of the votes cast on that issue but about 53% of all the ballots cast in the election.

"From day one, the Vote Yes for Workers' Rights campaign has been based on the simple idea that every Illinois worker deserves better. Better pay, stronger benefits, and safer workplaces don't just help workers thrive; they strengthen our state and keep us all safe," Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea said in a statement on election night.

The amendment will become effective once the Illinois State Board of Elections certifies results of the election. The board is scheduled to meet Dec. 5.

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OBITUARIES

Frances Cheshareck

CUSTER PARK—Frances Emily Cheshareck (nee Vigna), 82, passed away at her home in Custer Park surrounded by loved ones on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

Nicknamed Franky, Frances was born on the Marco Polo Farm in Reddick, IL on Oct. 15, 1940. Her mother wrote in her baby book that Franky was a lively child, loved being called "sweet," and especially loved to cuddle with kittens they had on their farm. She graduated from Morris High School and moved to Joliet where she worked for Illinois Bell Telephone Company while living in the Hannah Harwood Girl's Home on Broadway Street with two of her sisters.

Frances married her high school sweetheart and upon his discharge from the Air Force, they lived in Channahon for 50+ years. They worked hard to give their daughters a fun and eventful childhood. Frances waitressed at The Lone Star restaurant, grew flowers and a large garden, and raced her daughters home from friends' houses at dinnertime. When her girls were in high school, Frances started a 20+ year career as a mail carrier at the U.S. Post Office in Joliet where she enjoyed walking her route and getting to know the people she served. Every holiday, Frances brought home gifts from her customers who appreciated her. She also had a passion for following politics and listened to Rush on the radio daily.

After retirement, Frances spent many years caring for her husband until his passing. As she



downsized in her final years, Frances desired to revisit her farm life and built a "Franny-pod" named 'Frankie's Hideaway' on the back of her daughter's home in the country where she watched horses, deer, dogs, cats, raccoons, possums, and a variety of birds that visited right outside her windows.

She is survived by daughters: Marie (Pete) Bohler, Manette Cheshareck (Mindy Walsh), and Mindy (Tony) Scott; grandchildren: Blake and Sabrina Bohler, Miles Field, Mike (Alexis), Sam and Gracie Scott and great-grandchild, Griffin Scott; sibling, Peter (Vikki) Vigna and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Thomas Cheshareck; parents, Frank and Emily Vigna; in-laws Anthony and Mary Cheshareck (nee Karpowicz); siblings: Josephine Pleshe, Carole Vigna, Kathryn Phelan, Frank Vigna, and numerous in-laws.

Interment with her husband was held Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood and a party to celebrate her life will be held Dec. 3 with details to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Lung Association and Uplifted Care (formerly called Hospice of Kankakee Valley).

Arrangements are entrusted to Patterson Funeral Home.

Sharon Colvin

WILMINGTON—Sharon Colvin, 78, of Wilmington, and formerly of Joliet, passed away on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at Aperia Care in Wilmington.

Born July 31, 1944 in Joliet, Sharon Elizabeth was a daughter of Thomas and Floss (Evans) Dwyer. She was raised in Manhattan and graduated from Lincoln Way High School.

An exceptional homemaker, Sharon will most be remembered for her love and family, as well as spending time with her kids and grandkids. Throughout the years she was a waitress at various restaurants and made many friends working at the restaurant in Bergner's, as well as serving at Babba's in Shorewood. Sharon was a great cook, however enjoyed eating out, particularly at Olive Garden, Merichka's and Applebee's. In addition, she took pleasure in playing bingo. Sharon was a shining example of faith and kindness, and she was always willing to go above and beyond to serve others. Though she will be deeply missed, Sharon leaves behind a memorable legacy that her loved ones will carry on in their hearts.

Survivors include three children: Rick Manfred (Sherry), Karen Manfred (Mickey) and



Bob Manfred, all of Joliet; three grandchildren: Craig (Angie) Kelly, Eric Manfred (fiancé, Sarah) and Courtney Floyd (fiancé, Niko); two great-grandchildren, Landon and Brynn Kelly; siblings: Pat Murdie, Peggy Murdie and Joe (Donna) Murdie; her partner, Jack Weaver, of Wilmington and dear friend and caregiver, Karen Fogg-Jackson, as well as several nieces and nephews, including Liz, Amy and Missy Cullen.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ralph Colvin; two sons, Tom Manfred and Dave Manfred and siblings: Junior Murdie, Jim Murdie and Sandy (Doug) Cullen.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and there will be no services.

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

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

Robert Grivetti Sr.

CUSTER PARK—Robert Joseph Grivetti Sr., 82, of Custer Park, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Aug. 12, 1940 in Aurora, he was the son of Albert J. and Magdalene (nee Pocus) Grivetti. Robert was raised and educated in Aurora, graduating from West Aurora High School with the class of 1958. He was a maintenance mechanic for Commonwealth Edison retiring after 29 years of employment. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood and Moose Lodge #967 in Morris. He enjoyed fishing and took great pride farming on the family farm. After retirement, he kept busy mowing grass for a local farmer. If you knew Robert, you knew he was happiest when he was riding a tractor.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Geraldine (nee Smeckar) Grivetti, who he married Nov. 4, 1961 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Joliet; four children: Robert (Julie) Grivetti Jr., of Braidwood; Jacqueline (Douglas) Dickison, of Minonk, IL; Michaelanne (John) Faurot, of Braidwood and Leann Grivetti, of Custer Park; 11 grandchildren: Matthew (Mindy) Grivetti, Hunter (Desiree) Grivetti, Robert and Dalton Dickison, Alyssa, Kaitlyn and Alexandria Faurot, Amber Grivetti-Housman, Brittany



(Dylan) Ackerman, Cody and Eric Housman; six great-grandchildren: Alex, Kaden, Madison, and Alison Grivetti, Madden and Ryder Jadron, and one due to arrive in May; two brothers, Martin (Diane) Grivetti, of Colorado and Albert (Mary) Grivetti, of Iowa; sister-in-law, Carol Grivetti, of Dekalb, IL and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, brother, Donald Grivetti and nephew, Mark Grivetti.

Visitation for Robert will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 from 9-11 a.m. Funeral services will immediately follow at Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood for a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Braidwood Lions Club would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

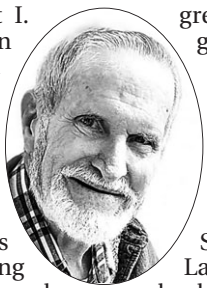
R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Robert I. Kahler

WILMINGTON—Robert I. Kahler, 89, of the Wilmington area, passed away on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2022 at Circle of Life Hospice, Bentonville, AR.

Bob was born May 12, 1933 in Joliet, to Irving and Mabel Kahler. He was raised in the Wilmington area and enjoyed hunting and fishing with his father and many friends. After graduating Wilmington High School, he enlisted and served his country in the U.S. Navy in the Korean War aboard the USS Henrico. When he returned to Wilmington after his service, he met the love of his life, Kathleen Nugent Kahler. They were married July 1957 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington and together they raised four daughters in the Custer Park and Neosho, MO area. In both areas Bob and his family raised rabbits, poultry and huge gardens. He was a very hard working man in the construction field and he was very proud of the many buildings he had supervised in the local area.

In later years, Bob returned to the Wilmington area where he enjoyed many rides with his four daughters reliving his many childhood memories along Forked Creek, Kahler Road and the Kankakee River. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Wilmington where he made many friends and enjoyed his visiting time. Since May of 2020 he also worked together with his daughter to deliver Meals on Wheels in the Wilmington and Channahon area. This was a great source of pride to him. He loved to spend time with his grandchildren,



great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Bob also had a very loyal companion, his ever faithful dog, Lady. Bob had a wonderful love of life and found fun and happiness in daily activities and loved his practical jokes. He will be greatly missed.

Bob is survived by his four daughters and their families: Kathy (Roy) Sabuco, of Minooka; Nanette (Bob) LaGrange, of Essex; Bobbi Kahler and her husband, Rick Fowler, of Bella Vista, AR; Suzette (Austin) Henderson, of Joplin, MO; grandchildren: Nicki (John) Mackinson, of Towanda, IL; Robert (Tasha) LaGrange, of Essex; Josh (Jen) LaGrange, of Montgomery, IL; Rocco Sabuco, of Eagle, CO; Dylan (Cody) Sabuco, of Thornton, CO; Ashlyn Henderson and Logan Henderson, of Joplin, MO; eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews survive along with his faithful dog and companion, Lady.

Bob is preceded in death by his loving wife, Kathy; his parents and his sister, Betty Bradshaw.

A celebration of life will be held in May on what would have been his 90th birthday in Wilmington, along his beloved Kankakee River.

Donations may be made to the Circle of Life Hospice, Bentonville, AR, or a hospice of the donor's choice. They were true angels in our father's final hours and we are forever grateful.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory.

On-line condolences may be made at www.funeralmation.com.

John "Jack" Nicol

WILMINGTON—John A. "Jack" Nicol, 95, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 14, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, with his family by his side.

Born June 30, 1927 in Morrisonville, IL, John Andrew was a son of Clyde and Mayme (Nagel) Nicol. He was raised and educated in Morrisonville and graduated from Morrisonville High School. Jack attended Illinois State University in Bloomington, and on June 14, 1947 he married Doris Evelyn Lamb in Bloomington. He served in the United States Army from 1952 until his honorable discharge in 1954, and then settled with his family in Wilmington.

Jack worked for the GM&O Railroad Company for nine years as a signal operator until he gained employment with the United States Post Office. He worked at the Wilmington Post Office for over 30 years until his retirement in 1988. Jack was an avid golfer who enjoyed playing cards and going bowling. He also took great pleasure in coaching both baseball and softball teams, and he will be remembered for being a die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Survivors include his wife of 75 years, Doris Nicol and two daughters, Sandra (Mark) Mahalik and Barbara (Doug) Rink; five grandchildren: John Welsh, David (Kelli) Welsh, Kate



Welsh, Calvin (Jessica) Rink, and Jordan (Adam) Granger; seven great-grandchildren: Luke and Cole Welsh, Ryder, Myles and Vyllette Rink, and Jett and Brynlee Granger; and many nieces and nephews.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, son-in-law, Tom Welsh in 2014 and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Alva and Helen Lamb; three brothers and one sister: Loren (Betty) Nicol, Harold (Rita) Nicol, William (Sue) Nicol, and Mary Louise (Bud) Miller; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dwight (Sarajane) Lamb and Joseph (Karen) Lamb.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 21, 2022 at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding, and interment with full military honors followed at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Pallbearers were: John Welsh, David Welsh, Kate Welsh, Calvin Rink, Jordan Granger and Adam Granger.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jack's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage.

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

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

Bernie Warriner

MAZON—Bernie Warriner, 80, of Mazon, formerly of Wilmington and Coal City, passed away peacefully at on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 at his home with his wife by his side.

Born Dec. 10, 1941 in Wilmington, he was a son of Carlyn and Della (Harding) Warriner. Bernie was raised and educated in Wilmington. After high school Bernie learned how to operate heavy machinery and began working with Harold "Hook" Cunning and after several years Bernie left and began working for himself. On Aug. 8, 1992 Bernie married Kaye Gilchrist Leasure and together they made their home in Mazon. He was a past member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge #241/781. Bernie truly enjoyed hanging with his friend Daryl Condon, and doing construction projects with his dear friend Chico Inocenio. He and Kaye loved traveling, especially to Ireland; as well as going out to eat with all their friends, including Everett Leasure and Carol Lavin. Bernie was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother who was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his loving wife, Kaye, of Mazon; six children: Bernard (Laura) Warriner Jr., of Houston, TX; Doug (Melinda) Warriner Sr., of Diamond; Kandi (Jay) Cockcream, of Morris; Everett (Shantel) Leasure II, of Coal City; Eric



(Tina) Leasure, of Coal City and Kelli (Dan) Campbell, of Bethesda, MD; 13 grandchildren, many great and great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Laverne (Linda) Warriner, of Pilesgrove, NJ; Gene (Christine) Warriner, of Wilmington and Suzanne (Jeff) Carlsrud, of Prairie Farms, WI; one brother-in-law, Richard (Robin) Surman, of Diamond; numerous nieces and nephews; and Earla Mae, the mother of Doug and Kandi.

Bernie was preceded in death by his parents and Charlene, the mother of Bernard Jr.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City with Deacon Jay Plese officiating. Cremation rites were accorded following funeral services. Graveside services will take place on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at 10 am in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bernie's memory to Lightway's Hospice.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Bernie's memorial page via social media.

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

Nancy Tiedeman

WILMINGTON—Nancy Eileen Tiedeman, 88, of Wilmington, and formerly of Orland Park, passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, IL.

Born Oct. 31, 1934 in Chicago, Nancy Eileen was a daughter of Joseph Adam and Eleanor Lillian (Genske) Sarat. She was raised and educated in the city and on Feb. 19, 1955, Nancy married George Raymond Tiedeman in St. Priscilla Parish in Chicago. She was a dedicated homemaker who worked for Accents and Interiors in Frankfort before moving to Wilmington in 1990. Nancy then took a position with Eaton and Schultz Insurance in Wilmington, where she worked for the following 14 years. Nancy enjoyed playing the piano and crocheting. She had a love of playing cards, especially Kings Corner, and you could always count on her to have a bag of cards. She took pleasure in feeding the geese and ducks in the Wilmington Park and created many memories sitting alongside the river with her kids and grandkids. Family was always of utmost importance, and she will most be remembered for her time spent with family.

Survivors include her husband, George; four children: Ray (Cindy) Tiedeman, of Geneseo, IL; Cindy (Marty) Conry, of Crown Point, IN; Caroline (Brian) Wood, of Loda, IL and Cathy (Joe) Valone, of Manhattan, IL; 10 grandchildren: Megan Conry, Julie Conry, Alisa (Dan) Sloan, Adam Valone, Staci Wood (Mike Montalto), Christina (Jake) Brock, Max Valone,



Andy Tiedeman, Arlen Tiedeman and Shenne Tiedeman; four great-grandchildren: Isabelle Brock, Makayla Brock, Lillian Brock and Greyson Sloan; one sister, Jeanette (Wayne) Shust, of Palatine, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Doris (George) Formanski and one sister-in-law, Joydine Tiedeman.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022 between the hours of 9 and 11:30 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 12 noon in St. Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services, and she will be laid to rest in Maplewood Cemetery in New Lenox on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022 at 11 a.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Nancy's memory to St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington.

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

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

Carol M. Gillette

GODLEY—Carol M. Gillette, 62, of Godley, and formerly of Silver Springs, FL, passed away Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Nov. 23, 1959 in Kankakee, Carol Marie was a daughter of Robert and Rita (Hurrell) Senesac. She was raised in Kankakee and attended Bradley Bourbonnais High School. On July 11, 1988, Carol married Lester Gillette in Las Vegas, and he survives.

Carol was a member of the South Wilmington Fireman's Club, and most recently worked as a gate guard there, as well as at Coal City Area Club. In addition over the past years, Carol worked various seasonal retail positions, but her primary role was that of a wife and mother. Aside from her family she lived for her dogs; enjoyed collecting shot glasses and Yankee Candles, and will be most remembered as a selfless soul.

Survivors include her husband, Lester; one daughter, Cristine (Rich) Sinks, of Herscher; three grandchildren: Caleb Gudridge, of Herscher; Promise Hicks, of Danville and Dakota Bull, of New York; one brother, Vernon Senesac (Bonnie), of Bradley and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dale (Gayle) Gillette, of Chatsworth, IL; Linda Lemen, of Colorado



Springs, CO; Jeannie (Mike) Scott, of Fairbury, IL and Rita Scanlon, of Bloomington and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers: David, Ronnie and Kenny Senesac and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Marilyn Verville, Pat Scanlon, Loren Gillette, Betty Gillette, Gene Lemen, and Mary Beth Gillette in infancy.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway St., one block north of IL Route 113, in Coal City from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded, and inurnment will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Carol's memory to the American Cancer Society.

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

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Amber at AJ's Hot Dogs awarded trophy



THE WILMINGTON CHAMBER of Commerce recently presented the Employee of the Month to Amber Hefner (left) who has worked at AJ's Hotdogs & Gyros for seven years. Presenting the trophy is Chamber Ambassador Wendy Hill from the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community. Hefner was nominated for her pleasant personality, great smile and friendly banter while serving customers. She appreciates the schedule flexibility the owner, John, gives her to be able to work and take care of her two children. However, "There are regulars that come in and wonder if I ever go home." Her favorite item on the menu is the Catfish.

With flu season here, health officials urge public to get vaccinated

With flu season here and certain diseases attempting a comeback, Will County Health Department (WCHD) is encouraging residents to stay up to date on all of their vaccinations.

Parts of the United States are seeing a resurgence in some diseases that haven't been seen in a long time, including polio, a disease that paralyzed more than 35,000 people every year in the late 1940's. Polio has surfaced in a New York City suburb, resulting in the first case of paralytic polio in the U.S. in over a decade.

Vaccination efforts are ongoing and are meant to prevent exactly these types of situations. Pertussis (whooping cough), mumps, rubella and polio are just a few of the diseases that are easily preventable by following the recommended vaccination schedules set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The CDC has published recommended immunization schedules for both children and adults. These tried-and-true vaccinations have been

tested over great lengths and show that they're the best weapon in fighting the prevention and spread of diseases. The recommended vaccine schedules can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/

The WCHD is encouraging children (over six months old) and adults to receive their annual flu vaccination.

Last flu season, the CDC noticed alarming trends in a decrease of vaccinations in children and pregnant people and only 43% of adults (ages 18-49) with a chronic health condition choosing to get vaccinated.

The flu vaccine reduces the overall number of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths while also helping to protect those who are more vulnerable to serious complications from the flu.

WCHD reminds adults ages 50 and older, or adults ages 19 and older with a weakened immune system, to receive a shingles vaccination. Stemming from the same virus that causes chickenpox, shingles is a painful rash consisting of blisters that scab over.

After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus can stay dormant in the body and reactivate later in life causing shingles. For some, pain can

continue even after the rash clears up. The shingles vaccine has proved to be more than 90% effective at preventing shingles and long-lasting pain (postherpetic neuralgia), the most common complication from shingles.

"Making sure you and your family are current on all their vaccinations is one of the most important things you can do right now," said Lisa Carlson, Immunization Program Coordinator for WCHD. "Vaccines are critical to stopping resurgences of easily preventable diseases and protecting vulnerable loved ones."

Contact your health provider to schedule your vaccinations. The Will County Health Department Immunization Clinic also provides recommended childhood and adult vaccines.

All Will County residents are eligible to receive immunizations from the clinic. Medicaid and Medicare and limited private insurance plans are accepted. For those who are uninsured or underinsured, a low-cost immunization option is available. Vaccinations for all ages are available in Joliet on a daily basis. Call the clinic at 815-740-8143 to schedule your appointment.

Apply for assistance in paying home heating bill

Low-income families in Illinois can now apply for state assistance on their natural gas, propane and electricity bills.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, has \$300 million available. Families can apply by visiting helpillinoisfamilies.com or by calling 1-833-711-0374. Information on other state assistance programs can be found on that website as well.

LIHEAP provides one-time payments directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients.

Families who earn up to two times the federal poverty level are eligible for LIHEAP. That works out to a 30-day gross income below \$2,265 for a one-person household, \$3,052 for a 2-person home, \$3,838 for a three-person home, \$4,625 for four people, \$5,412 for five people and \$6,198 for six people.

The level of assistance received is needs-based, and last year's LIHEAP recipients received an average of \$1,330 per household, according to the governor's office.

Grundy County residents seeking assistance can call Kendall-Grundy Community Action at 815-941-3262 and Will County residents can obtain information through the Will County Center for Community Concerns at wccc.net or by calling 815-722-3262.

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SATURDAYS 8-3

Cookies with Santa to be held at St. Rose

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

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

To register email: hoopie2012@gmail.com and include your family name and

the number of children attending.

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

Drawing by Colby W.

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

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Milksnake photo wins October prize

A snake basking in the warm autumn sun took top honors in the October portion of the Preserve the Moment photo contest.

Winning photographer Meagan Crandall of New Lenox snapped the photo at Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, a place she frequents when she's out taking pictures.

"Hickory Creek is definitely my favorite of the Will County preserves," she said. "Its tranquil prairie area and pond provide the perfect stress relief."



Courtesy photo by: Meagan Crandall
NEW LENOX RESIDENT Meagan Crandall took top honors in the October portion of the Preserve the Moment photo contest with her photo of an eastern milksnake basking in the warm autumn sun.

She came across the photogenic eastern milksnake while walking along the trail at Hickory Creek Barrens.

"I just happened to stumble upon the snake sunning itself on the warm blacktop," she said. "I laid down to get the photo at eye level of the snake."

Crandall has been a regular entrant in the Preserve the Moment photo contest since she found out about it a couple of years ago. She first started getting into nature photography during the initial shut-downs of the COVID pandemic.

"I mostly started the hobby ... because it was something without any COVID risks that also allowed me to enjoy the outdoors and see something new every time," she said.

She said she has found nature photography to be a lot of fun, and loves that she is always learning something new about wildlife living in the area. In addition to Hickory Creek, she said she has had good luck photographing at Hadley Valley and Rock Run Preserve.

The four other finalists in this month's contest were: Carlos Molano of Chicago for a photo of a colorful fall sunset at Hidden Oaks Preserve.

Greg Winkelmann of Romeoville for a picture of a ruby-throated hummingbird in flight at Hidden Oaks Preserve and also for a photo of turtles sunning themselves on a log at Rock Run Rookery Preserve.

Byron Morgan of Crete for a photo of the colorful fall

scenery at Hickory Creek Preserve.

Two more monthly winners will be chosen before the contest concludes Dec. 31. All eight winning photos chosen since the contest began in May will then vie for overall contest honors via Facebook voting in January.

Monthly winners receive \$75 MasterCard gift cards. The top photos for 2022 will receive MasterCard gift cards of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place.

In addition, three contest participants chosen at random will receive \$75 gift cards. All prizes are funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County (Opens in a new window).

Participants must be 18 years of age or older and amateur photographers, and the photos must have been taken in the Forest Preserve District's preserves after the contest began on May 1.

To enter the contest, upload up to five of your best photos (Opens in a new window) for consideration before the conclusion of each month. Please read all contest rules and photo upload instructions (Opens in a new window) before entering the contest.

To view all photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account (Opens in a new window).

Museum holding Festival of Trees

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

Twenty-one raffle items and over 100 Christmas trees and décor are on display. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Museum.

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

Visit the Museum website for more information, or call 815.942.4880

Bring the family to the annual
Wilmington Chamber Lighted Christmas parade
Saturday, Nov. 26
 Parade steps off at 5 p.m. at Ryan and Water Street, traveling north on Water Street through downtown Wilmington

Free hot chocolate will be available at various locations downtown. Following the parade, gather around the gazebo at Claire's Corner Park for a holiday performance by the WHS Show Cats. That will be followed by a presentation honoring the Business Person of the Year - Rich Quigley of Rich's Lock and Key. Santa visits will then be held under the gazebo until 6:45 p.m. before he departs for the North Island Park to turn on the lights. The Lions Club's Christmas display will be turned on at 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Nov. 26 and then continue nightly from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Support local families, buy a Christmas Parade button
 Win over \$500 if you have the button with the lucky number. A split-the-pot drawing will be Dec. 16th with half the proceeds going to one winner and the other half to Christian Help Association. Buttons will be sold during the parade or buy one (\$3 each) while shopping at various Wilmington stores.

Kuzma Care Cottage and the Christian Help Association need your help!
 Demand from families in-need and senior citizens has increased. All families deserve to have food on the table during the holidays and with the food distribution planned for Dec. 16 we invite you to bring a sack of groceries to the parade to deposit in boxes at 216 N. WATER St. at the new parking lot. Be generous as the local food pantry is low on food. Let's make sure the holidays are joyous for every family.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines
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Fridays - 5 p.m.
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The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

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

Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$15; 2 wks. - \$19;
3 wks. - \$22; 4 wks. - \$25
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The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate

FOR FREE

Whirlpool electric slide in stove (works). Custer Park area. Call 815-476-2972. fr47-48

HELP WANTED

Program Coordinator - A federally funded substance abuse prevention coalition seeks full time Program Coordinator to implement grant related programs and strategies to reduce substance use among youth in the community. Perfect entry level position for social worker, teacher, or public health administrator. Associates Degree recommended, flexible schedule, paid holidays and PTO. Email to info@wilmington-coalition.org

Reliable caregiver needed in my South Wilmington home. Monday-Friday from 8am-3pm for a kind, elderly lady who needs assistance. 815-378-1186. cc45-48

Kitchen help and delivery drivers, also handy man. Apply at Fox's Pizza, 403 N. Main, Wilmington. ch47-48

HELP WANTED

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

Prairie Creek Logistics in Elwood is hiring a tire, chassis & trailer mechanic. Hours are Monday through Friday, rotating Saturday, 7am-5pm. Call Laurie at 815-423-1060 for more information.

HELP WANTED

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

The Coal City Public Library District is seeking a part-time, 21 hour per week Circulation Clerk. Requirements include a high school diploma and computer skills. Must be available days, evenings and Saturdays. Starting pay is \$12.00/hour. Applications are available at 85 N. Garfield Street, Coal City. Please attach a resume. ch47

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Wilmington - 4 bedroom, 1 bath, on Main St., next To Fox's Pizza. Apply at Fox's Pizza, 403 N. Main St., Wilmington. \$700 monthly.

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Wooden desk, oak finish, 68"x32"x19" with keyboard shelf, \$50. Can be seen at The Free Press, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington or call 815-476-7966. nc43-48

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MAZON \$349,500 New roof, 2354 sq. ft. 0.44 acre lot adj to city park/pond. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 3 car ggg, cvrd porch, cc patio. Rod Baudino 674-2583. PS904	GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER (815) 942-9190 SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM Source: Midwest Real Estate Database, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 by Grundy County Offices.	SOLD BRAIDWOOD \$279,900 This 4 BR, 2 BA ranch home is ready for you to move right in and make it your own. Lorrie & Owen Toler 715-5959. CU1021	SOLD DWIGHT \$199,500 10 years new, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2.5 car ggg, adj 0.2A lot avail. Open plan, covered porch, deck. Rod Baudino 674-2583. DW307	RESIDENTIAL LOTS Including Wooded and Waterfront
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COMET SPORTS

Thank you, Comet Seniors, Class of 2023



JACOB MCPHERSON is the son of Chris and Beth McPherson. The Reed-Custer senior will go off to continue his athletic and academic career after graduation and potentially major in business.



KODY MARSCHNER is the son of Shawnee Brauman and Ian Marschner. After graduation, Kody plans on attending a 4-year university to study construction management.



TY ZIER is the son of Steve and Barb Zier. After graduation, Ty plans on joining the Air Force and working in security forces.



BLAKE CLEMENT, a football senior, is the son of Stacy Clement and Jason Clement. After graduation, Blake plans on getting into Local 597 and working for the Pipe Fitters Union.



COLIN ESPARZA, son of Steve and Devin Esparza, was among Reed-Custer football seniors honored during the final home game of the regular season. Colin plans on attending JJC for business then transferring to a university to pursue a career in the business field.



GIBSON WALDVOGEL is the son of Tara Waldvogel and Cal Waldvogel. After graduation, Gibson plans on attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to further his education.



VICTORIA LOOMIS is a senior cheerleader, who is the daughter of Christy Roberts and Matthew Loomis and is being escorted by her mother and stepfather, Christy & Brandon Roberts along with her father, Matthew Loomis. In the fall Victoria will be heading off to Lewis University to major in Pre-Medicine with an intent to specialize in trauma surgery.



ZOE HASSETT is the daughter of Nate and Rachel Hassett. When Zoe leaves Reed-Custer she is heading off to join the Navy as a welder.



MIA CASTILLO is senior cheerleader, who is the daughter of Sabina Aguirre. After graduation Mia plans on heading off to college to major in criminal justice.

Thanks for the memories, 2022 Comets!



Panthers defeat MVK

The Panthers improved to 4-1 with a 32-26 victory over MVK on Nov. 15

The team struggled at times with MVK's size, but ultimately came through and played well enough defensively to secure the win. They also showed great poise and executed some offensive plays in crucial moments.

Kaiden Klein led all scorers with 14 points, including two three-pointers despite having to sit most of the first half in foul trouble.

Chase Isaac contributed eight points. Matthew Kuban scored six points, and Trent Boudreau added four points.



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COMET SPORTS

Thanks to the Class of 2023: Senior Comets recognized



QUYNH NGUYEN is a football player, who is the son of Van Le and is being escorted by his mother. After graduation, Quynh plans on furthering his education and heading off to college in the fall.



CONNOR ESPARZA is a senior football player, who is the son of Matthew and Amanda Esparza. Connor's goal after graduation is to further his education in the business field and become rich.



AIDEN HOFFMAN is the son of Donald and Bonnie Hoffman. After Aiden graduates from Reed-Custer he will be moving to Alabama to enter the work force.



GUNNAR BERG is the son of Chantell and Per Berg. They were honored during the Reed-Custer football senior night. After graduation, he plans on entering the trades and joining the work force.



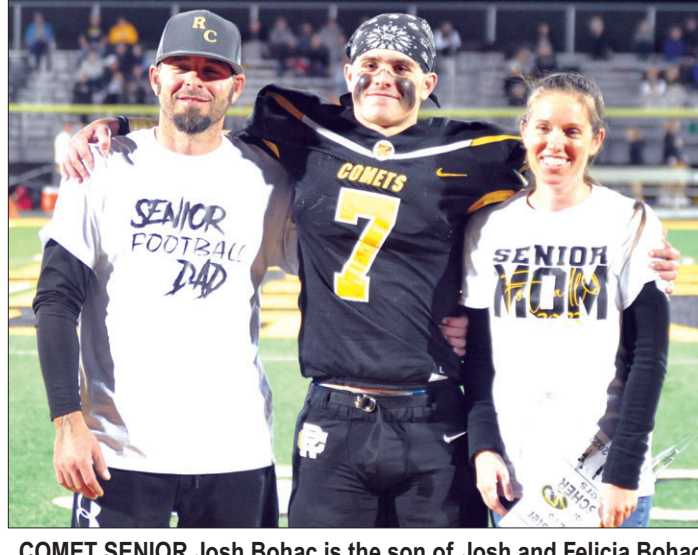
REED-CUSTER SENIOR Jace Christain is the son of Scott and Lynn Christian. In the fall, Jace plans on attending a 4-year university and studying business.



JOHNATHON ALYWARD is the son of AJ and Kristy Graf. After graduation, Johnathon plans on attending SIU to study aviation mechanics.



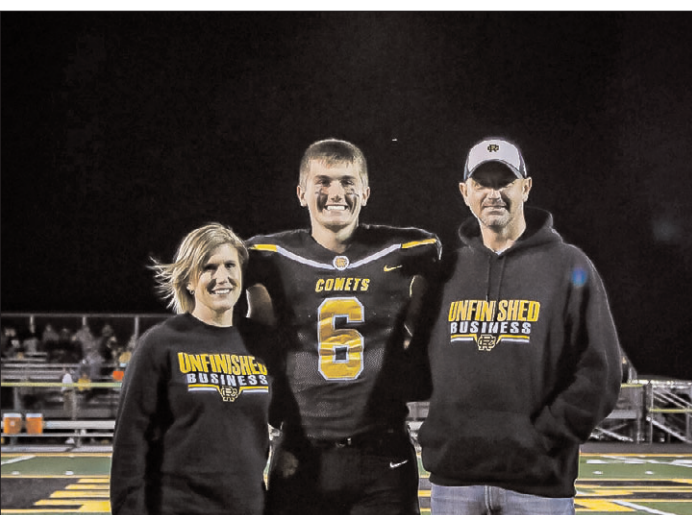
COLIN FITZPATRICK is the son of Shane and Lori Fitzpatrick. Colin plans on attending welding school and joining the pipe fitters union.



COMET SENIOR Josh Bohac is the son of Josh and Felicia Bohac. He was among those seniors recognized during the final home game of the regular season. Josh is undecided what he will do after graduating from Reed-Custer.



GAVIN BRUCIAK is escorted by his mother, Stefanie, along with his father and step-mother, Chris and Michelle Bruciak. After graduation, Gavin plans on furthering his education and focusing on an electrical engineering degree.



LUCAS FOOTE is the son of Josh and Sara Foote. After graduation, Lucas plans on attending college in Florida to work towards a career as an electrical engineer.



WESLEY SHATS is the son of Nichole Shats and Wes Shats. After graduation he plans on entering college and majoring in math or science.



BRANDON MOORMAN is the son of Jason and Leah Espinosa. Although undecided, Brandon hopes to enter the trades or continue playing football at the college level.

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NICHOLAS AND ZACHARY CIESLAK are the sons of Marc and Tamara Cieslak. After graduating from Reed-Custer, Nicholas plans on heading off to college to further his education, and Zachary plans on attending JJC.



MATEO ESCOBEDO is the grandson of Maryet Atha and being escorted by his grandma, Uncle Tim Lowe and sister Marissa Escobedo. After graduation, Mateo plans on furthering his education in college and then working in the trades.