

BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL.com

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|

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SANTA'S EARLY ARRIVAL—The big guy in a red suit made made a quick stop at the Custer Township Hall on Friday on his way back to the North Pole. Santa left his sleigh and reindeer behind for a ride upon a Braidwood Fire Protection District fire engine, with sirens blaring, as it pulled up before the waiting crowd. Santa jumped out, waved and exclaimed “Merry Christmas” to everyone. There were about 200 youngsters who quickly lined to tell him what was one their Christmas gift list.



MAYBE YES, maybe no—Santa encourages a little girl to step forward while greeting youngsters outside the Custer Township Hall on Friday. After a little hesitation at first, she stepped up and gave him a High 5.



PHOTO WORTHY MOMENT—The tree lighting ceremony across from the Custer Township Hall brought lots of cheers when the switch was thrown. One visitor take pose while mom gets a photo while they were waiting for Santa's big arrival.

Vote on solar farm postponed again

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Though dozens of landowners anticipated a decision on a 3,600-acre solar farm in Custer and Reed townships, the Will County Board voted to table the issue until Feb. 20, 2025.

At its Nov. 21 meeting, board members voted 12-8 to once again delay a decision on the solar energy facility proposed by ACCIONA Energia, head-

quartered in Spain.

Project history

ACCIONA presented plans for the solar energy facility to Custer and Reed townships during an informal meeting on Nov. 18, 2021.

The facility would be located in District 1 between Essex and Zilm roads from east to west, County Line and Smiley roads from north to south, with a substation at Smiley and Essex roads.

Once completed, the

solar energy facility would have a 30 year lifespan, representing \$300 million in private community investment.

On Sept. 10, 2024, the Will County Land Use and Development Committee rejected a special use permit for the proposed facility, the largest ever submitted for approval to the county board.

On Sept. 19, the Will County Board ended up tabling the proposal until Nov. 21, when it was again

postponed until February 2025.

Supporters and detractors

On Thursday residents packed the board meeting awaiting the opportunity to share their opinion.

The majority asked the board to reject the solar energy facility, citing issues such as runoff polluting private wells, plummeting property values, loss of productive farmland and threats to the environment.

Supporters cited the

creation of jobs, tax dollars, and the benefits of green energy.

“This is all about money—not money for us, but money for a foreign company,” Patricia Malcolm said. “I am very concerned because my home is 215 feet from the proposed site. The community elected you [the county board] to take care of us.”

Resident Peter Cristodolos refuted previous claims that soil in the area is of poor quality, not

suited for agriculture.

“It’s a sandy soil everything grows wonderful,” he said. “What do you think is going to happen when they take away the corn? This is China trying to do this to us, trying to take away our food supplies.”

Dante Domenella, speaking on behalf of

SEE SOLAR FARM PAGE 2



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Solar farm, continued from page 1

ACCIONA, touted the benefits of the facility, including job creation and economic growth. Though detractors claimed the soil will be useless after the duration of the project, Domenella said the facility is not permanent, and land can be returned to agricultural status.

In addressing the issue of well contamination, Domenella noted the effects of agriculture on the environment, noting that agricultural giant, Monsanto, dumps tons of chemicals on the fields for the raising of crops.

"It's difficult to drive a car when you're looking in the rearview mirror, you'll get into an accident" Domenella said to detractors. "You have to look out the windshield."

Closer to home, Mark Mitchell, superintendent of Reed-Custer Community Unit School District 255-U, spoke in favor of the facility.

"Review the tax benefits to the local taxing bodies." He said. "The projections of \$1 million the first year, and \$800,000 every year after, for a total of \$24 million over life of the project,"

Mike Newbrough, whose land would be leased by ACCIONA, shared his opinion that the corporation has done its due diligence, meeting legal requirements, codes and statutes in planning the solar facility.

"If you own a farm and you want to grow bees and have honey, and the neighbor's kid is allergic to bees," he said. "do they have the right to tell you, 'No, you can't have bees, you can't have honey?'"

After interjecting a "rebuttal" to Newbrough from the back of the courthouse, Peter Christodolos was urged to return to the podium.

"If I do something that is going to affect the people around me—if I put something in my garden that's going to contaminate the wells of my neighbors, then there's a problem," he said.

Vincent Burke, a landowner, shared his thoughts on green energy.

"I've heard the term solar farm. This thing is no more a farm than a cemetery is an amusement park." Burke said. "Please vote today on this issue. We've had enough continuances and time spent on this thing. Enough wasting our time."

Power of the state

Despite the anticipation among supporters and detractors alike, Land Use Committee Chair, Frankie Pretzel (District 2, R-New Lenox) made a motion to postpone the decision. He said he wants to give ACCIONA the opportunity to address issues with landowners.

Pretzel also noted that rejecting the solar energy facility proposal would most likely result in a lawsuit, since the state of Illinois has taken away the power of county boards to reject approved green energy projects.

In addition to Pretzel, Joe VanDuyne (District 1, D-Wilmington) agreed the decision should be postponed until February.

"What I can say is I've had verbal conversations with them [ACCIONA] for quite some time and they're willing to continue to work with all the landowners in this area to make this project more acceptable for them," VanDuyne said.

Katie Deane-Schlottman (District 1, R - Joliet) disagreed with postponing the issue until February.

"I do not think the solar company is going to make enough concessions to make the project palatable," Deane-Schlottman said. "People have been waiting for an answer and deserve one from their county board. The solar company has already had one extension. I'm not in favor of the project. The only concession I would support is the project completely withdrawn."



Courtesy photo

RCMS NAMED the Student of the Month winners for the month of October The characteristic trait that was focused on was respect (front, from left) Paisley Wilson (6th), Isabella Dixon (8th) and Brody Osborne (7th). Back row: Ryan Cook (8th), Sarah Simonelli (7th), Brooklyn Dente (7th), John Dixon (8th), Gavin Vogler (6th), Shane Knych (6th), Chris Baldo (7th), Gigi Giovane (6th) and Sophia Dixon (8th).



RGHS STUDENTS of the month for October, chosen by their teachers are (from left) Mae Meyer (SO), Bri Morrissey (FR), Miley Morris (JR), Jaidan Wilber (SR), Logan Bean (SO), Addison Hartman (SR), Landen Richardson (JR), Payton Isaac (SR) and Aiden Shultz (JR).

Mayor Hart to be challenged in next election

BY STAFF REPORT

The city of Braidwood will hold its consolidated election on April 1 to determine who will serve.

This election will be for Braidwood Mayor and Commissioner of Accounts and Financing and Commissioner of Public Health and Safety.

Candidates running for open positions are:

Mayor: Incumbent Karen Hart vs. former Braidwood Police chief Todd Lyons

Commissioner of Accounts and Finance: Kimberly Earling vs. Elizabeth Dixon

Commissioner of Public Health and Safety: Ron Wilczak Sr. vs. James Mikel.

The city of Braidwood runs on a Commission form of government. Rather than elect members at large or within geographical districts, as seen with aldermen or trustees, elected officials run a commission, which oversees a department of the city.

The duties of the open positions include the following:

- **Mayor** — Chief executive officer of the city and commissioner of public affairs as well as liquor

commissioner, the mayor appoints, with the advice and consent of the city council, the city clerk, the city attorney, the city administrator, the chief of police, and members of the board of fire and police commissioners, zoning board of appeals, and the planning commission. The mayor also supervises those appointees.

- **Commissioner of Accounts and Finances** — Serves as vice president of the Council, hires and supervises the city treasurer/finance department employees, and supervises the financial operations of the city including all tax increment financing districts.

- **Commissioner of Public Health and Safety** — Supervises the conduct and operation of the police department, emergency dispatching and telecommunications, code enforcement, animal control, and health regulations, and oversees employees who exercise duties for the police department, code enforcement, animal control, and health regulations except those employees under the jurisdiction of the board of fire and police commissioners.

Vacant land gets mini subdivision approval

The Braidwood City Council has approved an ordinance granting a map amendment to vacant property at the northeast corner of N. Walker and W. Third streets that may result in a "minor subdivision" in the future.

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

The lot has been vacant for at least 85 years.

The council approved the zoning of the property from agricultural to single family residential during its Nov. 12 meeting.

Variances denied

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

On July 9, the council approved a motion granting a special use permit for

the property with the pin number 02-24-07-117-001-000, to operate a self-storage facility.

In November, KA Development Holdings, LLC, requested the seven variances. The variances involve setbacks resulting in the facility being closer to the street and surrounding properties. The variances also for approval to eliminate landscaping along the west and east property lines.

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

also landscaping variances."

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

The city council denied the request for all seven variances.

Blood drive

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

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

"The goal is to hold a drive at least once every six months at city hall," Bolatto said. "We're hoping either in January/February and again in June/July. Once we have the dates set, we'll be pushing out details and

registration information on the city's website, Facebook etc. Pre-registration would be encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome."

FOIA requests

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

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

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

The workshop will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 3, in the city hall.

Braidwood to host tree lighting

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

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

Women Personal Safety workshop

The city of Braidwood will host a Women's Personal Safety workshop from 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 3 at Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St. This popular workshop's objective is to give women the tools needed to protect themselves in precarious situations.

The workshop will teach women how to avoid looking like an easy target, which is especially vital during the holiday season when out shopping.

Attendees will learn how to select the most appropriate weapon of choice, whether a firearm, pepper spray or other options.

Register on the home page of the City of Braidwood, braidwood.us. Call (815) 458-2333 for additional information.

Happy Thanksgiving!



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

SelfCare by AW
files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Certificate 035221 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on November 6, 2024 where-in the business firm of

SelfCare by AW
Located at 16151 Weber Rd., Suite 210, Crest Hill, IL 60403 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Andrea Weaver
472 Seminole Ln.
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois, this 6th of November, 2024.

Charles B. Pelkie Jr.
Will County Clerk
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 2024.

Reed Township
gives notice of
Democrat Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on December 3, 2024, a caucus of the Democrat party in the Reed Township, Will County, IL will be held at Reed Township Hall, 440 N. Division St., Braidwood, IL, 60408 commencing at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Reed Township Supervisor, Reed Township Highway Commissioner, Reed Township Clerk, Reed Township Trustees and Reed Township Assessor.

Dated: Nov. 14, 2024.
Thomas Nahas, Clerk
Presiding Officer
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Nov. 27, 2024.

Dangers at Diamond, air, water and land

I guess most of us know that mining is a dangerous occupation. In the 1870's, when the Industrial Revolution was just beginning, the demand for coal far exceeded the amount taken out of the ground. Shafts were sunk without much forethought. And, it seemed, life was cheap. Today we look at the birth of yet another coal town on the great Wilmington Coal Field.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Wilmington Mining and Manufacturing Co."

By November of 1875, the new town was developing nicely. Wilmington business men were some of the first to reap the profit. "A Rare Opportunity to Secure a Home - Messrs. E. D. Small & Co. of this city (Wilmington), have built twenty cottages at the Diamond Mines, which are neatly finished and painted inside and out."

"We are called upon to print the contracts for their sale, which provide for as low payments as fifteen dollars per month (\$423today), with the privilege to the purchaser of increasing the payments to from twenty to twenty-five dollars per month (\$565 -

\$705), and securing a liberal discount thereby; they also provide for an extension of time in case the purchaser should become disabled before making the final payment."

"We consider the terms offered very liberal, and think this a rare opportunity for working men to secure homes where the prospect for steady and profitable employment is not surpassed; also where there is every probability that the property purchased will rapidly increase in value, as it is considered by all intelligent observers of our coal field that the center of operations must move westward each year, and the Diamond mines will soon become one of the most desirable and central locations in the Wilmington coal fields. Messrs. E. D. Small & Co. have a large stock of lumber which they offer on liberal terms."

Two months later the above predictions seemed to be coming true. "The Diamond shaft and the C & W are raising three hundred extra tons of coal every



A PHOTO OF the mining operations at Diamond.

week for the Joliet steel works, making a difference in the pay roll of \$3,600 (\$101,570) per week. This shows what manufacturing interest can do."

That holiday season the mine owners showed their "appreciation" to the miners. "Mr. C. D. Whitcomb, Superintendent of the Diamond mine, presented to each one of the men employed upon the switch engines, a fine turkey, thus enabling them to give thanks properly upon the day designated by the President, also to show his appreciation of their labor in his behalf during the past year. It is expected that Mr. Maltby will do likewise Christmas then Mr. Crombie can follow suit New Years'."

Was all sweetness and light at the Diamond mine? The definite answer is - no. The earth did not want to give up her treasures easily. "On Friday last, while mining in Diamond shaft, a Bohemian named John Kophff was caught in a fall of stone, sustaining a fracture of the shoulder.

"Charles Shultz, a

miner, employed in the Diamond shaft, was seriously injured by a fall of coal, on Wednesday last."

The air the miners inhaled was artificially brought to them, and it too was dangerous in many ways. On July 18, 1879, "A fire was discovered in the bottom of the Diamond coal shaft on Monday morning at an early hour, caused by the overheating of the air furnace, which furnishes the mine with ventilation. The mules and other property were immediately raised to avoid destruction, and mining operations ceased at once. At last accounts the fire was under subjection."

Of course, mining was halted until the air improved. Of course not. "The Diamond shaft resumed work last Friday. At present the air is considerably below par. The company will, however, at once commence the erection above ground of a furnace and brick shaft, 56 feet in height, creating an immense current and connecting it with the air shaft, upon the completion of

which it is expected the Diamond will be second to none in possessing pure air."

And finally, the last element came into play - water. In 1880, three years before the Great Diamond Mine Disaster we read, "The 'roof' in a portion of the Diamond shaft gave way Wednesday forenoon, under pressure of the surface water accumulated on the prairie above. The break was sudden, and the water rushed in with fearful rapidity, causing consternation among the miners on all sides in that immediate vicinity."

"The mules were hurriedly gotten to the cage and hoisted, and many hands followed - some of them waist deep before they escaped. One young man, named Pearson, had an especially narrow escape, having to hold his mouth uppermost in order to breathe in the flooded passage. After a time, the surface water was exhausted and that in the mine found its way to lower parts, and serious results were averted."

Happy Thanksgiving

From Our Family to Yours



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THE BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL

Will County passes \$832 million budget

Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and Will County leaders have announced the approval of a balanced Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The budget, which priori-

tizes public safety spending, was voted on at the November 21, County Board meeting.

"This budget reflects our commitment to fiscal responsibility and investing in shared priorities," said County Executive Bertino-Tarrant.

"A budget is a statement of values, and this budget reflects public safety being a top priority of county leadership. I appreciate that we were able to work together to increase funding for public safety and community services, while maintaining a balanced budget."

The County Board approved an \$832 million budget. The budget includes \$273 million for the Corporate Fund, which is used for county operations, and \$558 million for various Special Funds that are restricted for a specific purpose, such as motor fuel taxes, departmental fees, and entities governed by their own boards.

Public safety was prioritized in the FY2025 budget, with public safety and judicial operations making up 62% of the county's operating budget.

The budget allocated funding for 19 new judicial and public safety positions, including 13 court security officers in the Sheriff's Department as part of the continued transition from deputies serving in court security roles. The increase in court security officers will shift existing courthouse deputies to other duties, including patrol and response.

"With this budget, we can put more deputies on the street for patrols, traffic enforcement for trucks, and investigations," said Sheriff Mike Kelley. "This is the first increase we've had

to our detective team since 1976, which is significant."

The budget also outlines a five-year Capital Improvement Plan, with \$8.5 million of projects identified in the upcoming fiscal year. The largest allocation is \$3.5 million for the county-owned building at 1300 Copperfield in Joliet, which will be retrofitted to become a unified Veteran Assistance and Support Center. The goal of the project is to house the Veterans Assistance Commission and other veteran organizations at the county-owned office building, creating a unified "one-stop shop" for veteran services.

Also included is funding for a consolidated county website project, which aims to reduce the number of independent county websites.

Various public safety and social service agencies are also receiving allocations with revenue from the State of Illinois Cannabis Sales Tax.

These include \$450,000 for a Housing Stabilization Program, \$345,000 for the Children's Advocacy Center, \$257,000 for the Elevate Will County Child Care Provider Grant, and \$225,000 for the county's Problem Solving Courts.

Will County continues to maintain a AA credit rating from Moody's Ratings, which praised the county in October for a strong financial position due to "conservative financial management and growing revenue."

The ratings agency said that Will County's "excellent" credit position is strengthened by "strong budgetary management with multiyear planning and strong transparency."

American Legion gun raffle

The Braidwood American Legion Koca Post 39 is holding a veterans gun raffle on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the post at 553 W. Kennedy Rd.

The three guns that will be raffled to raise funds for local veteran services include a Kimber Micro 9mm, a Springfield Armory Hellcat 9mm and a Heritage Badlander 12 ga 3" shotgun with 18.5" barrel.

For tickets or more information contact Bill Kiley at 815-216-2570.

COMET'S CORNER

ALL THE LATEST BREAKING NEWS FROM YOUR OWN REED-CUSTER COMETS!

FUNctional Math!

Students in Reed-Custer High School math classes have been busy throughout first semester!

A few notable moments have included:



Addison Brown and Gwendolynn Stewart collect data in AP Precalculus.

• Making Predictions!

- Students in our AP Precalculus course used m&m's to collect data. They then had to create a model to represent their data and determine how appropriate their model represented their data.



Madelynn Marschner and Sophie Moyers test their predictions in Algebra 1.

• Pumpkin Time Bomb!

- Students used scatterplots and created a line of best fit to predict how many rubber bands it would take to explode a pumpkin! We used A LOT of rubber bands!

• Barbie Bungee!

- Students in Algebra 1 collected data to create a line of best fit to help them determine how many rubber bands needed to be added to their "Bungee Line" for Barbie to safely bungee jump! We tested this in the RCHS gym!



Jason Rivas-Turner, Navaeh Juricic, and Shelby Smith prepare to test their bungee lines in Algebra 1.

MATH JOKE!

WHAT DID THE CALCULATOR SAY TO THE STUDENT?

you no longer have a calculator

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The leaf vac

WILMINGTON—Whatever happened to the leaf vac? The city took away a worthy public service, one of the few services we get for our tax dollars. Did the city lower our taxes when they took it away? Of course not. Now, all we see are leaves piling up in the streets and people neglecting to clean them up. City hall should never have gotten rid of it.

No RR control

BRAIDWOOD—When are the people of Braidwood going to wake up and understand that the City of Braidwood has absolutely no control or say so over what happens on the railroad tracks that runs through town. The only people who can do anything about it is our federal legislators. The state or city can not regulate how long a crossing is blocked for, nor can a police department or local government fine the railroad. So quit beating the crap out of the local officials on Facebook over the blocked crossing issues because you're taking the hammer to the wrong people. The local folks are trying to address it as best they can but that's all they can do. Start beating on the doors of your federal legislators if you want something done.

Proud of Coalers

COAL CITY—Big shout out to the Coal City High School football team for a great season.

Loved the fireworks

COAL CITY—I just wanted to write in to thank whoever was responsible for the firework displays this Coaler football season. It was such a treat and so fun to see all the smiles on all the kids and adults' faces for both the home and visiting teams. I'm sure it wasn't cheap, so please know it didn't go unnoticed.

Half the story

BRAIDWOOD—It's nice to see that the three or four so-called "Braidwood Truth Seekers" only like to show half of the story and not the full picture. They FOIA tons of information, yet they only share what they feel will benefit their personal agenda and witch hunt. If they really wanted to be truthful, they'd share everything, and not just a fraction. There's two sides to every story. Don't try to embellish to make yours seem more believable.

They're listening

COAL CITY—Not to beat a dead horse, but another angle to consider regarding the over-the-top vulgarities and insults that were yelled all football season: It was all heard crystal clear on the live streams. Embarrassing for Coaler fans and athletes alike.

Hitachi's assessment

COAL CITY—A lot of discussion has been made about GE Hitachi tax assessment. There has not been a single question about why there is such an enormous discrepancy between Grundy County's

assessment of the property and the School Board's assessment? The difference is almost 50-fold. How did the school board do this calculation and why isn't that being discussed? "We believe it's higher" isn't an explanation. Either Grundy County does not know how to assess properties, or the school board has made a gross error and taxpayers are paying the legal costs. In either case, why has no one asked a simple question to an unbelievably large calculational discrepancy.

What did we expect?

SHADOW LAKES—So far half of trump picks for his administration are a bunch of clowns, including child molesters to global warming deniers. But then what are we to expect when a convicted criminal is to run the country. Let's just hope that food prices go down some, but with trump's tariffs coming I doubt it.

The DOJ disgrace

WILMINGTON—You gotta love these Liberals that write in or talk in to this Sound-off saying how the DOJ is going to be corrupted. The Department of Justice is already corrupted, look what they did to Donald Trump. Remember the lap top? The Russia hoax that didn't exist the impeachment. How about that lady that claimed that she was raped by him in a popular New York department store but really doesn't know the year. There is so many things they have done. Let's not forget about Brett Kavanaugh being unfit for the Supreme Court, remember that one where he was at a high school party and touched Blasey Ford. But Neither Blasey Ford or anybody could even testify that Brett Kavanaugh was even at the party. The Department of Justice is a disgrace right now. Donald Trump will straighten it out. Tom

No minorities

SHADOW LAKES—About 40% of the U.S. population is made up of Hispanics, Blacks, Asian and other minorities. So far in Trump's picks for his administration the only person resembling a minority is a poppet wannabe white supremacy's named Marco Rubio. Don't tell me this wasn't a racial election.

Positive for city

BRAIDWOOD—Why is it that whenever something good or nice for our community gets announced, the small group of negative naysayers take to their self-idolized Facebook page and turn it into a political issue. Why can't these people be happy that our city wants to do something positive for the residents. If you're so miserable with everything in this town, why are you still here? It's a shame that Braidwood has residents who continuously act like this because they have personal daggers out for a few people who bust their hind ends to get things done in this town.

Make a splash

BRAIDWOOD—It would be amazing to see a splash pad built in Braidwood. My



Happy Thanksgiving

Have a Bountiful Holiday

family has been asking for one for several years since we moved here. Regardless of who gets it done it would be fantastic to see. It's a shame though that some people on Facebook and in town just want to turn it into a negative political issue. Come on folks, if something positive is coming to our town then let's get behind it and support it instead of bashing the people who are trying to get it done.

Splash pad

BRAIDWOOD—A single mother of three young ones I think it would be great to have a splash pad in our town. Not everyone can afford a membership to a rec club and a beach. This isn't a political issue, it's a need issue.

The Trump dance

SHADOW LAKES—Who would have thought the Trump dance is now the biggest touchdown dance in sports. Try it Irene maybe it will burn off some of your hate.

Pritzker doesn't care

ILLINOIS—I see where our Illinois Governor, I'm sorry I mean Chicago/Cook County governor, sent out a warning to the Trump Administration that they will have to go through him to get to his people. Doesn't he really mean go around him to get to his people? That would probably be more difficult. I don't know who Pritzker thinks he is kidding. We all know that he only cares about Chicago/Cook County and maybe a couple other counties, other than that the rest of the state is a wasteland to him. Interesting thing happened this election that did not make any of the left-wing liberal news stations. Almost every county south of Springfield voted to secede from the State of Illinois. Attorney General Kwame Raoul stated that it is illegal for them to do that. I did a little research and it is not illegal for them to secede but it is a difficult process to achieve. The Governor could care less anyway.

Don't cry

MORRIS—Oh here we go again, Morris is playing Joliet Catholic for the semi finals in the class 5 playoffs. Now Morris people will be complaining about having all the Catholic schools that they have to play and this and that. Kids transfer all the time throughout the state to play sports but not these crybabies. Go Joliet Catholic, beat Morris.

Sending a message

Commentary

What seniors need to know about Medicare Part D

BY KENNETH THORPE

Congress recently made a number of changes to Medicare's "Part D" prescription drug benefit. The changes were part of President Biden's signature legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act.

The legislation was intended to make it easier for seniors to afford their medicines. Some of the changes will indeed help seniors. But other changes could inadvertently raise seniors' costs, reduce their access to medicines, and stifle the development of new treatments.

With open enrollment underway through Dec. 7 this year -- every senior should know about the Inflation Reduction Act and how it has impacted Medicare.

First, the good news. Seniors using insulin now have their costs capped at \$35 each month. This has already made a huge difference for those living with diabetes.

Starting next year, seniors' yearly out-of-pocket Part D drug costs will be capped at \$2,000. Seniors will also have the option to

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill and I'm watching another of the many episodes of The Kennedy Family. The Kennedy family had many, many tragedies. Maybe God was trying to tell them to not be as corrupt as they were. They never listened. Matter of fact the Kennedy's had a lot of money behind the ArmaLite M16 that got a lot of GI's killed in Vietnam. The tragedies of that family I feel sorry for but I think God was trying to tell them to quit being corrupt. Trump haters forget John F Kennedy was the biggest male whore of the presidents of the United States and he was a Democrat. Democrats have also been accused many times of having affairs with male sub servants. Let's not forget that people. It's not what they do in their private life, it's what they do for the country. Thank you.

Young ideas

BRAIDWOOD—Of late, I have gone to join two clubs. Their memberships are almost depleted. The clubs of long ago need youth to sustain them. Young ideas, youthful bodies. Parents talk to your children about how it used to be and get them out there.

Not with Biden

DIAMOND—So Irene believes that Elon Musk warned voters that they can expect economic hardships. Um, I think the last four years the middle class has seen plenty of economic hardships under Bidenomics. Just how much harder can it get? I'm not into Trump, Biden, Kamala or anyone of these crooks at that level. I've stated in Sound-off before that I would rather see one of our political leaders from our small towns down here be in those positions as they know how we live. Although, I will say that when Trump was president the cost of living was much lower and my retirement investments soared in those years. Not so much with Biden. Inflation was at 40-year record highs and I know what I was paying for everyday common goods. I know what I've seen in my life. There is no news person on TV going to hypnotize me like they do with so many other people and convince me otherwise. Keep letting the media control your mind.

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spread these costs out over the entire year through a new program called the "Medicare Prescription Payment Plan."

Both of these changes can help seniors who rely on multiple brand-name medicines and those on fixed incomes.

But right now, very few enrollees are aware of this new program. Medicare could do more to alert seniors to this new feature, especially since seniors interested in this benefit will need to opt in.

During open enrollment season, seniors should consider contacting their Part D insurers if they'd benefit from spreading out their pharmacy costs. Because of the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare can now set prices on some covered drugs for the first time ever.

Unfortunately, this policy has had some unintended effects on the development of new medicines. Thus far, it has already resulted in the discontinuation of at least 36 research programs and 22 experimental drugs.

The Inflation Reduction Act has also

resulted in higher premiums for seniors. This year, standalone Part D plans were on track to cost 21% more than they did last year, on average. As a result, many seniors switched to lower cost options.

The number of plans available has also dropped, down about 25% since 2020. Because of the law, many insurers have also shifted some medications to "non-preferred" or "specialty" tiers that require higher out-of-pocket costs, restricting beneficiaries' access to previously covered drugs.

Some insurers have also created rules that make it harder to get the drugs your doctor recommends, like making patients first try cheaper options. It is important that seniors learn about these changes -- and the impact they're having on their access to medicines.

Kenneth E. Thorpe is chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. He is chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease.

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Methodist Church to host Italian Beef carry-out dinner

Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McCord Rd. will hold an Italian Beef Carry-Out dinner on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Each meal will include an Italian beef sandwich, cheesy potatoes, and a brownie for \$15 per meal. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund.

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to everyone who came out to support the American Legion Koca Post 039 1st Annual Veterans event held Nov 16.

It was a great success thanks to your generous donations. Proceeds will go to VETERANS in need and to the Reed-Custer Scholarship Fund. We look forward to seeing you back for our next one.

Bill Kiley, Commander

Veto session ends without Trump proofing

In the wake of Donald Trump's national victory and his losing margin dropping to 11 points in Illinois from 17 in two prior races, state legislative Democrats here have different views on how their party should proceed.

Sen. Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) told my associate Isabel Miller last week that Illinois Democrats have "forgotten about the people in the middle."

"I think we have done a lot of really good, progressive things," Sen. Morrison said. "But sometimes I think we have the tendency to not think about the people in the middle."

Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago) told Isabel that stepping back from progressive social issues is not on the table.

"There's compromise, and then there's erasing the existence of people," Rep. Cassidy said.

The leaders at the top, however, have been talking about "Trump-proofing" Illinois since election day.

So, Isabel and I spent last week watching House Bill 5164's progress in the Senate.

Commonly called the "name-change bill," the legislation would cap the cost of name changes in the state, halve the state residency requirement to three months and allow certain people to ask that their name change be exempt from public disclosure. The bill passed the House 67-39 in April, but was never assigned to a Senate committee.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

Why did it stall out in the Senate? Well, the bill includes several justifications for keeping the records out of the public eye, including that the person seeking the name change is transgender, has survived domestic or intimate partner abuse, or gender-based violence or human trafficking, or is a refugee, or has been granted special immigrant status or asylum, etc.

The measure is supported by Equality Illinois, the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the ACLU and Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, among others.

Newspapers like the Chicago Tribune originally filed in opposition, as did the Illinois Press Association. Newspapers make money off public notices, of course, but they also stand on general principles of public disclosure with things like this, and they claimed that the legislation would get rid of the publishing requirement for everyone, not just these folks.

Somehow, despite all the hot buttons, the bill

managed to mostly escape the outrage machine throughout the spring, summer and fall.

A large number of people, including at least some Democrats, believe that the party's stance on transgender rights and immigration hurt them this year.

Other Democrats, including Gov. JB Pritzker, have strongly insisted that the party cannot now back away from supporting vulnerable populations simply because of partisan political considerations.

The bill was scheduled for its first Senate committee vote on Wednesday, Nov. 21. As Isabel reported at the time, the far-right Illinois Family Institute sent a blast e-mail to its followers ahead of the hearing claiming the legislation would "make it almost impossible to find illegal immigrants with a criminal history and/or those who have committed crimes while on American soil, for the purpose of deportation."

The group also claimed that those who benefit from the legislation include, "Those who have committed rapes and murders who don't want law enforcement to find them; A man who is pretending to be a woman and a woman who is pretending to be a man."

Some Democrats waved off the claims as fearmongering falsehoods

and the bill passed the Senate Executive Committee on a partisan roll call, with 9 Democrats voting for it and 4 Republicans opposed.

But when it came time for the full Senate to vote on the bill and send it to the governor, the chamber decided to set it aside.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Ram Villivalam, claimed that he had the votes to pass the bill, regardless of Republican opposition and increasing pressure exerted by the IFI. He said some technical process issues were raised during the hearing and the decision was made to fix those before proceeding.

"It's just making sure that on the administrative side, on the implementation side that each of the different entities that are involved are able to communicate with one another about these petitions," Sen. Villivalam said.

Whatever the case, there was no "Trump-proofing" vote during veto session. That'll have to wait until at least early January when the General Assembly returns for its lame duck session.

By then, the governor's office hopes to have at least some additional bills for the legislature to work on.

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

Registration underway for annual Holiday Hustle 5K

It's time to sign up for the annual Holiday Hustle 5K Fun Run/Walk which will be held Sunday Dec. 1 in Coal City.

Proceeds from the race will benefit Susan's Mission which focuses on Special Olympic Team Sports and the inclusion of all. It is their mission to bring awareness to not only Special Olympics as individual events, but team ones as well.

The Morris nonprofit was founded two years ago and have been hosting a Christmas Holiday Basketball tournament each December at Saratoga school. This is their biggest event and is expected to grow each year.

Last year they had 22 teams from around Illinois come and compete in their tournament.

The race will start at Babe's Tap, 755 S. Broadway St., Coal City and travel south on Broadway St. to Reed Rd., left and loop through Cardinal Transport and then back north on Broadway.

There is a non-refundable entry fee for early registration which is \$30 and if you register Nov. 22 or later it will be \$35. Walk up registrations are available but note that it will cost \$35. Participants are guaranteed a T-shirt, medal, and swag bag if registered early.

Babe's Tap will also be providing each participant

the opportunity to have 1 free drink (alcoholic or non) and a bowl of chili.

This is a "Fun Run" and holiday attire is encouraged. Although it is a Fun "Run" this does not mean you must run it. Walking is also permitted.

Children are also encouraged to join in on the fun. Awards will be presented to each participant and the overall top male and female finisher in each of seven age divisions.

Race start time will be 11 a.m. and packet pickup starts at 10 a.m. at Babe's Tap (755 S. Broadway St.)

Register at RunSign Up.com/2024HolidayHustle.

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Hike the heron rookery

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Pauline Daniell

WILMINGTON—Pauline Daniell, 95, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

Born at home on Jan. 16, 1929, in Coles County, IL, Pauline Evelyn was a daughter of Orvine and Freda Fern (Wagonner) Thomas. She grew up in the small town of Etna, IL, where her roots in kindness and hard work were cultivated. On Dec. 1, 1945, Pauline married the love of her life, Gerald "Squirt" Daniell, in Mattoon, IL. Together, they began their journey in Mattoon before settling in Wilmington in the early 1950s, where they built a loving home and life.

Pauline balanced her roles as a devoted wife and mother with a strong work ethic. She worked for Braun Sales in Wilmington and later joined The Free Press Newspapers, where she worked until the age of 90. Pauline's dedication extended beyond her professional life into her community. She was an active and faithful member of the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington, where she was a cherished participant in the sewing circle and a regular contributor to church dinners, sharing her culinary talents.

Known for her sweet and generous nature, Pauline had a way of making everyone feel cared for. She was always ready with a helping hand and will forever be remembered as an exceptional cook, creating countless meals from scratch with love. Pauline and Squirt shared a lifetime of adventures, from traveling together to exploring the open road on motorcycle trips. The pair also enjoyed crafting, creating beautiful pieces that reflected their shared creativity and teamwork.

Above all, Pauline's greatest joy was her family. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who enriched the lives of those she held dear. Her legacy of love, kindness, and generosity will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Pauline's warm spirit and her ability to bring joy to others will be deeply missed,



but her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends. She leaves behind a life well-lived and a legacy of love that will endure for generations to come.

Survivors include three sons: Danny (Pat) Daniell and Roger (Susan) Daniell, both of Wilmington and Tommy Daniell, of Las Vegas, NV; her daughter-in-law, Barbara Daniell, of Bourbonnais, IL; 12 grandchildren: Casey Daniell, Ryan (Lucy) Daniell, Molly (Nic) Friedhoff, Rachel Conforti, Nathan (Suzy) Daniell, Abigail (Will) Barry, Anna Burton, Amy (Jon) Baker, Rachel Bradley, Blake (Aja) Daniell, Liberda (Scott) McAllister and Gerald (Katarina) Daniell; 21 great-grandchildren: Jack, Wyatt, Tessa, Siena, Nathan Jr., Claire, Chloe, Penny, Kip, Allie, Andie, Behr, Ava, Elizabeth, Dillon, Aria, Blake, Violet, Daniell, Hazel and Siren, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as loving friends.

Pauline was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Gerald (1999); son, Gary (2009); grandson, Kyle Daniell (2020); great-granddaughter, Sabrina Conforti (2021), and two brothers: Dewey (Elsie) Thomas and James "Bud" (Ruth) Thomas.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and the family is planning a celebration of Pauline's life and memorial for a later date.

Pauline will be laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington alongside her late husband, Gerald.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Pauline's memory to the First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481.

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

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

Francis J. Jirousek

CUSTER PARK—Francis J. Jirousek, 89, of Custer Park, passed away comfortably at his home on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024.

Frank was born Sept. 6, 1935 in Braidwood, the son of Frank and Kate (Vaira) Jirousek. He graduated from Reed-Custer High School and received a Business Degree from Joliet Junior College. He worked most of his life at Roper Corporation in Kankakee as the Director for the Data Processing Department, leading the cutting edge of the first computers in the United States, back when they were as big as your living room. He was always surprised to see the capabilities of the Smart Phones today in comparison.

Frank was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church and an Honorary Life Member of the Knights of Columbus, both in Braidwood. He began as an Altar Boy when he was in 4th grade and always enjoyed "getting out of school" when he was asked to serve during the week for the occasional funeral with his cousin, Hugh "Chewy" Mulligan. He lived his life to serve others and was a visionary for his children and the community by serving as president of the Grade School Board of Custer Park.

He also helped to create the Custer Park Volunteer Fire Department in 1964 and had many an adventure in our tiny community with occasional fires and the Railroad Bridge Train Wreck of 1969, in which he was the first on the scene. When he retired from Roper, he was able to travel with his wife to Europe many times, but his favorite times were his annual trips to



Hawaii with his wife and daughter, Kathy and son-in-law, Stan. They tried to go every year and made it there 35 times. He loved his two grandsons and felt a "second wind" when they were born, as he had more time to spoil them. He attended all of their soccer games and because of his passion for music, his heart burst when they both joined the school band.

Nothing in the world made him happier than spending time with "The love of his life," his wife, Diane and his family.

Surviving are his wife, Diane (Campbell), who he married April 17, 1957 in Braidwood; three daughters: Karen (David) Soberski, of Orcutt, CA; Pam (Pat) Mullandy, of Limestone, IL and Kathy (Stan) Anton, of Custer Park; two grandchildren, Peter and Keith Mullady and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Tony Jirousek.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church. Interment followed in Braceville Gardner Cemetery in Braceville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Home Helpers of Kankakee, Lightways Hospice or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

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 was in charge of arrangements.

Marilyn Kerr

WILMINGTON—Marilyn Kerr, "Red," 81, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Thursday morning at her home on Thursday evening, Nov. 21, 2024 with family at her side.

Born on Nov. 6, 1943, in Portland, OR, Marilyn Marie was a daughter of Cleo Clinton and Esther June (Daniell) Cummins. She spent her early years in Lerna, IL, before her family relocated to Wilmington, where she graduated from Wilmington High School. On May 25, 1963, Marilyn married John E. Kerr, in the Baptist Church in Wilmington. Together, they built a life of love, raising their family and contributing deeply to their community.

Marilyn was the first female real estate agent in Wilmington, and had a long and fulfilling career where she dedicated 35 years to helping families find homes. In addition, her entrepreneurial spirit led her to establish Kerr Management Consultants, Inc., a business she nurtured over three decades in Wilmington, which continues as a proud family-run endeavor.

Marilyn was deeply committed to serving her community. She actively participated in Girl Scouts for many years, guiding and mentoring young women. Her faith was also central to her life, and she was a devoted member of the First Christian Church in Wilmington.

Beyond her professional and community endeavors, Marilyn was an extremely patriotic soul that found joy in creativity and nature. She was an accomplished quilter and seamstress, cherished her time spent reading, and loved tending to her garden. Above all, Marilyn's greatest joy was her family. Her unwavering love, support, and dedication to her loved ones remain her most enduring legacy.

Marilyn will be remembered as a



woman of kindness, strength, and generosity, who left an indelible mark on her family, friends, and community. Her memory will forever inspire those who were blessed to know her.

Survivors include her loving husband of 61 years, John; two daughters: Dyanna (Robert, III) Swisher, of Godley; and Deborah Rutherford, of Wilmington; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Kenneth (Pamellen) Cummins, of Plano, IL; one sister, Linda (the late Larry) Riley, of Effingham, IL and one brother-in-law, David Lynch of Flint, MI, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents; one sister, Phyllis Lynch and four grandchildren in infancy.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and the family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024 from 1 p.m. until time of memorial service at 3 p.m. Pastor Jason Pace from First Christian Church will officiate, and Marilyn will be privately laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Marilyn's memory to the wounded-warriorproject.org; Salvation Army, donate.salarmyncil.org/give or www.graceonwings.org/donate Grace on Wings (Charity Air Ambulance) in Indianapolis, IN.

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

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

Sharon Kimmey

BRACEVILLE—Sharon Kay Glenney Kimmey "Nonnie," 77, of Braceville, passed peacefully in her home after her long-fought courageous battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her devoted husband of 50 years and her loving family.

Born on Christmas Day in 1946, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Joliet, she was the cherished daughter of Richard P. and Margaret Mary (Doyle) Glenney, of Wilmington. Sharon was a graduate of St. Rose Catholic Grade School in Wilmington and Wilmington High School class of 1964, and Stevens Career College, Chicago. While at Stevens Career College, Sharon was offered employment with both The Chicago White Sox and WGN news station in special promotions reporting. She instead chose to raise her beautiful family. A resident of Wilmington for 45 years, she lived in Braceville for the past 32 years. She was the owner and operator of Accurate Transcription Service for 20 years; she was also employed at The Free Press Advocate for many years.

A proud Irishwoman, Sharon was a descendant of Will County farming pioneers and was raised on the family farm on Ballou Road in rural Wilmington. She loved her family and enjoyed watching her grandchildren perform in Irish Dance competitions, competitive gymnastics, soccer, baseball, football, and horseback riding. Known as Nonnie by her loving grandchildren, she loved hosting parties and dinners for the whole family. Many laughs and good times were held in Nonnie's kitchen over the years. She also



enjoyed reading, shopping, boating, and playing euchre and bunco with her friends.

She is survived by her loving and doting husband, Robert M. "Butch" Kimmey, who she married on Dec. 19, 1975; two daughters, Kerry (Paul) Kosinski and Kristin (Daniel) Leasure, both of Coal City; one son, Kevin, of Michigan; nine grandchildren: Allison (David), Megan, Andrew, Christopher, Michael, Paul, Sheyenne, Nicholas, and Kaleb; two great-grandchildren, Adam and Everett Scott; one sister, Mary Ellen (Kenneth) Byford, of Manhattan and numerous nieces, nephews, and Irish cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant twin sons, Robert and Richard; one brother, Richard M. Glenney; two sisters, Maureen Glenney Justice and Patricia Glenney; maternal grandparents, Michael E. and Margaret (Nugent) Doyle and paternal grandparents, Richard and Mary (O'Mara) Glenney.

The family would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Gustafson at Hope and Healing Cancer Services, New Lenox, and Sharon's entire care team at both Ascension St. Joseph's Hospital, Joliet, and Lightways Hospice for the beautiful care she received.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private celebration of Sharon's life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to We Care of Grundy County in Morris.

Kevin J. Kociss

GARDNER—Kevin J. Kociss, 69, of Gardner, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024 in Morris.

Born Jan. 9, 1955 in Morris, Kevin John was a son of John and Marilyn (Hansen) Kociss. He was raised and educated in Gardner and graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School with the class of 1973. He completed his education at the United Electronic Institute of Iowa in 1975, and on Nov. 25, 1978 he married Nancy Dinelli at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington. Together, Kevin and Nancy would continue to make their home in Gardner where they shared over 45 years of marriage and raised their family. He worked for People's Gas, Light and Coke Company in Elwood as an instrument technician for 33 1/2 years until he retired in 2009.

Kevin was famous for his daily rides about town, following the same route everyday to see what was going on about town. He would also take a drive through the South Wilmington Fireman's Club where he was a long time member. Kevin started his day with the newspaper, beginning with the comic section, and always completing the daily crossword. He was proud of being from Gardner, being a life time member of the Church of Hope in Gardner and would annually volunteer with the Elbow Benders to help make the sauce for the Spaghetti Supper supporting the GSW Little League Association. Kevin was an avid sports fan, cheering on the Chicago Cubs and Bears from his recliner, and took great pleasure in NASCAR races.

He was generally a quiet man, but generous with his time and talents. Kevin worked hard to provide a good home, carefully maintaining his lawn to his high standards. He loved his family dearly, particularly his grandchildren, and found being a devoted husband, father, and grandfather to be his greatest accomplishment.



Survivors include his wife, Nancy Kociss, of Gardner; two children, Morgan (Mike), of Gardner and Keegan, of Mokena, IL; three grandchildren: Donovan Paul, Annabelle June, and Briann Carolyn, as well as three bonus grandchildren: Zach, Lily, and Tyler; two brothers, Kurt (Tracy) Kociss, of Gardner and Kerry Kociss, of Dwight, and two sisters, Kim (Gerry) Von Qualen, of Gardner and Kelly Kociss, of West Chicago, IL; brothers and sisters-in-law: Phil Dinelli, Donna (Dave) Mehochko, Lou (Karen) Dinelli, and Carol (Sam) Rissman; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Kevin was preceded in death by his parents, John and Marilyn Kociss and his mother and father-in-law: Albert and Anna Dinelli; one sister-in-law, Judy Dinelli, and one nephew, Justin VonQualen.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 203 N. Liberty St., in Gardner on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024 from 1 p.m. until the time of prayer service at 4 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

Honorary pallbearers will be: Bobby Crater, Craig Patten, Deb Hill, Chris Phillips, and heavenly friends: Daryl Crater and Annette Pellens.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made as gifts in Kevin's memory to the Church of Hope in Gardner and to the Gardner Fire Department.

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

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

Jacqueline Kurz

MORRIS—Jacqueline Loretta Kurz, 89, of Morris, passed away Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, at Advent Health Hinsdale Hospital.

Born on Nov. 7, 1935, in Chicago, Jacqueline was the beloved second child of Elmer Arnold William and Rose (Antonelli) Harder. Raised in the vibrant Hyde Park neighborhood, Jackie often reminisced about her childhood adventures, from walking to the Lake Michigan shoreline to cool off in the summer heat to the unforgettable air raid drills during World War II, when the city would go dark. She attended Yale Elementary School and graduated from Parker High School.

On July 9, 1955, Jackie married the love of her life, Robert R. Kurz, at Hope Lutheran Church. Their union was blessed with two children, Robert Roy Kurz Jr., born in 1957, and Cory Ann Kurz, born in 1960.

Jackie's career reflected her adaptability and dedication. She began as a crossing guard for the Chicago Police Department before working at Chicago Kent Law School for 15 years. Later, she transitioned to a role as office manager for Filler, Weiner, and Zaner Commodities, where her organizational talents shone. After retiring from the hustle of downtown Chicago, Jackie and Bob moved to Morris, in the Goose Lake area, embracing a quieter yet active lifestyle.

Even in retirement, Jackie's love for engaging with others led her to the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau. She found joy leading tours and bus trips, often accompanied by Bob, and sharing her enthusiasm for exploration and connection.

Jackie and Bob shared a remarkable love story, spanning 63 1/2 years of marriage until Bob's passing. Their deep bond was a testament to enduring love and partnership.



Jackie will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, her love for storytelling, and her commitment to family and community. Her legacy is one of kindness, strength, and a life lived to the fullest. She leaves behind cherished memories and a reminder to find joy and purpose in every chapter of life.

She is survived by her loving son, Robert and wonderful daughter-in-law, Lori, of Homer Glen; three grandchildren: Alexis Kurz (Jason Hoefferle), Amanda Kurz and Robert Kurz; four Goddaughters: Margie, Mari, Laura and Darcey and many cousins, as well as friends. In addition, Jackie was blessed with wonderful neighbors.

Jacqueline was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Cory Ann Kurz; husband, Robert R. Kurz Sr.; brother, Elmer Jr. (Donna) Harder, brother-in-law, Thomas Kurz and sister-in-law, Dorothy Flynn.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. A procession will then depart the funeral home to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL, where committal services will be held at 1 p.m. and Jackie will be laid to rest with her late husband, Bob.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jacqueline's memory to the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Memorial Squad, P.O. Box 6, Elwood, IL 60421.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, and upload photographs.

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

OBITUARIES

Brenda Bumpous

BRAIDWOOD—Brenda Jo Bumpous (nee Evans), 75, of Braidwood, passed away Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024 at Morris Hospital.

Born Sept. 10, 1949, she was the daughter of Donald LeRoy and Virginia Rose (nee Taylor) Evans. Brenda previously worked as a manager at McDonald's and also a receptionist at Dr. Milton's office.

Surviving are her husband, Paul Bumpous; son, William "Bopper" (Shawn) Welsh III, of Wilmington; four grandchildren: Whitney (Austin), D.J. (fiancé Miranda), Marcus and Zach; three great-grandchildren: Bentley, Bryson, and



Beckham; son-in-law, John Harvey, of Braidwood; sister-in-law, Susie Evans, of Wilmington and nieces and nephews: Jake (Alyssa) Evans Jill Zacha, Dawna Ward and Anita Ward and great-niece and nephew, Jace Zacha and Ashlee (Alex) Clubb.

Preceding her in death were her parents; daughter, Melissa Lee (nee Welsh) Harvey; brother, Wally Don Evans and sister, Donna (Charles) Ward.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Services will be private.

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

Carolyn Morrow

WILMINGTON—Carolyn Morrow, 82, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Aug. 10, 1942 in Taylorville, IL, Carolyn Sue was a daughter of Glen and Sarah (Gatlin) Burkhardt. She was raised in Taylorville and Peoria, IL until her family relocated to Joliet.

Carolyn attended Joliet Junior College, and on July 2, 1960 she married Douglas Neil Morrow, Sr., with whom she would share 52 years of marriage. She was a dedicated employee of Stepan Chemical Company in Elwood, as an accounting secretary for 21 years, until she retired in 2000.



eight grandchildren: Danielle (Josh) Kolesar, Michelle (Glen) Kuta, Bryan Dunkin, Stephanie Fink, Alan Morrow, Benjamin Morrow, Kyle Palmer, and Katie Palmer; five great grandchildren: Raynen Palmer, Marley Rose Palmer, Madison Marie Palmer, Liam Kuta, and Bennett Kolesar; brother and sisters: Ann McFall of Orlando, FL, Glenda (the late Richard) Severns of Washington, IL and David (Linda) Lass of Taylorville; brothers and sisters-in-law: Gerald (the late Norma) Morrow and Keith (Julie) Morrow, both of Channahon, IL, Warren (the late Carol) Morrow of Plainfield, IL, Donna McMillan of Minooka, IL, Madlyn Burkhardt of Washington, Elizabeth Morrow of Tangier, IN, and Betty Oxford of Norris City, IL; as well as numerous numerous nieces and nephews, special cousin, Linda Reavis, and dear friends: Kay Cole, Sharon Peters, Marylou Brashler, Pat Acred, and Pamela Baker.

Carolyn was a very active woman, finding great pleasure in exercise and fitness, and was a strong advocate for people afflicted with Lupus. Carolyn was also fascinated by discovering her family heritage and participated in a local genealogy club. Always an active mind, she could often be found working on crossword and Sudoku puzzles or reading and sewing. Carolyn had quite the zest for life, broadening her horizons by travelling as much as possible, and enjoyed expressing herself by singing and dancing. As an active community member, she was a member of Abundant Life Fellowship Church in Wilmington and was a volunteer at Kuzma Care Cottage.

Above all else in her life was her role as wife, mother, and grandmother. Carolyn loved being with her family, who were always at the forefront of her mind and held close in her heart. She treasured the blessed 52 years she had with her husband until he passed away in 2012, and giving as much of herself to her children and grandchildren as was possible. Carolyn will be remembered fondly for the love she shared with others and her joyous spirit.

Survivors include four children: Douglas N. Morrow, Jr., Tammy Dunkin, and Lisa Fink, all of Wilmington, and Jeffrey (Laura) Morrow of Elmhurst, IL;

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Doug Morrow; one grandson, Jeremy Fink, and one great granddaughter, Miley Rose; two sisters, Mary Lou Birtas-Calvillo and Becky Trandicosta-Banuelos, and two brothers, Glen Burkhardt and Robert Oxford.

Private graveside services were held at Wesley Cemetery in Wilmington, where Carolyn was laid to rest with her husband. A Celebration of Life will be held at Abundant Life Fellowship Church, 23632 Illinois Route 113, in Wilmington on Dec. 7, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Carolyn's memory to Abundant Life Fellowship Church.

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

Funeral services and arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Erik Toler

OSWEGO—Erik Thomas Toler lost his battle with pancreatic cancer peacefully on Nov. 13th, 2024, surrounded by the ones who loved him the most. Erik was born Dec. 14th, 1979, to Thomas Toler and Trudy Toler (Lawrence).

Erik graduated from Reed Custer High School in 1998 where he was a dedicated athlete. During Erik's high school career, he met Lorrie Roudis of Morris, and they married in 1999 and went on to have four children.

Erik had a passion for helping others. He spent many years of his life serving as a firefighter and emergency medical technician. When he was not working in the emergency field, Erik loved helping others by being a handyman, fixing any problems friends and family had. He later went on to become a local union laborer then transitioned into the plumbing field.

Erik was a man of nature. He loved camping, hunting, hiking, swimming, and anything outdoors. Erik was a kid at heart. His goofball sense of humor, ear-to-ear smile and infectious laugh was a blessing and joy to all who encountered him. Family was most important to Erik. He loved spending time with them as much as possible. In 2018, Erik met his wife Kathy Trevino, whom he married in 2020.

Erik was strongly dependent on his faith, walking closely with the Lord. He was a loved member of his church family and was always willing to serve at any opportunity available. One of his favorite scriptures was Philippians 1:6 "Being con-



fident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." This verse is the legacy Erik wanted to leave.

He is survived by his wife Kathy Toler; his children: Olivia Toler 26, Owen Toler 21, Elijah Toler 12, and Leah Toler 10; step-daughters: Olivia Trevino 24, Marissa Armstrong 28 and son in law Chris Armstrong; grandchildren: Parker and Cameron Armstrong; his mother and step father, Gregory and Trudy Lawrence; his brother Russ Toler, sister-in-law Candance Toler; nieces: Taylor Toler, Morgan Toler, and nephew Ryland Toler; his sister Tara Mueller (Toler), brother-in-law Nicholas Mueller and niece Ellie Mueller; stepbrother Christopher Lawrence and maternal grandmother Diane Rohlfs-Briddick.

Erik is preceded in death by his father Thomas Toler; paternal grandparents John and Betty Toler; maternal Grandfather August Rohlfs and stepsister Christine Cully.

Erik's memorial service will be held on Nov. 30th 2024 at Resurrection Church of the Fox Valley, 4054 Fox Valley Center Dr., Aurora IL. Visitation will be from 10am-12pm, with service to follow that is open to all. Erik's burial will be held at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington which will be closed to family and close friends.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Pink Heals of Joliet, PO Box 933, Channahon IL 60410 in honor of Erik's life.

Sen. Rezin introduces legislation to protect Illinois' energy infrastructure

In an attempt to address growing concerns about Illinois' energy demands and potential national security risks, State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) has introduced legislation to prohibits data centers owned by foreign adversaries from operating in Illinois unless they generate their own power on-site, ensuring they do not strain Illinois' energy infrastructure.

"With Illinois already facing an increased demand on our energy grid due to rapid data center expansion, we must take action to secure our infrastructure and prevent potential threats," said Sen. Rezin.

"This legislation ensures that foreign-owned data centers from known adversaries do not compromise our energy stability or burden Illinois residents with increased utility costs."

Senate Bill 3890, also known as the Data Center

Construction by Foreign Adversaries Act, requires Illinois' regulatory agencies to jointly assess any proposed data center's energy impact before allowing the construction of the center if it will be owned by a company tied to a foreign adversary. This assessment

aims to confirm that the facility's energy consumption is fully self-sustained, whether by on-site natural gas generation, battery storage, or renewable sources, so that no additional burden is placed on Illinois' energy grid.

Holidays are a good time to talk about final wishes

Strange as it sounds, your physician recommends it! As you gather together with family and close friends this holiday season, you might want to

introduce an unusual topic – advance directives. While most adults believe it's important to have advance care planning conversations, few have done so.

An advance directive is a legal document that outlines your preferences for medical treatment in case you become unable to communicate or make decisions for yourself. Having one is important because it provides clear direction to your physician and your family about what kind of medical care you want or don't want, even if you are unconscious or incapacitated.

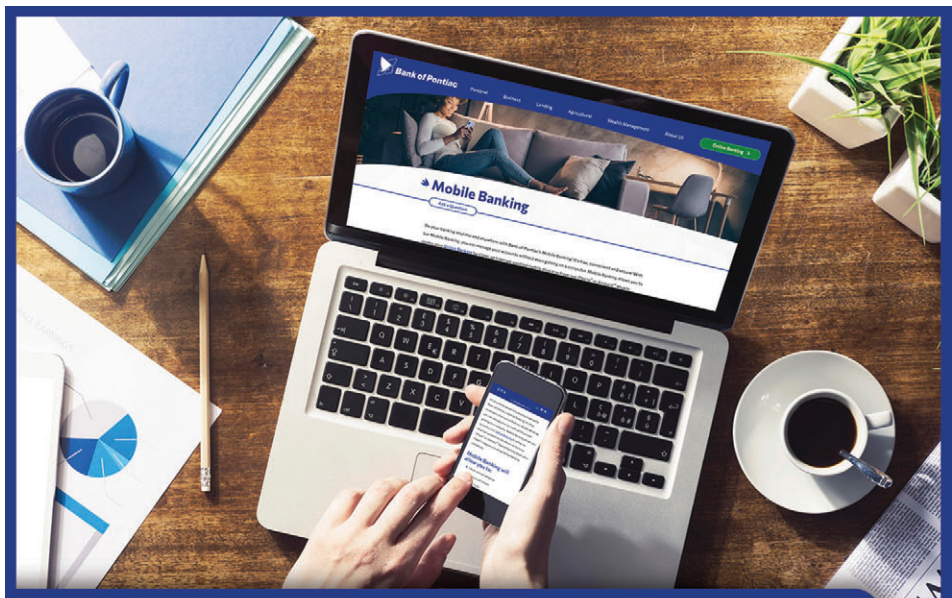
The Illinois State Medical Society offers A Personal Decision as a free resource for the public to educate patients and their families about advance directives and help patients make their wishes known. This booklet provides Illinois patients with practical information about determining future medical care.

The advance directives booklet includes:

- A Living Will Form
- Statutory Short Form for Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Illinois Official Statutory Declaration for Mental Health Treatment Form
- Organ Donor Card
- Uniform DNR Advance Directive Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)

Anyone can download this ISMS resource for free. Having an advance directive in place also helps alleviate the burden on loved ones when making decisions about your health care in a crisis situation. These documents will provide the guidance needed about your wishes for whether you want medical treatment in particular circumstances.

Download A Personal Decision and have that conversation with your loved ones this holiday season!



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December 6th & 7th

Friday 6:30-8:30 pm
Saturday 5-8:30 pm

Island City Baptist Church
120 Vine Street
Wilmington, IL
815.476.9750



Gas price lowest since 2021

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 5.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.14/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 16.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 23.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

In Wilmington, gas is \$2.99/g at Amoco up to \$3.12/g at BP. In Braidwood expect to pay anywhere from \$3.04/g (Casey's) to \$3.14/g (Marathon). In Coal City gas ranges from \$3.04/g at Shell, to \$3.07/g at BP.

If you're willing to travel, gas can be had for \$2.99/g at Casey's, up to \$3.09/g at BP in Morris. Bourbonnais has gas for \$2.84/g at Gulf up to \$3.09/g at Speedway.

"Ahead of Thanksgiving, motorists continue to be teased by the prospect of a \$2.99 per gallon national average, a level now seen in 32 states. But for the last few weeks, the stars just haven't quite aligned," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Some promotions ahead of Thanksgiving are pushing gas prices back

down, even as oil remains elevated. For now, we're just pennies away from the national average falling to \$2.99, but for a third year, we may again fall short. As Americans prepare to hit the road for Thanksgiving, we're seeing the lowest national average price of gasoline since 2021, with a far better economic picture than when gas prices were last this low."

The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.69/g Monday while the most expensive was \$4.59/g, a difference of \$1.90/g.

Wilmington Library to host Christmas decor exchange

The Wilmington Public Library will host a Christmas Decoration Exchange and Giveaway on Wednesday, Dec. 4, to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Participants may begin to bring in items on Nov. 20 for the exchange.

When you drop off your unwanted Christmas decorations (in good, used condition please), you will receive an early entry ticket to come and "shop" from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (you may also come anytime before 1:30 p.m., but the first hour is reserved for the exchange participants

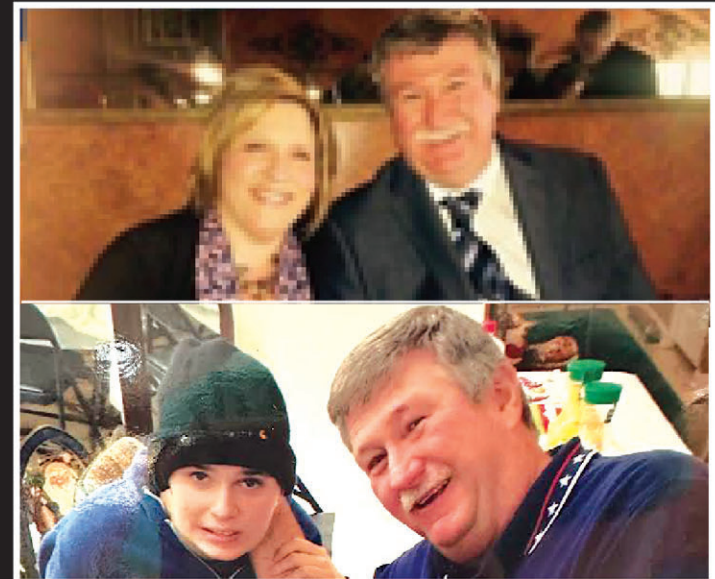
only).

If you bring in five items then your ticket will show that you may take five items, etc... The exception to this is that there will be a 10-item limit regardless if you bring in more than 10 items.

From 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. anyone is invited to come and choose a few new Christmas decorations for FREE. Any leftover items will then be donated to a non-profit organization to give away. There will also be refreshments and Christmas music to enjoy.

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

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



WEEK 1

Monday, Nov. 18

Matching Sponsors

Jerry Hallahan - State Farm
Lori Bonarek Realty

WEEK 2

Monday, Nov. 25

Matching Sponsors

BDR Properties
On The Rocks

WEEK 3

Monday, Dec. 2

Matching Sponsors

Weber Micetich Chiropractic
Salon Suites

WEEK 4

Monday, Dec. 9

Matching Sponsors

Bank of Pontiac
City Lights

WEEK 5

Monday, Dec. 16

Matching Sponsors

Cardinal Transport
West Flooring

Support these local businesses that support our community!

FIELD GOAL DONATION

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

TOUCHDOWN DONATION

Pick a football to help get the family needed items.

QUARTERBACK DONATION

Donate for a chance to win a liquor basket*

*Liquor basket winner must be 21 or older.

follow us on facebook

Check our upcoming events and specials!

WED., NOV. 27

LOADED POTATO WEDGES
DJ DON
25% of Tips donated to Tabler family

THUR., NOV. 28

CLOSED.
Happy Thanksgiving

FRI., NOV. 29

POT ROAST DINNER
Happy Hour
4-7 p.m.

SAT., NOV. 30

BLACKENED PRIME RIB
Loaded Mash & Veggies
DJ DON
8 p.m.

SUN., DEC. 1

FOOTBALL!
\$1 donated for each BLOODY MARY for Tabler Family Meatball Sliders and \$1 Wings

MON., DEC. 2

Tabler Football Fundraiser

TUES., DEC. 3

LASAGNA W/GARLIC BREAD AND SALAD
Happy Hour
2-5 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.

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\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
*plus .0399% with credit card



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



AUTOS

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

DUPLEX FOR RENT

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

GARAGE SALE

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

HOMES FOR RENT

Wilmington, 1 BR, stove, refrigerator (courtesy), \$850 month. Security deposit, first month's rent and lease. No smoking, no pets. Utilities not included. 815-931-9537. ck48-51

LOST & FOUND

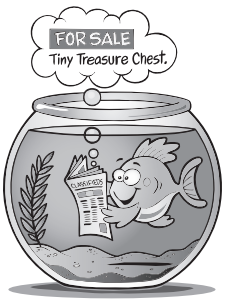
Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commercial buildings for rent or sale in Essex. 815-405-5020. ch43-50

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REAL ESTATE

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

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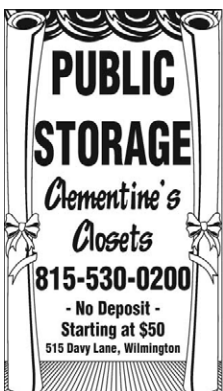
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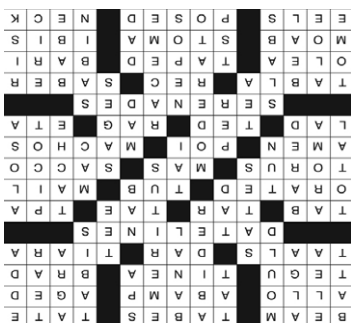
CLUES ACROSS

1. Long piece of squared timber
5. Emaciation
10. "Bewitched" boss Larry
14. Combining form meaning "different"
15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes
16. Older
17. Large, stocky lizard
18. Ringworm
19. Actor Pitt
20. Indian hand clash cymbals
22. Data at rest
23. Jeweled headdress
24. Indicators of when stories were written
- 27.

Check

30. Cigarette (slang)
31. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
35. Delivered a speech
37. A place to bathe
38. Postmen deliver it
39. Surface in geometry
40. More (Spanish)
41. ___ and Venzetti
42. Exclamation at the end of a prayer
43. Hawaiian dish
44. Aggressively proud men
45. Fellow
46. Mark Wahlberg comedy
47. Mock
48. When you expect to get somewhere

ANSWER KEY



49. Songs
52. Pair of small hand drums
55. Play
56. Sword
60. Evergreens and shrubs genus
61. Filmed
63. Italian Seaport
64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
65. Pores in a leaf
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. Snakelike fishes (Brit. sp.)
68. Pretended to be
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Piece of felted material
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Aquatic plant
4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)
5. Body art (slang)
6. One who follows the rules
7. Ordinary
8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
9. Relaxing space
10. Japanese socks
11. Indian city
12. Rip
13. Icelandic book
21. Satisfies
23. Where golfers begin
25. Small amount
26. Snag
27. Determine the sum of
28. A distinctive smell
29. Exposed to view
32. Stain or blemish
33. Small loop in embroidery
34. River herring genus
36. Large beer
37. Deep, red-brown sea bream
38. Partner to cheese
40. At a deliberate pace
41. Gurus
43. Of each
44. Angry
46. Popular beverage
47. Flower cluster
49. Blocks
50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. A (usually) large and scholarly book
53. Popular soap ingredient
54. NBA'er Bradley
57. Popular movie about a pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Not a sure thing
61. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
62. Father

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Sat., Nov 30th
2 - 7 PM

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1-3PM GEMINI GIANT WELCOME HOME!
2-7PM - CHRISTKINDLMARKET
3-6PM - KIDS KORNER OPEN
3-7PM LATE NIGHT SHOPPING DOWNTOWN
5PM - CHAMBER HOLIDAY PARADE
5:45PM - TREE LIGHTING & SHOWCATS
6-7PM - SANTA PICTURES

KIDS KORNER - NEXT TO THE SCOOP @ JACKSON ST.
CHRISTKINDLMARKET - DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT
SANTA PICS & TREE LIGHTING - CLAIRE'S CORNER
GEMINI GIANT - SOUTH ISLAND ENTRANCE

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Any Way You Look At It →



Joliet American Legion Band
Sounds of Christmas Concert

Rialto Square Theatre
Sunday December 8th
2:00 pm
(doors open at 1 pm)

TICKETS ARE FREE IN EXCHANGE FOR A
GENEROUS DONATION OF NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD AND/OR PAPER PRODUCTS

TICKETS AVAILABLE

Saturday November 30th Noon - 4:00 PM
American Legion Post 1080 (Ingalls Ave)

Monday December 2nd 10 AM - 4:30 PM
Rialto Theatre Lobby

Wednesday December 4th 10 AM - 2:00 PM
Rialto Theatre Lobby

Thursday December 5th 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
American Legion Post 1080 (Ingalls Ave)

* Donation Recipient ... Daybreak Center Joliet, IL



Honoring 100-year- old veteran

THE JOLIET AMERICAN Legion Band took the opportunity to pay recognition to one of the greatest generation's finest, Betty Peterson (100 yrs) on Veterans Day. In 1942 at the age of 18, Betty boarded a train to Chicago to join the Navy, thus being assigned to a duty station in Portsmouth, VA where she honorably served as a Shop Clerk for two years. As tribute was read by the band's emcee Gary Picha, presentation of a WWII plaque was made to Betty by the JALB Color Guard, Navy Veteran Veronica Konow. Additionally, WWII Veteran Ted Micci (103 yrs) presented our country's colors during the playing of Stars and Stripes Forever at the conclusion of this ceremony.

You're Invited!

Wilmington Women of the Moose

CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

Sat., Dec. 7 • 9am - 3pm
32050 W. River Rd., Wilmington

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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Holiday Hustle 5K

50/50 Raffle

2024

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1st

Do you have what it takes to finish this 5K? Sign up today to receive a medal, swag bag, and bragging rights! Santa will be there too!!

This year's proceeds will benefit
**SUSAN'S MISSION - Special Olympic
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ARCHS ANNOUNCES Ace winners. Students include (from left) Collin Monroe, Brenden Burch, Urijah Phillips, Cameron Junkroski and Kamrynn Skonetski.



ACE WINNERS were chosen at Reed-Custer Middle School. Students include (from left) Josh Reyes (8th), Aryana Ortiz (7th), Aubree Marchio (6th), Caleb Skonetski (6th), Hunter Duering (7th) and Ryan Cook (8th).

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs
Wednesday, Dec. 4-
Hearty Soup Cooking Class and demonstration, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Warm your heart in this winter season by watching Chef Nicole Mack demonstrate how to create three soups: a cream, a broth, and a tomato soup. Learn these in-a pinch soups and take-home samples of all three soups.
Children Programs
Monday, Dec. 2-
Cookies with Claus 6-7:30 p.m. Please stop by and visit with Santa himself before he heads back to the North Pole to prepare for his journey around the

world. Bring your wish list and camera so you can grab a picture with Santa. Stay for holiday movies, Christmas crafts, and of course, cookie decorating. Parent or guardian must accompany children 9 years and younger.
Tuesday, Dec. 3-
Play-Doh Playdates, 10:30-11 a.m. Join us for a Play-Doh workshop. Display your creativity using our Play-Doh and tools. This program is for children aged 2-6.
Wednesday, Dec. 4-
Lap-Sit, 10-10:30 a.m. Let's instill a love of books in children from birth to three

years old. This program is designed to introduce your child to the wonderful world of books. Caregiver participation and guidance are required as we read, sing, and do finger plays.
Thursdays, Dec. 5 & 12-
Toddler Time, 10-11 a.m. We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us weekly to explore various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.
Thursday, Dec. 5-
Listen and Create Storytime, 6-7 p.m. This program is specially designed for children aged 3-5. Every week, children can explore new books and engage in a fun craft project. Please make sure to dress in clothes that can get messy, as the craft project will involve getting creative with various art materials.
Registration is required for all programs at the library. For more information call 815-458-2187.

Diaz-Garcia leads Panthers to victory

The Panther boys basketball team beat MVK 40-21. They were led by Axel Diaz-Garcia with 12 points and Corbin Stahl with 9 points. Other contributors were Cole Kmetz, Dillan Lobb with 4 points, Sam Crotty with 3 and Jayden Devires, Logan Baugartner and Dylan Leonard with 2 points. Bryce Bryan also added his first bucket of the season to seal the victory for the Panthers

Light Up Your House contest returns to Custer

The 16th annual Lighting Up Your House For the Holidays Contest. Enter your house or a neighbor's. Use the entry form below or get one at Santa's mailbox at the Braidwood Fire Station #2 and return it to the mailbox by Thursday, Dec. 12. Judging will be done that weekend. Prizes will be awarded Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. during the Custer Town Board meeting. For more information call Bill Marquardt at 708-372-2500.

Lighting Up Your House for the Holidays Contest

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Remember our veterans by sponsoring a wreath

Sponsor a wreath for one of over 90,000 veterans' graves at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, 20953 Hoff Rd, Elwood. The wreath laying will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14. The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Wreaths are placed after a 20-minute ceremony. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help place wreaths, dress appropriately for the cold. Sponsorship is a tax deductible donation and may be made for a specific veteran or any veteran. Complete the form below. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Wreaths Across America and mailed to: Wreath Project, C/O Will Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Rd., Joliet, IL 60433. Order online at Wreaths Across America website and include cemetery ID: ILALNE or group number ID: M00085P.

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

Veteran's name: _____

Section and grave marker (required): _____

Contact phone number (required): _____

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

Non-specific grave sponsorship

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

Family: four wreaths for \$68 _____

Business: 10 wreaths for \$170 _____

Corporate: 100 wreaths for \$1,700 _____

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THE BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL

COMET SPORTS



Photo by Eric Fisher

DRIVING THE BASELINE on Wednesday while battling Wilmington is Reed-Custer sophomore Alyssa Wollenzien.



Photo by Eric Fisher

DRIVING THE LANE during the Comet Classic tournament is Reed-Custer sophomore Harlie Liebermann.

Wollenzien scores 22 points to defeat Gardner-So. Wilm

The Lady Comet basketball team is off with a 2-2 start, hosting their own Comet Classic tournament last week.

Reed-Custer opened its season with a 42-22 victory over Grace Christian Academy turning a 9-8 lead in the first quarter into a 24-11 advantage at the half and never looking back.

Sophomore Alyssa Wollenzien paced the Lady Comets with 11 points while Gwen Stewart contributed 10, hitting 2-for-2 at the free throw line.

Leah Grace made a couple of three-pointers to finish with nine while Harlie Liebermann chipped in with four points.

In game two, Reed-Custer struggled from the field,

losing 60-17 to Morris. The Morris defense was too tough as they held the Lady Comets scoreless in the fourth quarter. Wollenzien led her team with eight points.

In game three the Lady Comets stayed within striking distance of Wilmington through three quarters before the 'Cats pulled away to a 34-30 victory.

Wilmington led 16-15 at the half before going on an 18-15 run in the end.

Reed-Custer had six players score points with Wollenzien leading the effort with seven points. Stewart and Grace tallied six points each, Liebermann tossed in five while Cameron Wallace had four and Anatasia Smith two.

The Lady Comets rebounded in game four with a 45-

11 victory over Gardner-South Wilmington. The hosts led the entire way, allowing the Panthers just two points in each of the first, third and fourth quarters.

The best quarter for RCHS was the third when they went on an 18-2 run to coast to victory.

Wollenzien had the hot hand, scoring a season-high 22 points including three treys. Also scoring three three-pointers were Grace who finished with 11. Morgan Toler stepped up for four points, Stewart and Wallace had three each and two for Smith.

The Lady Comets host G-SW tonight (Wednesday) before traveling to Wilmington Dec. 2.

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



COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIOR CLASS PRESENTS

Festival of Trees

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

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



Photo by Eric Fisher

FAST BREAK BASKET—Lady Comet Cameron Wallace gets a step ahead of a Wilmington defender while on her way to the hoop.