



RCMS Students of the Month

Comet seniors band members honored



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# BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL.com

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

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## Reed-Custer schools earn commendable designation

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

Students in the Reed-Custer School District were able to show academic gains over the past year, despite the challenges and learning loss that plagued every school in the nation as a result of the pandemic. The annual Illinois Report Card for the 2021-2022 academic year was issued late last month. The report measures academic performance and school environment factors from

each public school in the state. Per this year's report, each of the district's three schools earned a summative designation of "commendable" school. The commendable designation is based on specific data points, including state testing, academic growth, and students on track. Students in grades 3-8 take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), while high school juniors take the SAT. Elementary (K-8) designations are based on 50% student growth on

the IAR from one year to the next, 25% in math and 25% in English Language Arts (ELA). Other factors that contribute to the summative designation include math proficiency, ELA proficiency, and chronic absenteeism (students who miss 10 or more days of school). At the high school level, 50% of the summative designation is based on the graduation rate. Additional factors include student proficiency in ELA and math based on SAT scores, 9th grade on track to graduate rates,

and chronic absenteeism, among other data points. The report shows that students in the Reed-Custer School District have increased their academic gains, as districts across the nation work to recover from educational deficits due to the disruption of classroom time during the pandemic. "The high school, we were right there [at the highest level for commendable designation]," Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Danielle Valiente told mem-

bers of the board of education during their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 16. "The exemplary cut off was 90.03. Our 'all' group performed at 89.39. So close, which is awesome. We're very excited about that. So, now we're breaking down all the indicators that go in and looking at, where do we want to improve, areas for growth, where did we do very well because we want to keep those balls rolling." A "commendable" school is a

SEE REPORT CARD, PAGE 2

## Property tax agreement reached with Braidwood Station

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

The Reed-Custer Board of Education signed off on a six year agreement with Constellation Energy's Braidwood Station earlier this month, approving the property tax settlement agreement to bring the district millions of tax dollars through the year 2027.

The agreement places the Equalized Assessed value (EAV) of Braidwood Station at \$29.5 million during the life of the agreement.

That agreement would place annual property taxes for Braidwood Station at \$29.5 million. Of that, the Reed-Custer School District will collect \$19.6 million.

"We're very happy with how that turned out," Superintendent Mark Mitchell said of the negotiations and agreement, which was approved during the board's regular monthly meeting on Nov. 16.

Additional property tax allocations from the nuclear power plant will include \$2.8 million for Will County, \$663,272 for the Forest Preserve District of Will County, \$1.7 million for the Braidwood Fire Protection District, \$2 million for the Godley Park District, and \$612,746 for the Fossil Ridge Public Library District.

Additionally, Reed Township can expect

SEE TAX, PAGE 2



REED-CUSTER HIGH School is proud to announce nine Illinois State Scholars for the 2022-2023 school year. This year's recipients are (front, from left): Alexandra Bohac, Laci Newbrough, Abigail Sunday and Gabriella Davies. Back row: James Sheridan, Tyler Wiyninger, Makayla Wilkins, Jaina Dubbert and Maggie Lantka.

## Head of the Class Seniors honored as Illinois State Scholars

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

Nine members of the Reed-Custer High School Class of 2023 have earned the honor of Illinois State Scholar.

The students were given special recognition by the board of education during their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 16.

This year's honorees are Laci Newbrough, James Sheridan, Makayla Wilkins, Tyler Wiyninger, Jaina Dubbert, Alexandra Bohac, Gabriella Davies, Abigail

Sunday, and Maggie Lantka. "I would call this the gold standard. What you've accomplished here I want you to be extremely proud of, because this is the highest recognition you can get from the state," Superintendent Mark Mitchell told this year's honorees during the meeting. "This is what we're here for and this is what we're all about, strong academics." The Illinois State Scholar Program announces honorees based on the year they

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

THE LIONS KIDDIE PARK is currently closed for some maintenance, but when the park reopens, families will find a new ADA accessible swing installed. The Braidwood Lions Club has been raising funds to donate to the Braidwood Park District to help update the children's park on north Lincoln Street.

## Braidwood Lions Kiddie Park undergoes upgrades

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

The Braidwood Park District is working on improvements at the Lions Kiddie Park, thanks to efforts by the Braidwood Lions Club to raise funds to update the equipment that keeps those youngsters happy.

Josh Bolatto is the Club Secretary for the Braidwood Lions Club as well as a Commissioner with the Braidwood Park District. Bolatto said the Lions and Park District were able to install an ADA wheelchair accessible swing at the park on north Lincoln Street this fall, which was purchased by the Lions for just around \$1,000. Bolatto said it's all part of a long-term

effort to update the park and create an all inclusive space for some of the area's younger park patrons.

"At least that was one piece we were able to buy to show that we are trying to do something with this," Bolatto said of the new swing. "We were looking, do we piece it together or do we buy a set. But, when you were looking at these sets several years ago, they were expensive. But if you look at them now, they're almost double in price. So, some of the equipment we

SEE PARK, PAGE 2



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# Report card

school that has no underperforming student groups (subgroups of at least 20 students), a graduation rate greater than 67%, and whose performance is not in the top 10% of schools statewide.

Schools in the Top 10% are given a designation of "exemplary."

"Coming out of covid, I am very pleased with these," Superintendent Mark Mitchell said. "If you look at what those students went through at that time, and really I look at that middle school and you think about

what we did to keep those students in school. Between benign remote learning, and... distancing that we had to do, these kids went through a tough two years."

Overall, on the IAR, 37% of Reed-Custer K-8 students met or exceeded standards in ELA, with 35% approaching that metric. In math, 25% met or exceeded standards, while nearly 40% reached the level of approaching standards.

On the SAT—the college entrance exam used as the standard for testing in the state—students performed exceptionally well over the previous year's scores.

Overall, 29% of high school juniors met or exceeded standards in

ELA, up from 20% the previous year.

In math, 23% of those juniors met or exceeded standards, versus 15% the year before.

District officials noted that the ability for Reed-Custer to keep kids in the classroom throughout the majority of the mandated pandemic restrictions helped keep academics on track.

"A lot of schools were still trying to do some remote learning. There were just kids who were not in school, all over the place. So, I'm very happy with our attendance and with what we were able to do," Valiente said.

"That also speaks to what our teachers and our administrators in

the buildings did during that time," Mitchell added. "There was a lot of work involved in that. I appreciate [the school board] letting us go to school during that. I know the parents were appreciative to have the kids here, so, I'm very happy."

The report card was released in late October.

Statewide, the report showed high schoolers in Illinois reached their highest graduation rate in a decade, as students' academic growth outpaced pre-pandemic levels.

The graduation rate at RCHS was 91%.

"The 2022 Illinois Report Card data tell us that we are absolutely on

the right track," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "We have challenges and work ahead of us, but the accelerated rate of learning that students achieved last year means that we're headed in the right direction. The ways in which we invested the federal pandemic relief funds are working. We can expect to see even more growth over the next couple years as these programs expand and reach even more students."

The state report card can be found online at [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com).

# Students

would begin any post-secondary education. That means this year's honorees are state scholars for 2023-2024.

"What it says is, you guys are the top students going in to college next year, and that's what the recognition is about," RCHS principal Tim Ricketts said. "We are very proud of you for that and we hope that you move on and do even bigger and better things

after you leave Reed-Custer High School."

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state's college access and financial aid agency, recognizes Illinois State Scholars each year for academic achievement. This year, more than 16,700 honorees across the state join the other outstanding students who have been honored since the designation was first introduced in 1958.

"On behalf of ISAC, congratulations to all of the outstanding students selected as

2023-24 Illinois State Scholars," said ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow. "Students and families faced numerous challenges over the last two years with remote learning, among other financial and personal difficulties. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, these academic achievements are a credit to the hard work and dedication of the student scholars and their families, and to the support provided by teachers, mentors, counselors, and communities in helping students meet their

goals and find success as they advance on their education and career paths."

The Illinois State Scholar designation is a non-monetary award. Each State Scholar will receive a congratulatory letter and a Certificate of Achievement from ISAC. Additionally, awardees can download an official Illinois State Scholar Program badge to display on their online profiles, social media platforms, and share with their high school counselors, colleges, employers, family members and others.

tion also approved a resolution estimating the amount of taxes to be levied for 2022. The tentative levy estimates a total of \$28.35 million in property taxes, a \$400,000 increase over 2021.

Those estimated monies are already earmarked for specific funds, including \$21 million for the education fund, \$4.6 million for operations and maintenance, \$1.4 million for transportation, and \$400,000 for special education.

The levy will receive the final approval next month. By statute, the levy must be approved by the board and filed with the Will County Clerk by the last Tuesday in December.

# Park

were hoping to get is now out of reach for us. So, we're thinking that piecing it together with individual components is probably the way to go."

Right now, Bolatto said, the Lions have about \$18,000 earmarked for the park improvements, which have come from charitable work and fundraising. The club has also been investigating grant opportunities to try to add to the small space.

"We've been saving up in that fund. Our goal has been to purchase more all-inclusive equipment for over there," Bolatto said. "There aren't a lot of these types of swings in the area... It's a combined effort between the Lions and the

Park District, the Lions purchased the equipment."

The park was originally owned by the city of Braidwood, which gifted it to the Lions, who eventually gifted it to the Park District. But, while they aren't the owners, the Lions take pride in taking care of the park, fulfilling their obligation to create and maintain a park for smaller children when they first acquired the land.

One thing Bolatto did note—the park is designated for those smaller children. The new swing is designed to accommodate a wheelchair, which means that while it's playground equipment, it isn't just for horsing around.

"We're hoping that nobody misuses it. You get somebody up there and they stand in the middle, well, it's a very heavy swing. If someone walks in front of it [when there is horseplay], they are going

to get hit," Bolatto said. "So, we did order signage for that. So, we're hoping it won't get abused or misused, the sign states it's priority access for us by people with disabilities. So, please do not misuse it."

The park is currently closed as the park district works on adding to the border and chip matting under the playground equipment. Bolatto said when that work is done, it will accommodate wheelchair access. Bolatto also noted that some of the older playground equipment has been removed, and plans to update other portions of the park are in the planning phase.

"It does get quite a bit of use," Bolatto said of the kiddie park. "You see a lot of smaller kids out there playing on the equipment. That's what it's meant for. It's not meant for teenagers. It's meant for the younger kids"

large outdoor bench, leaf blower and an electric fire-place that are also up for raffle. Tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5, 12 for \$10 and 25 for \$20.

Along with all of the items up for raffle, the festival of trees will include entertainment, activities and refreshments.

Featured entertainment on Saturday includes Amy Foley and Connie Terrell's third grade students at 10 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. crafts and games sponsored by Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC]; first grade students from Jen Rhodes and Brea Owensby's classes at 11:30 a.m.; a visit from the Grinch at noon; story time with Ms. Rne from the Coal City Public Library, noon; bell choir, 12:30 p.m.; Mueller School of Dance, 3 p.m.; Tiffany Stewart's first graders, 3:30 p.m., and Bomb Squad Cheer and Stunt at 4 p.m.

Santa Claus will visit the festival to meet with children from 1-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday begins with a free one hour yoga class provided by Jaime Martis Frazier—Amodini Yogini at 9:30 a.m. Those participating need to bring their own mat and complete a waiver available online at <https://linktr.ee/AmodiniYogini>.

Also on Sunday, Coal City Early Childhood Center principal Amanda Davidson will visit at 10:30 a.m.; GAVC crafts and games, 11 a.m.; TNT Dance, 2 p.m.; Coal City High School Band, 3:30 p.m., and Coal City High School Madrigals, 4 p.m.

Promfest is a safe substance free celebration that takes place immediately following the school sponsored spring formal. The 2023 post prom will be held at Scene 75 in Romeoville. The venue provides attractions and arcade games.

# Tax

\$165,446, the Reed Township Road District \$190,214, and the Reed Township Mosquito Abatement District \$139,193.

The Reed-Custer Board of Education approved the agreement unanimously, which will cover the current tax levy year through 2027.

All other taxing districts within Braidwood Station's boundary will also formally approve the agreement, which will then go before a judge for the final stamp of approval.

The board of educa-

# Trees, decor and so much more

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

COAL CITY - Little lights are twinkling on the festive holiday trees as volunteers are decking the hall, the Diamond Banquet Hall that is, for the annual Coal City Promfest Festival of Trees.

The holiday event, a fundraiser to support the annual post prom celebration, opens Saturday morning Dec. 3 and continues through Sunday evening, Dec. 5. Admission into the festival is free.

Themed holiday trees and festive indoor and outdoor decor will be on display at 55 S. Daley St., Diamond from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. when the winning raffle tickets will be drawn.

Those attending the festival can purchase raffle tickets that can be entered for a chance to win one or more of the 35-plus holiday trees and specialty items. Winners need not be present for the drawing, as they will be notified by phone, however all items must be claimed that evening.

All of the trees, decor and specialty items are provided through donations from area businesses, organizations and individuals.

Organized by parent volunteers from the junior class at Coal City High School, all proceeds from the event will be used for Promfest.

Parent volunteer Jenn Endrst reports there is a variety of items available for bid including trees with themes that include farmhouse, coffee, baking and so many more like a lottery tree filled with tickets provided by the families of junior class students and one with a Lululemon theme that is sure to draw a lot of interest.

Endrst said there is a Little Tykes house, Blackstone Grill, hot chocolate beverage cart,

large outdoor bench, leaf blower and an electric fire-place that are also up for raffle. Tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5, 12 for \$10 and 25 for \$20.

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# Forest Preserve's Veterans Memorial Trail addition now open

Two Joliet Bicycle Club members were raring to go on Friday, Oct. 28, as the Forest Preserve District officially opened a new 3.5-mile section of Veterans Memorial Trail in Homer Township.

With helmets on and bikes parked nearby, they attended a ceremonial ribbon cutting held to officially open the paved trail to bikers and hikers. "We like to see money well spent to support bicycling," said Bike Club Treasurer Conrad Brouwer of Mokena.

Bike Club President Janae Hunziker of New Lenox agreed. "I think it's spectacular," she said. "It's really awesome to see it come to fruition now."

Hunziker said she loves seeing trails that connect to other trails. "We're long-distance cyclists," she said. "It's nothing for us to go 60 miles a day. And trails keep us safe. It's nice to not have to go on roads that are dangerous to us."

The new paved Veterans Memorial Trail section parallels Interstate 355 (Veterans Memorial Tollway) as it travels north from the Spring Creek Greenway Trail in Hadley Valley preserve in New Lenox. The path passes through Lockport and connects to the state-owned 159th Street Bikeway in Homer Glen.

The 7-mile 159th Street Bikeway heads east to Orland Park's Centennial Park in Cook County. From there, path users can use various trails to continue east into Chicago or north into DuPage County. Veterans Memorial Trail parking is available at three Hadley Valley access areas.

**Collaborative effort**

Forest Preserve District Board President Joe VanDuyne cut the ribbon with fellow commissioners at the path's pedestrian tunnel under 167th Street.

VanDuyne thanked the partners who helped make the \$7.5-million project a reality, including the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, the City of Lockport, the Village of Homer Glen, ComEd and other state and federal agencies.

"By working with other agencies, municipalities, park districts and private developers, we can connect our forest preserves, our communities and our residents," he said. "Together we achieve more."

He also acknowledged legislators who support federal alternative transportation programs, which funded the majority of the project.



Courtesy photo by Glenn P. Knoblock

**FOREST PRESERVE BOARD President Joe VanDuyne, center, cuts the ribbon Oct. 28 for a new 3.5-mile section of Veterans Memorial Trail in Homer Township. VanDuyne was joined by fellow Board commissioners, Mayor Steven Streit of Lockport, and Cassaundra Rouse, executive director of the Illinois Tollway. The ribbon cutting took place at a pedestrian tunnel at 167th Street.**

Local contributions included \$575,000 from the City of Lockport, which Mayor Steven Streit said was well worth it. The city has been transformed by the addition of I-355, and now this new trail section will also improve the quality of life for residents, he said.

In the past, bicyclists had to bike down the shoulder of Farrell Road and risked getting "clipped" by cars, he explained. But this new path and future connections has made biking much safer.

Rachel Ventura, vice president of the Forest Preserve's Board, said connections that the District is making with its many trails allows people to enjoy nature in a quiet moment.

"And that quiet moment allows reflection, and it allows people to find the best version of themselves," she said. "And any time our government dollars are helping people live their best versions of themselves and their best lives, I think it's tax dollars well spent."

**Tollway partnership**

The trail, which also includes a pedestrian tunnel under Bruce Road, was envisioned more than 25 years ago as planning for Veterans Memorial Tollway was taking place.

The Illinois Tollway provided a 15- to 20-foot-wide corridor for portions of the

path. Cassaundra Rouse, executive director of the Tollway, congratulated the Forest Preserve District on the project's completion.

"You've done a great job building this beautiful new trail that's perfect for biking, rollerblading, running, hiking – and in the winter months – cross-country skiing and snowshoeing," she said. "We are very happy to have played a role in supporting this accomplishment that will benefit residents for generations to come."

The intergovernmental agreement with the Tollway that led to the path also provided mitigation funding for the Forest Preserve's largest wetland, prairie, stream and habitat reconstruction at Hadley Valley, said Ralph Schultz, the Forest Preserve's executive director.

In the future, Veterans Memorial Trail will be extended north from 159th Street to an existing section of Veterans Memorial Trail in DuPage Township.

That section of trail travels 3.26 miles east from 135th Street in Romeoville to I-355. From I-355, the path travels north 1.47 miles to Internationale Parkway in Woodridge.

Eventually, the new trail section in Homer Township will be extended south to Route 6 in New Lenox near Silver Cross Hospital.

"We believe that a focus on connecting our forest preserves will ultimately provide a regional trail network that will reach into all of our communities and provide access to nature for everyone," Schultz said.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org).

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Marney Simon, editor



# Recipes ready for the Holiday season

When I was little I read about the various holiday dishes that appear in tradition Christmas stories. Many of them were strange to me.

Since then, I have taken the time to find out just what those wonderful holiday dishes were about. Here are tradition recipes for some historical favorites as well as some traditions from my own family.

First we have Plum Pudding. In Charles Dickens Christmas Carol everyone waits for the pudding to "boil." I was confused, as the pudding I had known was served cold. Here is a traditional recipe:

A Good Plum Pudding without eggs - time to boil, four hours

One pound of raisins, half



TIME WAS....  
Sandy Vasko

a pound of suet, one pound of flour, four ounces bread crumbs, two tablespoonfuls of molasses, and one pint of milk, nutmeg, and grated ginger.

Chop the suet very fine, and mix it with the flour. Add the bread-crumbs, ginger, and nutmeg, and the raisins, and mix it all together with the milk and molasses. Put it into a basin, or floured cloth, and hang over boiling water.

Putting out cookies for Santa, my grandmother told me that he liked ginger snaps. Her simple recipe follows: Beat together half a pound of butter, and half a pound of sugar; mix with them half a teacup full of ginger, and one pound and a half of flour.

She never told me how hot

the oven should be, but she told me it should be good and hot.

Traditionally my grandmother, who was Swedish, would serve hot wine on New Year's Eve. It certainly warmed the insides, but warning, it really packs a punch. The following recipe is from an 1895 Swedish cookbook published in Chicago for the Swedish immigrants.

Glogg wine - Six crushed cardamoms, one-half ounce cinnamon, 1 pound raisins, the yellow rind of one-half a lemon and a few almonds to taste.

This together with a quart of French brandy and a pint of pure grain alcohol. Heat to boiling and add two pounds sugar and boil one-half hour more. Pour in a bottle of Madeira wine, and serve warm, with some raisins and almonds in the bottle of each mug.

A simpler, more modern recipe is the following hot wine



A PICTURE of a plum pudding.

mix, which can be mixed with any good red wine in whatever strength you like, gently heating the wine, but not letting it boil.

Mix 6 cups sugar, 2-tablespoon cinnamon, 2-tablespoon cloves, 1-tablespoon allspice, tree-quarters a teaspoon of nutmeg. Combine all the ingredients, stir well and store in an airtight container. Will keep indefinitely.

In England, hot gin or rum punches were common, just like the one Tiny Tim toasted

with. Use your own imagination here, using hot water, sugar, spices and some sort of alcohol. Mix altogether and serve warm with a cinnamon stick for stirring.

Grandmother worked in a Swedish bakery, so her pies and cakes were outstanding. One thing I never understood was why the Swedes were so fond of lemon.

But they were, and lemon meringue pie was always on the table at the holidays. Her simple recipe was: The juice and rind of one lemon, one cup of sugar, the yolk of two eggs, three tablespoonfuls of flour, milk enough to fill the pie plate.

Line the plate with piecrust, pour in the custard and bake until done. Beat the whites of two eggs, add four tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, spread over the pie, and brown lightly in the oven.

Again she did not say how

hot the oven should be, but said not too hot while the custard is baking (350 - 370) but a little higher to brown the meringue.

We always had apples at Christmas, I think because the ones in the cellar were getting to the point where they had to be used. She chopped up the peeled apples, cooked them down with sugar to taste, until a very thick applesauce was made.

Then added liquid whipping cream, boiled a little more then cooled the mixture. It was like an apple-flavored pudding, which was sometimes served with a hot whiskey or brandy sauce if we had any left.

Now that I notice it, many of my family recipes had the added ingredient of brandy, whiskey, wine or some other alcoholic beverage. No wonder we all had such a good time on the Holidays! Hope you do too!



THE REED-CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL Speech Team recently competed in a speech contest in Dwight. Members include (from left, front) Faith Hathorn, Caydon Hoover, Addison Gurney, Robbie Krakowski, Selah Walsh and Kamryn Wilkey. Second row: Brianna Morrissey, Alex Coyle, Emma Hopf, Maeley Bohac, Mackenzie Loveland, Sophia Dixon and Isabella Dixon. Third row: Johanna Janopoulos, April Fierro, Harper Roberts, Kadence VanDuyne and Madelynn Marschner. Back row: Alex Hayes, Lucy Gruber, Brandy Bragg, Grace Barry, Presley Dockery, Evynn Wilber and Logan Bean. Not pictured: Mary Foley



LOGAN BEAN, a member of the Reed-Custer Middle School Speech team, displays the Judge's Choice Award he earned during the IESA State Speech Contest in Dwight.

## RCMS Speech Team attends State Contest

The Reed Custer Middle School Speech Team performed at the IESA State Speech Contest on Saturday, Nov 5.

Out of 19 entries the team brought home 13 first place entries, 5

second place entries, and 1 third place entry. Additionally, RCMS was proud to have been chosen for a Judge's Choice Award: Logan Bean in Impromptu Solo Acting. The Judge's Choice Award is given to the perform-

ance the judge deems the best of the day.

Members of the speech team include 6th graders: Maeley Bohac, Brandy Bragg, Isabella Dixon, Sophia Dixon, April Fierro, Mary Foley, Lucy

Gruber, Addison Gurney, Faith Hathorn, Alex Hayes, Caydon Hoover, Emma Hopf, Johanna Janopoulos, Robbie Krakowski, Mackenzie Loveland, Evan Matke, and Harper Roberts. 7th graders: Alex Coyle,

Presley Dockery, Madelynn Marschner, Brianna Morrissey, Kadance Van Duyne, Selah Walsh, Evynn Wilber, and Kamryn Wilkey. 8th graders: Grace Barry and Logan Bean

## RCMS Students of the Month



REED-CUSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL proudly named their students of the month for October. The characteristic was Respect (from left) Hayley Meyer (8th grade), Bri Morrissey (7th), Caedon Baumgartner (7th), Kamryn Hutman (6th), Trent Boudreau (7th), Mary Foley (6th), Tyler Compton (8th), Jaelynn Davis (6th), Logan Bean (8th), Griffin Schmeckpeper (6th), Abbi Byerley (8th), and Abby Spielbauer (7th).

## Lions Club selling trees

The Braidwood Lions Club is holding its annual Christmas Trees Sale fundraiser in the Whitmore Ace Hardware parking lot in Braidwood. Hours are Monday thru Friday from noon to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while supplies last.

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

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

### City of Braidwood to hold hearing on special service area No. 22-001 (Bauer & D'Orazio LLC)

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

##### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED SPECIAL SERVICE AREA NO. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC) IN THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD "SSA NO. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC)"

Effective PIN: 02-24-06-400-027-0000

Please take notice that on the 22nd day of November, 2022, the City of Braidwood adopted Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ proposing the Establishment of Special Service Number 22-001 ("SSA NO. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC)").

The Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Braidwood will conduct a Public Hearing on the Proposed SSA #22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC) on the 13th day of December, 2022, during the course of the Regular Village Board meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. The Public Hearing will be conducted in the City Council Chambers, City of Braidwood City Hall, 141 W Main St, Braidwood, IL 60408.

The Proposed SSA No. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC) is generally described as consisting of approximately 19.7 acres and generally situated on the west side of N. Division Street and south of EZ Street within the corporate limits of the City, and legally described as:

TRACT 1: A PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 09 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6 FOR A DISTANCE OF 541.56 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 13 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 57.65 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF STATE ROUTE 113, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 37 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 541.12 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST CONTINUING ALONG THE SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 8.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 29 SECONDS WEST CONTINUING ALONG THE SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 23.12 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 901.01 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREE 07 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 588.56 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 2056.27 FEET TO A POINT WHICH FALLS ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF INTERSTATE ROUTE 55, BEING A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST WITH A 00 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 00 SECONDS DEGREES OF CURVATURE AND A 22918.33 FOOT RADIUS; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE FOR A DISTANCE OF 798.01 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY'S RIGHT-OF-WAY; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 816.35 FEET; THENCE NORTH 21 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 35 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 710.12 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 36 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 1487.72 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

EXCEPTING THEREFROM A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6 FOR A DISTANCE OF 252.29 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 48.08 FEET TO A POINT WHICH FALLS ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF ILLINOIS ROUTE 113, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 29 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET TO A POINT WHICH FALLS ON SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE SOUTH 00 24 MINUTES 29 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

FURTHER EXCEPTING THEREFROM A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 48.00 FEET TO A POINT WHICH FALLS ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF ILLINOIS ROUTE 113, SAID POINT

BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 29 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 36.12 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 48 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 29 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 48 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.80 FEET TO A POINT WHICH FALLS ON THE SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 37 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 113.90 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 53 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 8.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

TRACT 2: A PARCEL OF LAND IN SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 6; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 6 FOR A DISTANCE OF 541.56 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 13 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 57.65 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 36 SECONDS WEST 1606.08 FEET TO A POINT WHICH FALLS ON THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY'S RIGHT-OF-WAY, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 21 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 35 SECONDS WEST LONG THE SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 592.41 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR A DISTANCE OF 679.36 FEET TO A POINT WHICH FALLS ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF INTERSTATE 55, BEING A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST WITH A 00 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 00 SECONDS DEGREES OF CURVATURE AND 22918.33 FOOT RADIUS; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID CURVE FOR A DISTANCE OF 642.37 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 36 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 572.07 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

The Permanent Index Number of the parcel located within Proposed SSA No. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC) is 02-24-06-400-027-0000.

The services to be provided in SSA No. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC) is the City's purchase of the property and conveyance to the Owner, in addition to the services generally provided by the City as a whole, consistent with the TIF Redevelopment Agreement entered into by and between the City of Braidwood and Bauer & D'Orazio, LLC, dated on the 31st day of May, 2022 (the "Agreement"). The proposed special tax shall be levied at a rate that provides sufficient revenue equal to the amount of the annual debt service on the bonds necessary for the City to purchase the Property. The Proposed Special Service Area's first tax levy shall be for the tax year 2023, payable in the year 2024, and upon timely completion of the Ford Dealership and Chevrolet Dealership as set forth in the Agreement, the City agrees to terminate the Special Service Area. Said tax shall be in addition to all other taxes provided by law, and shall be levied pursuant to the provisions of the Law.

All interested persons, including persons owning taxable property within proposed SSA No. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC) will be given an opportunity to be heard at the Public Hearing and an opportunity to file objections to the formation of the Special Service Area, the boundary of the Special Service Area, the amount of the tax levy upon the property in the Proposed SSA No. 22-001 (BAUER & D'ORAZIO LLC) and any other matter embodied in this Notice or permitted by law.

The hearing may be adjourned by City Council to another date without further notice other than a motion to be entered upon the minutes of its meeting fixing the time and place of its adjournment.

If a petition signed by at least 51% of the electors residing within the SSA and by at least 51% of the owners of record of the land included within the boundaries of the SSA is filed with the City Clerk within 60 days following the final adjournment of the public hearing objecting to the creation of the SSA, the levy or imposition of a tax, no such SSA as proposed may be created, or tax may be levied or imposed, except as otherwise permitted by law.

Published by order of the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Braidwood.

Published in the Braidwood Journal Wednesday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 2022.



Free Press Newspapers readers

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## Made the town proud

**BRAIDWOOD**—To the Reed-Custer Varsity football team. I heard a senior say the other day that you let the town down. Let me tell you from the bottom of my heart you did not let this town down. Yes, we are so proud of the wins and records you set but that's not why this town was behind you. We were behind you because you are all amazing men who truly cared about this community. Your kindness to younger kids, contributions to society and dedication to football has set a standard I'm not sure anyone will be able to reach again. I only hope you all know how much you have meant to this town. Hopefully the upcoming football players realize how much work they have ahead of them and start right now getting ready for next to continue to make us proud.

## What's the purpose?

**WILMINGTON**—I have a question for any gun owner. Of what purpose does an assault weapon in the hands of anyone except a military or law enforcement person have? It is a mass destruction weapon intended to kill many people quickly when used. I agree that Americans have the right to own weapons to protect their property, family, and to hunt. But can't a rifle or handgun be sufficient for those purposes, not an assault weapon?

## 25 mph please

**COAL CITY**—Coal City has a real problem with patrolling the streets of the city during the daytime hours. It seems that the private service vehicles own the streets. Just the other day I saw a local company's big red service truck file in behind a car on west Spring Road and get within eight feet of a car. Traveling all the way down to Carbon Hill Road on the poor driver of the car's tail. This was about the time the little kids school gets out. I know this is a rush hour time. But geez Louise, let's get a grip. 25 mph means 25 mph. I guess the knuckleheads driving these trucks, don't care about you and me or the traffic rules.

## We're the pawns

**SHADOW LAKES**—Well, with voter season over, we can sit back and look at the results, and how the game is played. Close your eyes and imagine the government is played like a chess game. The pieces are colored black against white, or Democrats against Republicans. The pieces are King, Queen, etc. Knowing how the pieces move you can give them all names. Remember this, chess is a game of power. All the power pieces can be compared to members of the government. They are your president, senators, representatives, and judges. For the states, you have the same players. They are all maneuvering to win the game of power. What piece are the citizens? We are the pawns. Do they ever win the power game? No, the pawns are expendable, this is how the game of power is played.  
Always, Margot Lane

## Violence will rule

**BRAIDWOOD**—Five dead, 25 injured in a club in Colorado. Regardless of what you may think, Trump's announcement to run in 2024 is dangerous for all of us as violence will be the rule of life. His new campaign slogan will be MAHA. Make America Hate Again. This should be obvious to all.

## Grab a rake

**WILMINGTON**—Regarding everyone wanting the leaf vac back and they don't know what they did with the leaves. The truth is if you talk to some older city employees the leaves were dumped down by the old finishing pond by the river and they were burned by the city. And that engulfed the whole woods down there with smoke from the leaves. It's not green. If they are too lazy to pick up their leaves and put them in bags God forbid they are just some lazy sons of guns. I've been taking care of my leaves, I'm 76 years old and I still take care of them. Hire somebody if you can't do it yourself.

## For the future

**WILMINGTON**—Whatever happened to the Celotex park plan on North Kankakee Street. Years ago when I first heard about it I thought it was a good idea because we need to

plan more activities for our kids' future. That property is the perfect spot because there is enough room for a mix of ballfields, soccer field, fishing away from the dangers of the dam. The city should look into that property again and see if something could be worked out with the park district as a place to put its all inclusive park.

## Share the holidays

**BRAIDWOOD**—As the holiday season approaches I hope your readers remember to share some time with an elderly neighbor or friend. It can be hard on especially widowers during the holidays. I know our family has invited over our neighbor friend since he lost his wife a few years ago. We love sharing our day with him because he appreciates it so much. I can't imagine how lonely it would be not having to share the holidays with family or friends. I encourage others to go out of their way to make an senior citizen's holiday a little brighter this year.

## Be thankful

**WILMINGTON**—As we reflect on the upcoming holidays and spending time with family, be thankful there are not bombs being dropped on our community like in the Ukraine. Imagine what it would be like to have daily missile warnings as the town is slowly destroyed. Ukrainians are being left without food, shelter, warmth and electricity, all things we take for granted here in America. As those poor people become refugees of war, they have nothing to return to in their town. Be thankful we are safe from war. Keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers and if you are asked to support them, give generously.

## Know what's happening

**WILMINGTON**—I totally agree that the township needs to be investigated. Last year when the person ran for supervisor he was unopposed so he would have won regardless. After two months he suddenly resigned saying he didn't understand the duties which made no sense. In choosing his successor, there was no discussion or a list of possible candidates. The person who now serves as supervisor was the only person considered. After four months five people were forced out or resigned from the board. Do you know who the current assessor is? No, because he was hand picked by the assessor and road commissioner because of his name. He's not qualified for the position, no experience or qualifications, works a full and part-time job so when does he have time to be in the office for assistance like the previous assessor did? The supervisor and road commissioner make all decisions for their own interest. As citizens we need to start asking questions.

## Tired of it

**COAL CITY**—Is anyone else tired of the way the juveniles in this community act?

## A good pick

**WILMINGTON**—I want to congratulate the Wilmington Chamber for their choice for the Business Person of the Year. Rich Quigley does a lot for the community and goes out of his way to help people. He is just one of the reasons why I do my business in town and give him all of my locksmith business.

## Great parade

**WILMINGTON**—The Chamber of Commerce Parade and all the fun things that went on in our town last Saturday was wonderful. I haven't seen so many people downtown in a long time. Kudos to the chamber and its members. The Christkindlmarket was a real nice addition thanks to the Park District. What a fresh breath of activities the Park District has become.

## For the record

**WILMINGTON**—Dear Mr. Hill, this is a sincere request that you get a dictionary and look up the definitions of Communism, Socialism and even Capitalism. For the record, I am not now, nor have I ever been, a member of the Communist party. I identify as a Progressive Liberal with some Socialist leanings like public schools, roads and even the military paid for by redistribution of the wealth by way of taxes. I have never sent in a Soundoff "Workers of the world unite," so stop calling



this proud Biden voter a communist. Now, after analyzing your Soundoffs one could conclude you are a bit of a racist and a fascist. Be sure to look up those words too comrade.

## What's wrong here?

**COAL CITY**—Our law enforcement people do a great job of bringing these psychopaths shooting at innocent people. Once arrested the news media gives them more attention than they have had since birth. You would think they had won the Nobel prize. Then the lawyers and judges are like sharks to get the case depending on prestige they will obtain. Then it will be a circus in court for who knows how long. Once sentenced we house, feed, clothe, doctor and study them until they die a healthy old age in prison at our expense. The public has enough responsibilities with being burdened with this also.

## Seeking service

**COAL CITY**—What ever happened to customer service? There is certainly a lack of that in this town.

## The ones you love

**BRAIDWOOD**—I understand Braidwood is a close city, everybody knows everyone. I just really hope that no matter how high your standards are, you remember where you came from and who brought you up. No one is better than anyone! My family learned this when we lost one of the most important people in our lives, but yet the family still has divided themselves. Everyone should live like every day is their last and every breath is their last. None of us will last forever so spend every moment you can with the one's you love. Everyone has arguments but it is up to you if you want them to last forever. You never know, if you let one stupid argument get to you, you may never get to say good-bye.

## Have faith

Do you believe in signs such as a sign on a pop machine or rest room door - out of order? Did you ever feel that way - out of order? I'm sure all of us have felt like we don't function well. But life does go on and we must adjust to our living, like little children, that faith, hope and love will see us all through these tough times. I realize that so many people are concerned about the poor, the needy, sick and lonely but faith is a wonderful thing. Just when we come to the conclusion we can't do it all. Before Christmas I heard this saying that put it in perspective for me: "When you can't do it all, do what you can." And trust other to help out and be a blessing also to everyone. A Merry, blessed Christmas to all.

## All are suffering

**DIAMOND**—We, as Americans, whether Conservative or Liberal, are experiencing the same rising gas prices, bloated inflation and massive prices on everything. Unemployment and labor shortages make no sense but it's what's going on. Devastating supply chains,

backlogs and empty store shelves, rapidly rising interest rates could soon crush the housing market and stock portfolios. Mass filings for personal and business bankruptcy while home foreclosures continue to increase every month. Although Socialists propagandize and slander conservative efforts to save our republic from destruction you and I will continue to suffer the same consequences of the Biden administration's blunders. While I disagree strongly and dispute every hateful claim you make, I will fight to the end your right equal to mine to say it. My only deduction is both sides will continue to suffer equally as well. The remedy to this Biden created path is relatively simple. Immediately open the spigots to produce more American oil and gas. Allow permitting the pipelines and refining. All that would reduce prices, promote jobs and economic growth. Also a reduction in the welfare state and for supply side business tax cuts to become permanent in these very simple yet critical actions. If these actions are taken inflation would crash, the economy will soar and our mutual suffering would cease to be.  
Sharon

## Need a break

**MORRIS**—My tax assessment from Grundy County just keeps going up. They are skyrocketing. Like so many other people on a fixed income in Grundy County this is outrageous. I don't think the city, county employees or the school teachers in Grundy County should get a cost of living raise next year. Everyone should hold the line. Why are property taxes going up so high in Grundy County? The county board should do something about this. They need to give the taxpayers a break. This is outrageous.

## Appreciate community

**LAKEWOOD SHORES**—Good grief. There are way too many people living in Lakewood Shores complaining about everything on social media. Be happy and grateful for what the town does have. Enjoy the river, parks, library, gardens, shops and city events. Take care of the river, parks, library, gardens, shops and participate in the events. Have pride even though you may not live in the city limits, your address is Wilmington.

## A sad fact

**BRAIDWOOD**—Too many families do not have health care coverage or not enough coverage. How good is your dental plan? What will happen to our children when it becomes time for them to acquire health or dental coverage? Will they be able to afford it? Will it still even be available in the next 15 years? This is such a sad fact that nobody can afford to be without insurance and now is the time to sign up for Illinois's affordable health insurance coverage. We checked it out for our family and it was cheaper for us to join it than for private insurance. It's worth looking at.

## It's been 20 years since first AMBER alert

The Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the first America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert broadcast in Illinois. The first AMBER Alert broadcast took place at 5:35 p.m. on Nov. 26, 2002 in LaSalle, IL.

the first AMBER Plan. Today, all 50 states have similar plans. The goal of the AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe return of missing children. The Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, the Illinois Press Association, the Illinois Tollway, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Lottery, and the National Weather Service, to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases. The Alerts are broadcast

through TV, radio, road signs, cellphones, and other data-enabled devices.

Since its inception, the Illinois AMBER Alert System has been used to broadcast 118 critical messages of abducted children with the Alert accounting directly in the recovery of 67 children and indirectly for 22 more.

Since its inception, AMBER alerts have aided in the successful recovery of more than 1,100 children nationally.

To receive AMBER Alerts on your cell phone, visit [www.amberillinois.org](http://www.amberillinois.org).

## Automatic extensions for driver's licenses to end this week

If you've been avoiding the DMV to renew your Illinois driver's license, time is running out as the automatic extensions that have been given since COVID end Dec. 1, 2022.

To avoid lines at Secretary of State offices it's best to conduct business online at [ilsos.gov](http://ilsos.gov).

Secretary of State Jesse White initiated the extension in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. To address the high customer volume caused by the pandemic, White's office

also expanded online renewals for expired driver's licenses and ID cards and continues to mail letters to eligible customers.

The letter provides driver's license and ID card holders with a unique PIN to renew online instead of visiting a facility. Customers may call 217-785-1424 to confirm their eligibility for online renewal or to obtain their PIN.

In addition to driver's license and ID card renewals for those who qualify, online

services include obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card, ordering a driver record and purchasing license plate stickers.

Customers visiting a Driver Services facility to renew their driver's license or ID card have the option to make an appointment in Joliet.

As a reminder, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.

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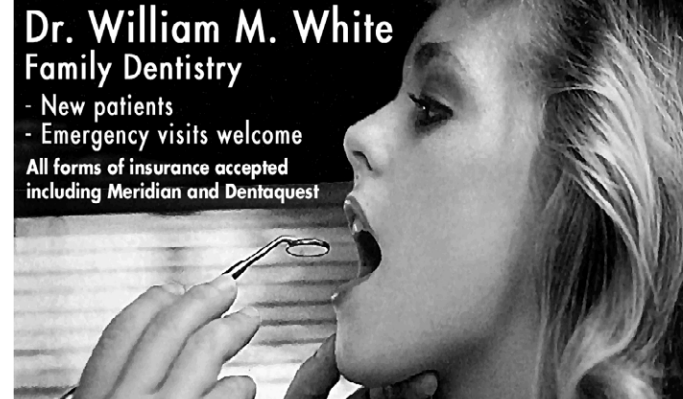
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# Spice up the Holidays with a Homemade Wassail

Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail too! We all know the song, this week we will meet the warmer cider behind the song as we prepare for the 2022 edition of the "most wonderful time of the year".

Wassail, also referred to as Mulled Wine is a holiday tradition that can be traced back hundreds of years. It is warm, festive, and delicious, and literally was once served to anyone who appeared at your front door asking for it.

The term "wassail" is an Anglo-Saxon greeting meaning "be in good health", which was commonly used as a toast when serving cider or ale. Generations passed and the term wassail would come to refer to the drink in the glass instead of the toast.

Wassailing refers to the practice of going door to door offering songs, and occasionally gifts in exchange for a drink from the wassail bowl. Most houses in Victorian-era England kept a Wassail bowl full of warm cider throughout the winter.

In exchange for a song, wassailers were invited in from the cold for a cup of Wassail, and perhaps a few minutes next to a cozy fire. The practice has largely been replaced by

caroling, but there are pockets of revelers steeped in Christmas tradition that still enjoy an evening of wassailing.

It's unlikely that anyone will come a-wassailing to your door demanding a cup of Mulled Wine, but in pockets of Scotland and Northern England the practice is very much alive and occurs on New Year's Day as part of the "first-foot" celebration. The "first-foot" refers the first person to enter a home in the New Year and is seen as a bringer of good fortune.

Think of the Wassail Song as the European version of We Wish You a Merry Christmas, both emphasize blessings in the New Year.

Fast forward to 2022, and you will find that the Wassail bowl over the fire has been replaced by the slow cooker. There are hundreds of Wassail/Mulled Wine recipes available online, and who knows how many handwritten recipes are tucked away in drawers and recipe books around the globe.

The common thread in



**THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL**  
Brian Rung

most contemporary Wassail recipes is that most are wine based, specifically calling for red wine. Red wine has richer fruit notes and is darker in color than white wine, making it a perfect base for Wassail.

Any number of "Christmas spices" can be used in your Wassail, but the essential spice is cinnamon which is commonly added via cinnamon sticks. Using cinnamon sticks serves two purposes: impart the cinnamon flavor into your Wassail, and each stick can be used as a garnish when serving.

If you have a party of 8, be sure to drop 8 cinnamon sticks into your slow cooker so that each guest receives a cinnamon stick garnish.

Fruit is also a Wassail essential. The fruit juices (apple cider and orange juice) impart most of the flavor notes, but the sliced fruit brings a festive visual element to your Wassail. Be sure to use the apple and orange slices when garnishing your servings of Wassail.

Good Wassail takes time, but this is not a negative! After about an hour in the slow cooker you will be treated to the authentic holiday aroma that only scratch-made Wassail can add to your holiday gathering.

Speaking of slow cookers, you will want to take it slow. Wassail can be made on a "high" setting, but remember

that this warm Christmas punch is bursting with flavors, and those flavors need time to come together. Don't rush this one, and you will be rewarded.

Many Wassail/Mulled Wine recipes call for non-descript red wine, I find that Pinot Noir is the best fit for Mulled Wine recipes. If you have a favorite Pinot Noir, use it, but don't break the bank buying bottles for batches of Mulled Wine. You don't want the stuff in the box, but keep it at or below \$20 a bottle.

Feel free to add and subtract from this recipe, your Wassail should reflect your personality and your tradition. If you are preparing Wassail for the first time, the recipe below is a great starting point that is sure to please.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

**Homemade Wassail** is best prepared in a large slow cooker.

- Combine in slow cooker:
- 2 750 ml bottles red wine (Pinot Noir or rioja)
  - 4 cups apple cider
  - 2 1/2 cups orange juice
  - 1/2 cup honey
  - 2 cups frozen pitted cherries
  - 1 large apple, sliced thin
  - 1 large orange, sliced thin
  - 1 piece fresh ginger, sliced
  - 8-10 cinnamon sticks
  - 1 vanilla bean, cut open
  - 1 teaspoon cloves
- Cover and heat on high for 3 hours, or on low for at least 5 hours. Ladle into glasses, garnish with fruit and cinnamon sticks.
- Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



Courtesy photo by: Ken Murphy  
**A SHORT-EARED OWL** flies over the Group 63 Trail at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The trail is located near the Iron Bridge Trailhead.

## "Owl Watch" photo tours will take place at Midewin Prairie

"Owl Watch" is on now at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, where, in recent years, short-eared owls, Northern harriers and more native grassland birds of prey have been seen in colder months in the area where bison graze at Midewin.

Twenty-seven bison – four bulls and 24 cows – were introduced at Midewin as a conservation experiment in 2015. USDA Forest Service volunteers, partners, and staff are monitoring to see if the grazing, wallowing and other natural tendencies of the bison is helping to increase and improve habitat for grassland birds and other native Illinois prairie species.

The bison could be helping short-eared owls and other grassland birds at Midewin in multiple ways. They help to maintain more varied heights and diversity of grasses and forbs.

The bison also reduce shrub encroachment and create disturbed patches for foraging owls to catch prey. This is particularly important for short-eared owls, which are one of the only species of ground-nesting owls in North America.

What's more, short-eared owls eat only meat: voles, mice, etc., which are drawn to where the bison graze.

Short-eared owls and other native birds of prey are not always visible, but they have been seen most frequently along the Group 63 Bunker Trail on the East side of Highway 53.

"The best time to look for owls at Midewin is in the late afternoons, just before dusk,

during the colder months of the year," said Will County Audubon Society Vice President Greg Dubois.

Greg will guide two "Owl Watch" photography tours at Midewin in December, sharing his knowledge of owls and photography. Both tours will meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead (directions and information: [www.fs.usda.gov/reaarea/midewin/recarea](http://www.fs.usda.gov/reaarea/midewin/recarea) at 3 p.m.

• Saturday, December 3  
U.S. Military veterans and family members: This tour is tailored to connect U.S. Military veterans and family members with nature through Brushwood Center's "At Ease" Nature Platoon at Midewin.

• Saturday, December 10  
General Public: This tour is open to anyone who loves nature and photography and wants to connect with other great outdoors enthusiasts.

To register to participate in an "Owl Watch" Photography Tour at Midewin, please call 815-423-6370 or email [sm.fs.Midewin\\_RSVP@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.Midewin_RSVP@usda.gov).

Whether you participate in an "Owl Watch" tour or look for owls on your own, here are some key characteristics to help identify a short-eared owl:

- Wingspan = 35 to 40 inches
- Length = 15 inches
- Heavily streaked wings and body, overall; white to tan-colored underwings and body with dark striping, and dark colored bars on their wings;
- Round, cream-colored facial disc with dark eye patches; yellow eyes.

## Forest Preserve to host "Sensory Sundays"

The Forest Preserve at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon will be hosting a Sensory Sunday event Sunday, Dec. 4, Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Buddy bags with sensory gadgets and a limited supply of noise-canceling headphones will be available for use. Seven handheld audio units providing a narrative of the All-Persons Trail will be available for checkout. Free, all ages. Registration is required by the Saturday before each program.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org).

## Deer harvest up in first half of firearms season

With the second half of the Illinois firearm deer season set for Thursday through Sunday of this week, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources noted that hunters harvested 52,354 deer opening weekend, a 7% increase over the year before.

The split firearms season first opened Nov. 18-20 when hunters bagged the highest number of deer over the past three years.

Hunters in Grundy (172) and Will (134) counties har-

vested more deer than the year before while in Kankakee County there was a decline from 140 deer to 114.

Other deer hunting opportunities in the weeks ahead include:

- Muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 9-11
- Late-winter antlerless-only and Chronic Wasting Disease deer seasons (in select counties only) Dec. 29-Jan. 1 and Jan.13-15
- Archery deer season continues through Jan. 15.

## Gas price lowest in nine months

Gas prices dipped under \$3 per gallon in the western parts of Illinois as average prices in the state declined 19.0 cents per gallon in the last week.

Locally, gas prices are near the \$3.78/g, average according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 35.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 26.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.89/g Monday while the most expensive is \$5.87/g.


"As millions of Americans hit the road for Thanksgiving, we saw gasoline prices continue dropping coast to coast last week, and a new record was set for the largest single day decline in the national average. In addition, 47 of the nation's 50 states have seen diesel prices falling as well, providing well-needed relief ahead of the holidays and helping to stem the rise in inflation," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

charging \$3.73/g Monday while in Wilmington stations were charging \$3.74 to \$3.85 per gallon depending on which side of town you are on. Coal City stations were priced at \$3.95/g to \$4.05/g on Monday.

"All the metrics look very positive for motorists as this week is likely to continue seeing falling gasoline prices, with many areas falling to the lowest level since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. It's entirely possible the national average price of gasoline could fall under \$3 per gallon by Christmas, which would be a huge gift to unwrap for motorists after a dizzying year at the pump."

The national average price of diesel has fallen 7.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.20 per gallon. According to GasBuddy price reports.

The national average is down 22.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 14.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy.



# Thank You!

We would like to thank the Wilmington Fire Department for the quick response and the life saving effort they performed on my wife.

May God Bless,  
Dave Czyn & Family

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# THANK YOU

Thanks so much to everyone who was so kind to us during our recovery from my wife's hospital stay and all the food we received after she returned home. Thanks to everyone!

Bill & Georgia Phelan

# Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, and donations and the kind expressions of sympathy shown to us during Jim's illness and passing. Your support at this difficult time was deeply appreciated and a great comfort for all of us.

Many thanks to Matt Baskerville and his staff at Reeves Funeral Home for the excellent services rendered to our family during our unexpected loss. The Celebration of Life video tribute was truly beautiful.

Sincerely,  
The Family of Jim Hume  
Pamela Hume  
Lauren Vitko, Owen, Grace, Cecelia  
Josh & Jen Hume, Charlotte and Ario  
Nickolas Hume

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# Navigating the home sales slowdown

BY ZETA CROSS  
THE CENTER SQUARE

High interest rates have pushed monthly mortgage payments in Illinois up by 40% in the past few months. The residential real estate market is starting to feel the impact. "Prices have gotten so high. I expect them to start coming down," Professor Daniel McMillen of the Stuart Handler Department of Real Estate at the University of Illinois Chicago said. "With interest rates as high as they are, it has to be the case that the housing market has to slow up."

This fall, higher-priced homes are still selling for high prices, but the market has entered a transition phase, McMillen said. "Now that residential mortgage rates have hit the 7% range, the cost of owning a home is much more expensive," he said. One sign of a slowdown is that it is getting harder to find homes under \$250,000. "The low-priced homes start to drop out of the market. Higher-priced homes will often continue to sell," McMillen said. That was what the market saw in October, he added.

Meanwhile, plenty of buyers who qualified for a mortgage payment of \$1,200 a month can't afford to buy now that interest rate increases have driven payments for the same house up to \$2,000 or more per month. Those buyers have dropped out of the market and sales have slowed down, McMillen said. "Think about buying less house," McMillen said. "Instead of buying a \$500,000 house, look at \$400,000 houses. Lower your expectations." First-time buyers should consider a 2 bedroom/1 bath home instead of holding out for a three-bedroom house with a garage. "If it is a house that you are willing to live in for a while, it gives you a chance to build up equity in it. That way, you avoid the big rent increases that apartments are charging," he said. "Corporations are adjusting rents much more rapidly than they used to. Because they own lots of units, they are willing to risk losing tenants to get tenants who can afford to pay higher rents," McMillan said. Sellers normally see a slow down during the winter, McMillan said. The smart move may be to wait it out and see if interest rates come down in the spring. "We may never see mortgage rates in the 'outrageously low' 3% range again, he said. "I'm talking about an adjustment back to the 4% to 5% range," McMillan said.

## Light Up Your House contest returns to Custer

The 14th annual Lighting Up Your House For the Holidays Contest. Enter your house or a neighbor's. Entry forms are available at Santa's mailbox at the Custer Park Fire Department, or use the one below, and return it to the mailbox by Friday, Dec. 15. Judging will be done that weekend. For more information call Bill Marquardt at 708-372-2500.

### Lighting Up Your House for the Holidays Contest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



THE NATIONAL CHAMPION Joliet American Legion Band will be performing its "Sounds of Christmas" concert Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet. Admission is free with a generous food donation to help families in need.

## Free 'Sounds of Christmas' concert to feature American Legion Band

The 2022 National Champion Joliet American Legion Band will be holding its 39th annual Sounds of Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Rialto Square Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St., Joliet. A special tribute to Tom Drake (1936-2022) Director Emeritus will be held during the performance as well as pre-concert entertainment by "The Dixie Bandits" in the Rotunda at 1 p.m.

Under the direction of Mike Fiske and assistant directors Rick Ellenberger (Army Major, retired), Jillian Kohler and Jim Kreuz, the selection of musical arrangements during this performance will not only be an addition to the holiday spirit but will also be a benefit to those less fortunate. Tickets will be available at the Joliet American Legion Post 1080 located at 2625 Ingalls Ave., Joliet, on Friday, Dec 2, from 5 - 8 p.m. and also

at the Rialto Theatre on Dec 5, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dec 7 and 9 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with remaining tickets available at the door prior to the concert. Tickets are free in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food and/or paper products or if preferred, monetary donations are also appreciated with all donations going directly to Daybreak Center in Joliet to assist residents in need,

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## CCW invites all ladies of the parish to feast

The St. Rose C.C.W. would like to invite all the ladies of the parish to join us for an evening of feasting, fellowship and fun. It will be at the Christmas Potluck on Monday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. in the school gym. There will be a main courses and beverages. St. Rose asks the members or guests to bring a side dish or dessert of their choice. There will be a \$15 gift exchange (with steals) for anyone who wishes to participate. There will also be games and Christmas bingo. If you need a ride, please call Laura at (630) 302-2681 or Pat at (815) 476-6199 to make arrangements. At the time of the delivery of the Boxes of Joy to the central delivery station on Nov. 10, St. Rose was leading all other deanery participants with 131 boxes in addition to monetary donations of \$197.00.

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# OBITUARIES

## Dale Kane

WILMINGTON—Dale Kane, 80, a lifelong resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.

Born in Joliet on April 12, 1942, he was the son of Donald and Frances (Weyant) Kane. As a boy, Dale had fond memories of time spent with his grandparents in Custer Park, hunting and fishing on the river. As a teenager, he worked part-time at Kahler's Gas Station on Route 66 while attending Wilmington High School, from where he graduated with the class of 1960. On Nov. 4, 1961, Dale married his high school sweetheart, Faye Klepk and they recently celebrated their 61st anniversary together still as best friends.

Dale began his working career following his father's footsteps at Argonne National Laboratory. He worked on the initial construction of the Accelerator Ring before joining Local 174 Carpenters Union. It was then that Dale returned to the rivers working on barge piers, river shorelines and the Lock & Dam Systems for John D. Simpson Construction Co. He eventually retired from Brieser Construction in 2000.

Known for his smile, quick wit and sense of humor, people loved to be around him. Throughout the years he enjoyed camping, motorcycles, snowmobiling and riding horses with his family and friends. After retirement, he spent time with his family and on the farm, working on tractors and equipment while working hay fields with his youngest son, Aaron.



Dale was the beloved husband of his wife, Faye; loved and cherished father of Duane (Debbie) Kane, Rich (Lisa) Kane, Missy Kane and Aaron (Amanda) Kane.; proud grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of six; brother of Dean Kane and brother-in-law of Sippi Shell.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Dick Kane and his sister, Donna Shell.

Cremation rites have been accorded per Dale's wishes.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 from 3 p.m. until time of memorial talk at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to participate in the memorial talk virtually online are welcome to join the live stream or watch at a later time on-demand by following the link available on Dale's memorial page.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Intensive Care Unit and their outstanding staff at Riverside Hospital.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Dale's memorial page through social media.

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

## John T. Cavanaugh

WILMINGTON—John T. Cavanaugh, age 84 of Wilmington, IL., passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family, on Wednesday morning, November 23, 2022.

John T. was born on May 5, 1938, the firstborn of Dan E. and Mary A. (nee McGrath) Cavanaugh on the family farm. He grew up in rural Wilmington, helping his father farm and later as a farm hand to local farmers. Shortly after marrying Shirley on November 21, 1959 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington, he gained employment with Caterpillar in Joliet to ensure a more reliable income and better benefits for his family. Early in his Cat career, there was a significant steel industry strike causing Cat to shut down. As his firstborn was on the way, John went to work as a laborer with the Ray J. Benoit Construction Company of Kankakee, later transitioning into a carpenter. Once the strike was resolved he returned to Cat, retiring after 35 years of service. Cat wasn't ready to let him go however and convinced him to return as a contractor several times over the next few years to assist with special projects at Joliet, South Carolina and Italy, with Shirley accompanying him to Italy for a couple of weeks. He maintained his membership in the Carpenters union allowing him to go back to construction work to support his family during the annual Cat summer shutdowns and strikes at Cat in the 60's and 70's.

A natural handy man coupled with his construction experience, John built the family home himself 57 years ago to accommodate his growing family. He continued to hone his building skills assisting his special brother in law and constant "partner in crime" Don Cuning, with weekend side jobs, the two were like brothers. Later, as Don got busier with his fulltime business endeavors, John, would bring his eldest son Kelly into the "side business" taking on a near constant stream of remodeling/light construction jobs to supplement his income and pass on his knowledge. He would often go straight to the side job from Caterpillar, his wife Shirley would bring a hot homemade supper and Kelly to the job, they would eat and work until time to go home to bed. His workmanship was of the highest quality and his pricing fair, personal recommendations and word of mouth from satisfied customers kept him as busy as he could be.

While he worked many hours, he always made time for his family which had grown to 4 children, never missing one of their events. He and Shirley purchased the first of many campers to facilitate an annual family vacation every year, they literally travelled the country, 2 weeks at a time every summer. The campers evolved from a used "pop-up" to a tandem axle travel trailer and finally a motorhome, which was in near constant use through the summer at the local recreation clubs. He was a devoted father and doting grandpa and "papa" to his grandkids.

John also felt the obligation to serve his community as well as his family, he assisted with Little League, became the Official Scorer "keeping the book" for the Custer Park Grade School basketball games. This led to his 25 plus years of service on the local School Boards, starting on the Custer Park Elementary School Board he assisted in the formation of the Reed Custer Unit School District and went on to serve on that Board, many years as Secretary. He joined to Custer Park Volunteer Fire Department, became a member of the Board of Directors guiding the planning for and hands on assistance building the current Fire Station. When the Custer Township Fire Protection District needed a new Trustee, John retired from active firefighting and his position on the Fire Department Board and served as a trustee for

the Fire Protection District. Upon his retirement from the Fire Protection District, he was recruited to be on the newly formed Custer Township Planning Commission. He served his church, St. Rose of Wilmington as an usher for 30 years and even came out of retirement to work as a volunteer laborer on the addition to the St. Rose School, becoming the official "mortar mixer" for Dave Rampa's bricklaying crew. On that job he suffered a failure, the crew asked him to make coffee, after one taste Dave advised him to "stick to mixing mud".

He was a charter member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #241 of Wilmington. While he wasn't as active in the Moose as he was in some of his other endeavors he promoted and supported its charitable work for life, bringing his 2 sons and 1 grandson into the fraternal organization.

In 2002 the residents of Custer recognized John's years of community service in multiple roles by naming him; Grand Marshal of the annual Memorial Day Parade in Custer Park. He and Shirley were honored to be so recognized and led the parade with pride.

He kept busy during retirement maintaining the 2-acre rural homestead, mowing the yard and maintaining his "fleet" of lawn tractors. Shirley always had a home improvement project in mind, and he helped/directed the construction of homes for 2 of his children. When his 2 youngest grandsons received a couple of chicks for Easter, it resulted in "Papa John's chicken farm", with a flock in excess of 20. The old farm boy was back to his roots tending the chickens rain or shine year-round, collecting the eggs to be given to family & friends. A raccoon wiped out the flock while he was assisting in the construction of a cabin in Missouri. Upon his return and after verifying that the offending critter had succumbed to a terminal case of lead poisoning, he finally retired from farming, content to just keep the yard in good shape at home.

There was no such thing as a stranger to John, he loved to visit and make friends wherever he went. The Cavanaugh home was the location of numerous parties when Kelly was still at home, Mr. C was right in there "one of the boys" enjoying a beer and comradery with his "younger buddies".

He is survived by his wife of 63 years and 1 day, Shirley Cavanaugh; his children, Kimberly Cavanaugh of San Antonio, TX, Kari Cavanaugh of Braidwood, John "Kelly" Cavanaugh of Custer Park and Chris (Tonya) Cavanaugh of Braidwood; his eight grandchildren, Angela (Brian) Julian, Amy (Wayne) Howard, Kristin (Ryan) Doherty, Melissa Gillis, Luke Borth, Jake Borth, Ryan Cavanaugh (Aliyah Reyes) and Bret John Cavanaugh; his six great-grandchildren, Elijah, Kylie, Logan, Jayla, Aidan and Jackson; his sister, Mary (the late Jack) Schott of Kankakee; his brothers, Francis (Joanne) Cavanaugh of Braidwood, Bill (Kax) Cavanaugh of Kankakee and Ray (Kay) Cavanaugh of Ord Valley, AZ; special brother-in-law, Don Cuning of Sebring, FL; special cousin, Dick Lehman and special friends, Jim and Carol Shenk of Wilmington.

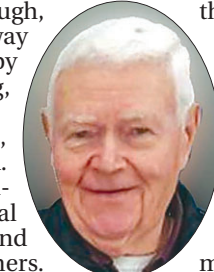
He was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Mary Cavanaugh; his sister, Kathleen Gatlin and his niece, Marney Cavanaugh Wyatt.

Memorials may be directed to the Ronald McDonald House Charity.

Burial in the family plot at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com)



## Wilma L. Ingalsbe

COAL CITY—Wilma L. Ingalsbe, 97, of Coal City, and formerly of Danville, IL, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022 at Heritage Health of Dwight.

Born in Clay County, IA, Wilma Lucille was a daughter of Clyde Earl and Mildred Dora (Rhodes) Smith. She was raised in Minnesota until moving with her family to the Danville, IL area during her early grade school years.

On Feb. 25, 1945, Wilma married Harvey Alfred Ingalsbe in Danville and together they made a home and raised their family. She worked as a book binder for various publishing companies in Danville, as well as Champaign, and was a former member of Old Union Church of Christ in Danville. Following the death of her husband, Wilma spent many years living in Peoria, Arizona and most recently Buckeye, AZ before returning back to Illinois.

She was currently a member of First Christian Church in Wilmington, and will be remembered as a woman of strong faith. One of Wilma's most cherished pastimes was reading the Bible, and she loved to sing. She knew hundreds of hymns and played the piano for enjoyment. Wilma was known for her sugar cookies and homemade rolls, and was an exceptional storyteller who captivated the attention of her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Gone from our sight, Wilma leaves behind a legacy of positivity, an unforgettable smile, and priceless memories with those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Sandra (Earl) Durbin, of Coal City; daughter-in-law, Gloria Ingalsbe, of Buckeye, AZ; three grandchildren: Nathan (Rachel) Durbin, of Lake in the Hills, IL and Kim (Brad) Reilly and



Shannon (Jason) Biddle, both of Arizona; 11 great-grandchildren: Matthew, Andrew, Grace, Samuel, Eleanor, Erin, John, Calyne, Luke, Abby and Nala; two sisters-in-law, Joan Smith, of Pennsylvania and Ella Bales, of Arkansas and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Harvey A. Ingalsbe on Sept. 6, 1983; son, Harvey Duane Ingalsbe and five siblings.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022 between the hours of 3 and 7: p.m. Funeral services will follow on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the funeral home with Pastor Jason Pace from First Christian Church of Wilmington officiating.

Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Park in Danville, IL, where Wilma will be laid to rest with her late husband. Those wishing to attend are welcome to assemble at the cemetery chapel on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. for committal services officiated by Pastor Greg Boldt.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Wilma's memory to First Christian Church, 1824 Church St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Wilma's memorial page online through social media.

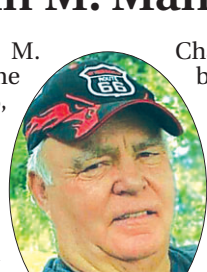
Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

## Marvin M. Manegold

WILMINGTON—Marvin M. Manegold, 81, of Wilmington, went home to be with Jesus on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022. He had been surrounded by family and was in the presence of his loving wife at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Oct. 27, 1941 in Joliet, Marvin was a son of John William Sr. and Edna (Wren) Manegold. He was raised in Carbon Hill and spent his career working for the railroad. Marvin retired in 2002 from Norfolk Southern, following 36 years of service. He was a man of unwavering faith, which only grew stronger throughout the years. He was a member of Harvest Worship Center Church in Wilmington, and in his free time enjoyed nearly anything related to horses or trains. Marvin had a great sense of humor, and beyond his tough reputation proved to be a selfless individual who would give anything to anyone. Gone from our sight, Marvin leaves behind a wonderful example of peace, love and salvation.

Survivors include his wife, Marcia (nee Carr), who he married June 25, 1988; daughter, Cindy Steinhaus, of Arkansas; one son, Marvin M. Manegold Jr. of Alabama; grandchildren: Cheryl (Tony) Blowers, Christina (Ryan) Johnson, Marvin M. (Rachel) Valentine, Stephanie (Ryne) Eickmeyer, Nikki Nichols and Tim (Alexa) Steinhaus; many great-grandchildren; his sister, Barbara (the late Gill) Billings, of Florida; father-in-law and mother-in-law,



Charles and Angie Carr, of Wilmington; brother-in-law, Don (Yolanda) Carr, of Arizona; numerous nieces and nephews, including his special nephew, David (Dana) Manegold, and his special companion, Tiki.

Marvin was preceded in death by his parents, son, James Manegold; brother, John Manegold Jr.; two sisters, Elizabeth Ann Ashton and Debbie Hastings, and three nephews: Joseph Vargas, Walter Nonanburg and Richard Carr.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. Pastor Sam Carr from Harvest Worship Center officiated.

Burial was in Oakwood Sunset Cemetery in Wilmington. Pallbearers were: Marvin M. Valentine, Trenton Valentine, Tony Blowers, David Manegold, Kendall Lamb and Rick Lonergan.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Marvin's memory to his family for their distribution.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Marvin's memorial page online through social media.

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

## Michael E. Parcell

DIAMOND—Michael E. Parcell, 75, of Diamond, and formerly of Lincoln Lake, Morris, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022 at Heritage Health of Dwight.

Born Dec. 20, 1946 in Mishawaka, IN, Michael Edward was a son of Richard Dean and Edna Bunch (Lavine) Parcell. He was raised and educated in Mishawaka; graduated from Penn High School and went on to attend Purdue University. Mike honorably served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Era from Feb., 3, 1970 until April 1, 1977.

On Aug. 28, 1970, Mike married Kathy Marie Durkee in Winona Lake, IN and he went on to make his career with ComEd, where he retired as a Nuclear Operator from the Dresden Station.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy; daughter, Jennifer Parcell-Ealey; grandsons, Anthony Baudino and Alex Baudino; siblings: Barbara Manges, Norma Fitzmaurice and James Parcell;

sisters-in-law, Kay Shorb and Kris Durkee and brother-in-law, Mark Durkee.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a memorial visitation is being planned for 2023.

Mike will be laid to rest with military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.ReevesFuneral.com](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Mike's memorial page online through social media.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Mike's memory to Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 or to the Heritage Health Activities Department, 300 E. Mazon Ave., Dwight, IL 60420.

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



## Edna Riggs

BRAIDWOOD—Edna Marie Riggs, 67, of Braidwood, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born March 16, 1955 in Joliet, Edna Marie was a daughter of Angelo and Hazel (Boswell) Cassineri. She was raised and educated in Joliet, and her employment entailed working in various capacities at the nursing home in Wilmington; managing the Minuteman in Wilmington, and most recently managing the Casey's in Braidwood and Diamond.

Family was everything to Edna. Nothing meant more than her title of "G-Ma," and she truly cherished her grandchildren. Edna, in years past, enjoyed drag racing with her former husband, Bud, and contrary to the fast pace of racing, she took pleasure in any or all of the Hallmark or Lifetime movies she could watch.

Survivors include her three children: Stacey (Anthony) Slush, of Seymour, TN; Sharie Riggs (Patrick Dettman), of Braidwood and Buddy (Jennifer) Riggs, of Mazon; She was "G-Ma" to 11: A.J. (Erica) Slush, DeAnna Riggs, Brandon Slush, Marrisla Slush, Philip (Ramona) Riggs, Alexis Riggs, Kylee Lindner, Alex Smith, Brendan Smith, Kaylin Smith and Scott Smith, as well as

Aubree Mathena and Georgie Bell, who were her bonus grandkids; three great-grandchildren: Hunter, Grayson and Briella; her grandpups, Talon and Bailey; one sister, Angie Cassineri, of Friendsville, TN and numerous nieces and nephews.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Joseph Cassineri and her former husband and the father of her children: Harold P. "Bud" Riggs Jr.

Funeral services were held at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022. Rev. Dr. Roy Backus officiated.

Cremation rites were accorded following the services.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Edna's memory to her family for their distribution.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Edna's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.



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# OBITUARIES

## JoAnn Friddle

TULLAHOMA, TN—JoAnn Friddle, 83, of Tullahoma, TN, and formerly of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Oct. 21, 2022.

Born March 8, 1939 in Duluth, MN, JoAnn was a daughter of Joseph Charles and Donna Margaret (Robert) Nacey. She was raised in the Morgan Park area of Duluth until moving to live with her grandparents in St. Paul when her father went away to serve in WWII. Upon her father's return from war, the family relocated to Wilmington, where she attended the local schools and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1957.

In that same year, on Nov. 16, 1957, JoAnn married Donald Friddle in St. Rose Catholic Church, and together they made a home and family. She initially worked for the Joliet Arsenal before staying home to raise her family. JoAnn did obtain her Illinois Beauticians License and worked alongside her mother and sister, Jinnie. She later relocated with Don to Florida where she acquired her Florida Real Estate License, which she utilized until retiring to become a full time grandma.

JoAnn was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed quilting. In her earlier years, she worked with horses, and even showed them on the state level. She was a great cook and baker; had a love of camping and took great pleasure working in her flower gardens, tending to her roses.

When reflecting on the life of JoAnn Friddle, it is easy to see that her focus was never on material things, rather, it was on creating meaningful relationships and experiences with those she loved. She gave everything she did her all, and she was someone who knew what she wanted and made sure others did as well. A more devoted wife and mother would be hard to find, and JoAnn's heart only grew more full when grandchildren came into her world. Life will never be the same without her here, but she leaves behind a timeless legacy that her loved ones will proudly carry on in her footsteps.

Survivors include her loving husband, Don;



four children: Lori (Mark) Osborne, of Tullahoma; Donna (Dave) Cervantes, of Wilmington; Don Jr. (Tracy) Friddle, of Bells, TN and Sheila (Bryan) Long, of Tullahoma; grandchildren: Garrett (Ali) Osborne, of West Virginia; Rachel Osborne, of Tennessee; Erin (Dan) Olsen, of Wilmington; Drew Chitwood, of Elwood; Courtney (Jacob) VanDiver, of Canada; Emily (Mirza) Alagic and Olivia Friddle, both of Tennessee; Leah Friddle (fiancé Jake Murphy), of Texas; Anna Kate (Nolan) Vaughan, of Mississippi and Nathan Craig, Makayla Long and Tyler Long (fiancé Jacob Johnson), all of Tennessee; 15 great-grandchildren; brother, Paul (Rita) Nacey, of Braidwood; sister, Jinnie (Richard) Parrish, of Wilmington; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Melba "Sis" McCarville, of Wilmington; Chuck (Joyce) Friddle, of Englewood, FL; Kathy Friddle and Karen Friddle, both of Wilmington and Mary Hairald of Dwight and numerous nieces and nephews.

JoAnn was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Donna; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Melvin and Josephine Friddle; sister-in-law, Faye Hansen and brother-in-law, Dale Friddle.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and JoAnn is being laid to rest with her parents in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Dec. 3, 2022 between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m.

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

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the online guest book, upload photographs and share JoAnn's memorial page online through social media.

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

# Cookies with Santa Dec. 4

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

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

child.

To register email: [hoopie2012@gmail.com](mailto:hoopie2012@gmail.com) and include your family name and the number of children attending.

Come out to see Santa and have some delicious

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

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## Grundy Bank coat drive a huge success

Grundy Bank kicked off its annual coat drive on October 17 with a successful turnout, collecting over 350 new and gently-used coats along with winter accessories to families in need in Grundy County and

Wilmington.

Coats were dispersed to We Care of Grundy County in Morris and Our Caring Closet in Wilmington.

"The Wilmington Branch of Grundy Bank was pleased to

participate in the Grundy Bank Coat Drive. We are proud to say we donated over 60 coats to Our Caring Closet to help keep our community warm this winter," said Stefany Mickelson, branch Manager & assistant BSA Officer of Grundy Bank.

Grundy Bank is thankful to all community members who donated and look forward to continuing this annual event for years to come. With this winter season quickly approaching this coat drive was perfect timing.

"We want to thank the community for all their donations at both our Wilmington and Morris branches. We are beyond grateful to have such great support for this cause and couldn't be more excited to have a partnership with We Care of Grundy County and Our Caring Closet in Wilmington," said Christine Mendez, Grundy Bank's Marketing and Sales Director.

Grundy Bank is a leading community bank in Grundy County that is dedicated to providing hometown service while offering big bank products to their clients. Grundy Bank is proud to say they have served Grundy County and southern Will County for over 155 years with their financial needs. For locations and information on Grundy Bank call 815-942-0130 or visit [grundy.bank](http://grundy.bank).



SPECIAL DELIVERY - Stefany Mickelson, branch Manager & assistant BSA Officer of Grundy Bank in Wilmington, drops off 60 winter coats at Our Caring Closet in Wilmington last week. Accepting the new and slightly used coats with lots of gratitude are Debbie LaVigne and Debbie Altieri from Our Caring Closet.



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## Overturing Roe v. Wade changed outcome of recent election

The Illinois Senate Republicans' new leader John Curran told Capitol News Illinois the other day that there was nothing left to do on the abortion topic in Illinois.

"The reality is, what else can we do here in Illinois?" Sen. Curran said. "The laws of Illinois are more weighted towards guarantees of the rights to have an abortion than any other state in the nation. There's no further to go."

However, House Speaker Chris Welch strongly indicated recently that a state constitutional amendment guaranteeing reproductive rights was a very likely prospect.

"Right now, we're a single Legislature or a single Supreme Court away from losing [abortion] rights," Welch told KSDK TV. Welch will soon have more members of his party than any Speaker since the state constitution was revised to reduce the chamber's membership by a third. He said there were a number of explanations for his caucus' expansion, but the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade was "monumental."

"It changed everything," Welch told me. "And the Republican Party, not just here in Illinois, but across the country, is wrong on those issues. They're just wrong. Until they get it right on those issues, I think they're gonna create opportunity for us to continue to expand."

Welch said he's never seen Democratic numbers like this before, calling the onetime Republican bastion of DuPage County, "BluePage." The county, he said, is "one of those areas where our message resonates more than the Republican Party," and predicted the GOP would contin-



**CAPITOL FACTS**  
Rich Miller

ue losing ground if they don't change. Most every pre-election poll claimed that voters ranked abortion low on their priority lists. Yet, the abortion issue seemed to drive voters to the polls this year. What happened?

Senate President Don Harmon told me it been a couple of

were going to turn out, turned out. And I think that voters who would traditionally vote for Republican candidates turned out and said 'I've had enough of this nonsense. I'm going to vote for a Democrat, or I'm certainly not going to vote for the crazy Republicans' and skipped a race."

The newly chosen leader of the powerful and successful pro-choice group Personal PAC told me she would "absolutely" work with legislative Republicans to recruit pro-choice candidates.

However, Sarah Garza Resnick told me it was "too early to tell," when asked if she expected the Republicans to work with her. "But I think that any smart political strategist would need to read the tea leaves of what is going on and what the voters are sending a very clear message on. And if you want to stay relevant and get the other important issues that you care about discussed, then I think it would make sense to recruit and run pro-choice Republicans."

Garza Resnick stressed that she hasn't yet had a chance to talk with all other stakeholders about a possible constitutional amendment.

Even so, she said, "If you look at what happened in Kansas, and if you look at what happened where [abortion] was on the ballot in five states ... on November 8, the people of this country overwhelmingly want choice to be protected and codified and they don't want it to be dismantled."

So, considering all that, "codifying on the constitutional level would make sense," Garza Resnick said.

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

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## Illinois lawmakers return this week amid calls for changes in the SAFE-T Act

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
THE CENTER SQUARE

Illinois lawmakers return to Springfield this week as state's attorneys and law enforcement officials await changes to the SAFE-T Act.

The controversial justice reform package eliminates cash bail on Jan. 1, making Illinois the first state to do so.

The legislation has been criticized by many, including dozens of state's attorneys around Illinois who have filed lawsuits to have the SAFE-T Act thrown out.

Before the election, Democrats promised to take up the legislation during fall veto session, but have vowed not to make major changes to the bill.

"Our opponents tried to use misinformation and fearmongering to scare voters, but the reality is that people from around Illinois understand the inequity and arbitrariness of weighing on wealth instead of evidence when deciding to lock people up pretrial," state Sen. Robert Peters, D-Chicago, said at a rally outside the state capitol.

Not only have state's attorneys and law enforcement officials spoken out against the

SAFE-T Act, but mayors and county boards have gone on record blasting the legislation. Tinley Park Mayor Michael Glotz said the legislation sets a dangerous precedent for public safety.

"It's real and it's coming," Glotz said during a recent news conference. "The name of this act is an absolute joke, because the only people it keeps safe are the multitudes of criminals it protects."

The consolidated lawsuit against the SAFE-T Act, which was combined from 58 separate lawsuits filed around the state, will be heard in Kankakee County with opening arguments scheduled for Dec. 7.

The lawsuits allege the state legislature violated the state's constitution in the manner the act was presented and approved. State's attorneys are asking the court to declare the act unconstitutional.

Bond County State's Attorney Dora Mann said in a statement "the implementation of the SAFE-T Act, as currently enacted, will have a detrimental and immediate impact on our ability to ensure public safety."

A ruling on the lawsuits could come as early as Dec. 15.

## Extra patrols resulting in fewer shootings

During the holiday weekend, the Illinois State Police (ISP) increased patrols on Chicago area expressways to

deter criminal activity.

Last year during the holiday weekend, there were nine shootings, including two homicides, on Chicagoland expressways: six the day after Thanksgiving, another that Saturday, and two more on

Sunday.

Expressway shootings are down more than 40% and homicides more than 80% compared to this time last year thanks to extra patrols, automated license plate readers and air support.

## Man pleads guilty to illegally importing live catfish into Will County

An Indiana man has pleaded guilty to importing more than 2,600 pounds of live channel catfish into Illinois without a permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the agency announced.

Importing fish or other animals without permission poses a risk to the state's native wildlife populations.

Michael Sullivan of Griffith, Indiana, entered a negotiated guilty plea to one count of importing live fish without a permit. The case was filed in Will County, following an investigation by the Illinois Conservation Police Invasive Species Unit. The Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Will County state's attorney prosecuted the case.

Investigators determined Sullivan imported the fish into a Plainfield lake during three separate occasions in 2021. The fish were purchased in Mississippi and Alabama.

IDNR staff reviews and provides free importation permits to importers with tested and disease-free fish. Channel

catfish are one species that is susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), which can decimate fish populations.

"While VHS has been found in the Great Lakes, currently we have not detected this disease outside of Lake Michigan in Illinois," said Kevin Irons, assistant chief of fisheries at IDNR.

Most people within the fish transportation industry comply with IDNR regulations, said Conservation Police Officer Brandon Fehrenbacher, who works in the Invasive Species Unit.

"Importing and stocking untested fish significantly increases the risks to our resources and undercuts others within the industry abiding by the law," he said.

Sullivan received 24 months court supervision and \$227 in fines and court fees. He was ordered to perform 30 hours of community service and pay \$10,500 in restitution to the IDNR Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund.



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# Concerns on the shortage of batteries

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that a shortage of batteries is slowing down the development of solar and wind power here in the U.S.? If so, what are we doing to ramp up battery production if anything?

-- J. Wilson, Chicago, IL

As the climate crisis worsens and public outcry can no longer be ignored, policymakers are tasked with ramping up the production of renewable energy. The Biden Administration has announced its desire to decarbonize the grid by 2035.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States electricity production emits 25 percent of total greenhouse gas pollution, just behind transportation at 27 percent of the country's emissions.

Renewable alternatives are starting to garner more support for both electricity

production and manufacturing of zero-emission electric vehicles. With these potential solutions to the climate crisis, a new problem arises: Both rely on lithium batteries to store energy.

For the renewable energy industry to grow and ultimately take prominence, energy storage will be a critical piece to the puzzle.

As critics point out, without an effective method to store energy, renewables like solar and wind are only good when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining. The most common way that energy is stored now is through the use of lithium batteries.



Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Fluence, a global leader in energy storage technology, says that the cost of a lithium battery has begun to soar up to 20 percent higher than last year. This cost increase can be attributed to the increased price of the lithium and nickel needed to make the batteries, as well as bottlenecks in transport and labor.

Renewable energy projects are also reporting difficulties procuring lithium and nickel due to having to compete against the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers. EV companies have proven to be a formidable competitor in the market due to their consistency and predictable ordering patterns which make them a favorite for battery manufacturers to work with.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is left to piece together a solution other than lithium batteries to achieve their lofty goals. One route they may take to avoid competition with EV producers is to use an alternative method of energy storage altogether.

A Finnish company, Polar Night Energy, has developed a sand "battery" that is able to store heat in sand tanks up to 500 degrees Celsius, allowing that heat energy to be used later on.

This is not to say that the future of American energy is sand, however it is a valuable example of how investing in innovative ideas can pay off in the form of creative solutions for the nation.

While we wait for the next big innovations, the DOE has identified a need for the U.S. to develop a domestic supply chain for energy storage and aims to put an emphasis on recycling lithium batteries.

Presently only five percent of lithium batteries are being recycled globally; if the DOE is able to mandate battery recycling, then they hope that will bolster the domestic supply of lithium batteries while putting less stress on harvesting raw materials which will in turn bring the prices down.



LIMITED BATTERY storage capacity remains a bottleneck to the widespread application of solar and wind power.

Presently only five percent of lithium batteries are being recycled globally; if the DOE is able to mandate battery recycling, then they hope that will bolster the domestic supply of lithium batteries while putting less stress on harvesting raw materials which will in turn bring the prices down.

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

# Will County increases focus on attracting green industries

One of the first counties in Illinois to permit battery energy storage

WILL COUNTY – Will County leaders are calling attention to an increased focus on attracting green industries to the local economy. This follows several coordinated initiatives to attract the clean energy industry to Will County, including energy storage and transportation.

"We recognize that green jobs are the future," said County Executive Bertino-Tarrant. "Will County elected leaders and local stakeholders have been working hard over the last few years to attract industries to our communities. We're positioning the county for a clean energy revolution that will significantly boost our economy."

The Will County Board recently voted to allow for battery energy storage facilities to open in unincorporated areas,



Photo provided by the Clean Grid Alliance

WILL COUNTY now allows battery energy storage facilities to open in unincorporated areas, which store energy produced by renewable energy sources to be later distributed to community electric grids when there is an increased need for power.

empowering a growing clean energy industry to grow in Will County. Battery energy storage facilities store energy produced by renewable energy sources during periods of low-cost or over-production, to be later distributed to community electric grids when there is an increased need for power.

This zoning amendment makes Will County one of the

first local governments in Illinois to allow for these facilities. The amendment to the zoning ordinance classifies battery energy storage facilities as minor utilities that are permitted in industrially zoned areas.

"This simple change in zoning helps keep Will County at the cutting edge of the clean energy industry," said Will County Board Land Use and Development Committee Chair Tyler Marcum. "I'm excited to see more and more energy companies opening their doors or moving to Will County in the near future."

Companies specializing in energy storage are projected to grow following the 2021 State of Illinois Climate & Equitable Jobs Act, which calls for the state to move towards 100% clean energy by the year 2050. The State of Illinois has also initiated a Coal-to-Solar Energy Storage Grants Program to provide incentives for companies to install energy storage facilities at the sites of former coal plants.

The County has also recently initiated an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan to build upon state and regional initiatives to create transition plan to zero emission vehicles. The plan aims to identify locations for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and to support the increased demand for electric personal, commercial, and freight vehicles.

The plan will identify a strategy to address barriers for electric vehicle ownership, including for residents and communities with lower incomes, lower levels of home ownership, and gaps in charging infrastructure.

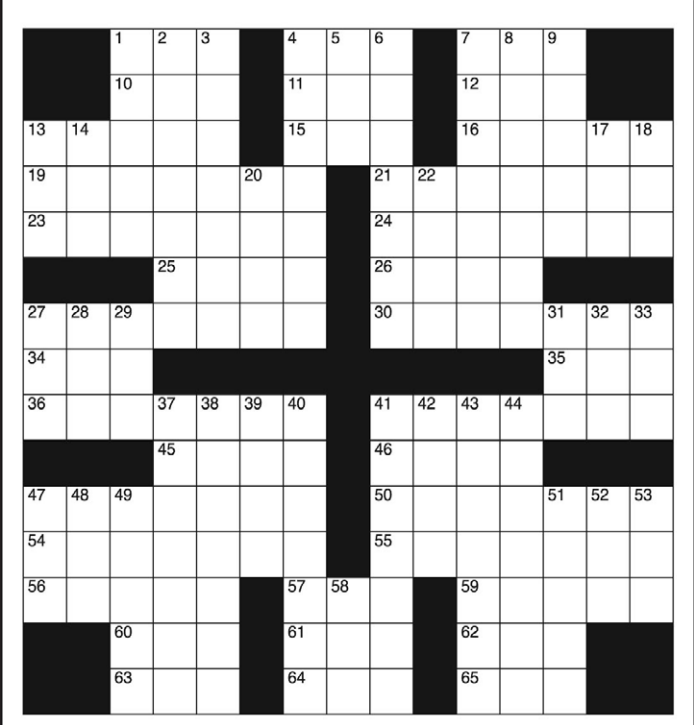
"The Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan is a significant step to ensure that Will

County's infrastructure is prepared for the green economy," said Will County Board Public Works and Transportation Chair Joe VanDuyne. "Our coordinated efforts are creating forward-thinking opportunities to bring new jobs to Will County and prepare us for a more energy-efficient future."

These initiatives coincide with an increased effort by the Will County Center for Economic Development (CED) to attract green industries to Will County. The CED has noted recent successes, including the growth of energy efficient production companies opening their doors in Will County. Both Lion Electric in Joliet and Hyzon Motors in Bolingbrook are projected to bring nearly 1,500 jobs to the region.

"Green energy is a strong, growing cluster in Will County that supports future economic growth," said Doug Pryor, President and CEO of the Will County Center for Economic Development. "Our talented workforce and robust education system create a base of skilled labor that will allow these businesses to thrive. Companies like Lion Electric and Hyzon Motors provide a great foundation that will attract more companies in related sectors looking to invest in the region."

The CED has also spotlighted the growing interest of energy companies in Will County communities. This includes the state-of-the-art G&W microgrid project in Bolingbrook that utilizes automated power generation and storage. Will County is also home to two of the largest rooftop solar arrays in the Midwest, the Magid array in Romeoville and the IKEA array in Joliet.

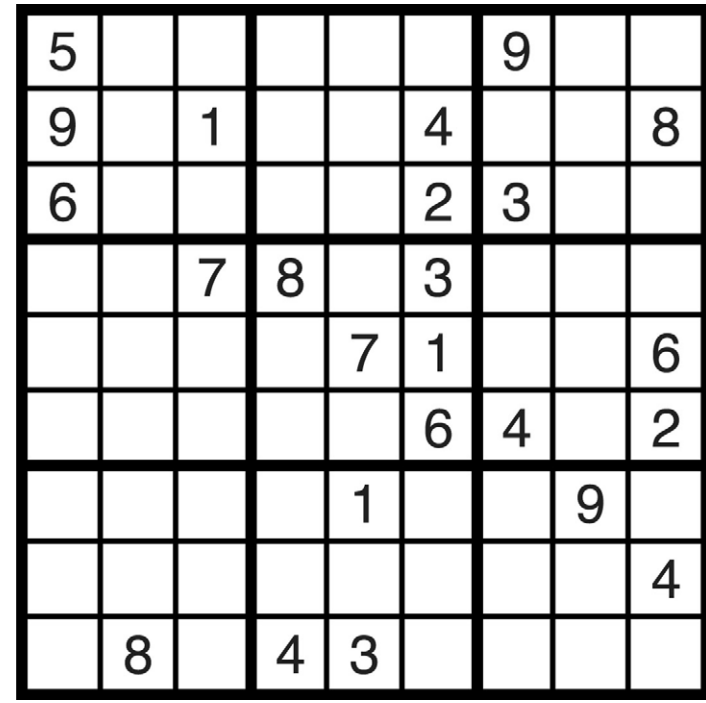


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Single Lens Reflex
- 4. People of southern Benin
- 7. One who is learned (abbr.)
- 10. Neckwear
- 11. Solid water
- 12. A way to work the soil
- 13. Inspiring
- 15. Pick up
- 16. It wakes you up
- 19. Parcel
- 21. Popular dog breed
- 23. Lets out a sigh
- 24. Embedded into the surface
- 25. Hard liquors
- 26. One from Scotland
- 27. Satisfy
- 30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement
- 34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
- 35. Similar
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. Soft drink maker
- 45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
- 46. Nursemaid
- 47. Inheritor
- 50. Hot, often dusty wind
- 54. Serves as an introduction
- 55. Earned top billing
- 56. Mansion
- 57. A partner to a carrot
- 59. War-horse
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. It checks the heartbeat
- 62. Aquatic salamander
- 63. CNN's founder

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Pinochle trick
- 2. A system of connections
- 3. Emblems of royalty
- 4. Work with a soft hand
- 5. Plant cultivated in Peru
- 6. A timid man
- 7. Lacking intellectual depth
- 8. A way to order
- 9. Intoxicating
- 13. Mimic
- 14. Surfers use it
- 17. Small Eurasian deer
- 18. Popular Miller beer
- 20. Finds out about
- 22. Unusual
- 27. Small European viper
- 28. Lacking depth
- 32. Useful keyboard key
- 33. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 37. Edible mollusk
- 38. Stitched up
- 39. Utilized
- 40. \_\_\_ in tradition
- 41. A way to get through
- 42. Let off
- 43. Fashionable source of shade
- 44. In due time
- 47. Printing speed
- 48. A major division of geological time
- 49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
- 51. \_\_\_ de la \_\_\_
- 52. After B
- 53. \_\_\_



# Mountain lion removed from residential area, transported to rescue center

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), after several days of tracking and observing a mountain lion on the west side of Springfield, made the decision to tranquilize the animal and transport it to a sanctuary specializing in the care of large felines earlier this month.

Wildlife experts and public safety officials from IDNR, the Illinois Conservation Police, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA WS), and the Springfield Police Department determined that the mountain lion, or cougar, that had strayed into residential and business areas of Springfield posed an imminent threat to residents and property and therefore needed to be removed.

The animal, which is wearing a GPS collar and has made its way to Illinois from Nebraska, was detected by satellite in western Springfield. IDNR officials conferred with their counterparts at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, who declined an offer to send the mountain lion back to their state.

USDA WS staff tranquilized the mountain lion and transported it to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, a 260-acre feline sanctuary in Center Point, Indiana, that provides homes and veterinary care for large and exotic cats.

"Thank you to our hard-working wildlife staff and con-

servation police and our partners across federal, state, and local agencies for handling this difficult situation with the professionalism and care that this beautiful wild animal and concerned residents deserve," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "I am confident that the mountain lion will be protected and cared for at its new home."

IDNR had notified residents living west of Veterans Parkway in Springfield that the mountain lion was detected on the western edge of the city and was being tracked by researchers.

The cougar is a young male that has been moving through central Illinois the past couple weeks. It was captured and fitted with a GPS collar by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in November 2021 as part of an ongoing research project. IDNR continues to cooperate with biologists and researchers in Nebraska. It previously was detected in McDonough and Cass counties.

Although classified as an animal of "least concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature on their Red List of Threatened Species, mountain lions are protected in Illinois, and it is unlawful to harm, harass or kill them unless they pose an imminent threat to a person or property, which rarely occurs. While cougars can travel great distances, they tend to avoid conflict with humans.

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# COMET SPORTS

## Klein right at home as new athletic director

BY JIM SHELDON  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

With current athletic director Chuck Anderson retiring at the end of the school year, the choice for his replacement was an easy one.

A Reed-Custer graduate, coach for over 12 years and someone who bleeds black and gold more than anyone, according to principal Tim Ricketts.

That man is assistant AD and offensive coordinator for the football team, Nick Klein.

"He really cares about our school and our kids and I think that's obviously a very important job," said Ricketts.

Athletics have always been a passion for Klein and he served as the head football coach at R-C from 2011-13 and was the girls basketball coach for nine years, compiling a 131-130 record.

"I went back to school to get my Master's

degree in Administration with the long-term goal of being an athletic director," said Klein.

"When the assistant AD role opened, it was something I was really interested in for the progression of my career."

It's been known for a few years that this was Anderson's last year and Klein wasn't sure if he could step away from coaching for an opportunity at his dream job.

"I have a daughter in eighth grade and a son in seventh and I always envisioned being at the high school, and having a hand in coaching them."

"I had some talks with my wife and said I didn't want to pass this opportunity up. I felt if I let this go by, who knows if it would present itself again."

Current R-C football coach Gavin Johnston who works with Klein says he will bring a wide range of knowledge of all sports to the position.

"He will be able to work with us coaches and understand what we need. He also will

bring a super competitive attitude towards the job. He will have a lot of passion for all our teams and will do what is best for our kids."

The school board has said Klein can continue coaching football next year. They have never had their athletic director coach before.

"I really enjoy coaching. I love it. It's a passion of mine. It always has been. I don't know that I was willing to give that up, not at this point of my career," said Klein.

"So the school board and superintendent Mark Mitchell were really good to me and said let's do this on a year-by-year trial basis and see how it works out."

"It'll be tough juggling coaching football and being the athletic director, but I want that opportunity to see if I can do both."

Anderson has been the AD since 2013 and R-C has won three consecutive regional basketball championships (2013-15), a state baseball title (2016), a regional volleyball championship, four regional softball titles and has a resurgent

football program which has won 21 games over the last two seasons and four playoff games.

"Anderson is a Reed-Custer grad who was part of the 1985 state championship baseball team. He was working at Lockport and had an opportunity to come back home," said Ricketts.

"He's done a lot of good things for our athletic department. He's just a great guy who works well with the coaches and does what is best for the kids."

One thing is certain, R-C athletics are on the rise and Klein is excited about his new opportunity.

"I know, my work ethic and my organizational skills and hopefully they'll both be tested but that's okay. I'd love the opportunity."

"I think we got the football program moving in the right direction. And I'd like to keep it going that way. So yeah, I mean, in the fall, it's going to be a little wild but the rest of the year, I'll just be the athletic director."

## Lady Comets take to the court in conference matchup



Photo by Zadie Sims

MAKING A BASKET for Reed-Custer is Leah Grace playing against Wilmington at home.



Photo by Zadie Sims

LADY COMET CAELAN COLE pulls up for a jump shot against Wilmington on Tuesday during the Reed-Custer Lady Comet Classic tournament at home.



Photo by Zadie Sims

TAKING POSSESSION of the ball for Reed-Custer after making a rebound is Caelan Cole playing against Wilmington at home.



Photo by Zadie Sims  
BROOKLYN HARDING dribbles the ball down the court on Tuesday's game against Wilmington at home.

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# COMET SPORTS

## Senior band members, families honored on Senior Night



**TYLER WIYNINGER** is a senior band member, who is the son of Dawn Kochan. After graduation, Tyler plans on heading off to a 4-year university to further his education.



**JAMON SPIKINGS** is a senior band member, who is the son of Rick and Debbie Spikings. In the fall, Jamon plans on attending a 4-year university to major in music education.



**MAKAYLA WILKINS** is a senior band member, the daughter of Lorne and Noemi Wilkins. In the fall, Makayla will be attending the University of Alabama to study Aerospace Engineering.



**EDEN PRYBYLSKI** is a senior band member, the daughter of Nicole Lowery and David Przybylski. Eden will be heading off to ISU to major in psychology and minor in criminal justice.



**ANGELINA MARTINEZ** is a senior band member, the daughter of Vince and Jamie Martinez. After graduation, she will attend JJC to work towards becoming an elementary school teacher.



**LOGAN LECKRONE** is a senior band member, who is the son of Mike and Amy Leckrone. After graduation, Logan plans on attending JJC to further his education.



**DANIEL KUBAN** is a senior band member, who is the son of Heather Rozak and Dan Kuban. In the fall, Daniel plans on attending JJC and then transferring to Illinois State University.



**CHRISTIAN KOCA** is a senior band member, who is the son of Keith and Karen Koca. After graduation, Christian will work towards a bachelor's degree in sociology and explore working in the business field.



**HAYLEE KEYMON** is a senior band member, who is the daughter of Brandon & Jessica Keymon. In the fall, Haylee plans on attending SIU for a degree in automotive.



**JULIA JANOPOULOS** is a senior band member, who is the daughter of John and Jen Janopoulos. Julia plans on attending JJC in the fall to complete her Gen Ed's while also pursuing a career in interior designing.



**CONNOR EGGLESTON** is a senior band member, who is the son of Todd and Jessica Eggleston. In the fall, Connor will take classes for engineering and enter the work field.



**ALAINA EZELLIS** is a senior band member, who is the daughter of Mike and Sarah Ezell. After graduation, she plans on going to JJC for general university.



**KAITLYN FAUROTIS** is a senior band member, who is the daughter of John and Michaelanne Fauroter. In the fall, Kaitlyn will attend a 4-year university and major in computer science and mathematics.



**JAINA DUBBERT**, daughter of Duane and Alison Dubbert, is a senior in the Marching Comets. She plans on attending a 4-year university to work towards becoming a worship minister.



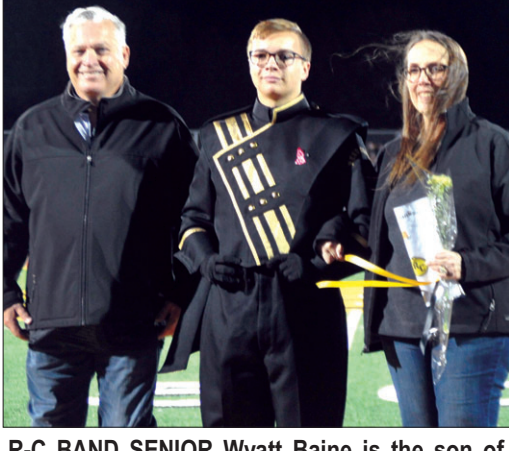
**EMILY REARDON** is the daughter of Jennifer Reardon and Tony Reardon. After graduation, Emily is heading south to attend Florida Tech to major in Biomedical Science.



**ELIZABETH WIETTING** is the daughter of Chris and Andrea Wietting. After graduation, Elizabeth will attend Chief Shabbona Fire Academy and then eventually moving on to attend paramedic school.



**PAIGE HOLLAND** is a senior band member, who is the daughter of Harry and Tricia Holland. After graduation, Paige will head off to enlist in the National Guard. She will start in basic training this summer and when she returns she will attend the Hobart welding school.



**R-C BAND SENIOR** Wyatt Baine is the son of Leon and Christy Baine. When Wyatt graduates he plans on attending Lindenwood University on a shooting scholarship and focusing on a degree in Pre-Med and then move forward in anesthesiologist school.



**GABRIELLA DAVIES**, a senior in the Reed-Custer band, is escorted by her parents Andrew and Tara Davies. Gabriella plans on attending Augustana College or Vanderbilt University to major in psychology and minor in criminal justice. She has hopes to apply to law school in the future and graduate with her JD, pass the bar and practice law.



**JENNA BRAGG** is a senior band member, who is the daughter of Tim and Nikki Bragg. After graduation, Jenna either wants to attend the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City to get her Bachelors in Fine Arts or attend University of Kentucky to study music therapy.

## Juniors offer holiday challenge

The Juniors Virtual Holiday Challenge is back for a third year.

The challenge, sponsored by the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club, is a 5K, 100 mile, or 200 mile run/walk/bike wherever the participant wants to complete the challenge—outside, on a treadmill, or stationary bike.

Participants will choose their challenge and have the months of October, November and December to get their miles in.

The Juniors encourage everyone to grab a friend or two and have a great time completing the miles over the next few months.

The cost to participate is \$30 and everyone taking the challenge will receive a backpack, virtual bib and on-line access to log their miles and time.

A link to the Virtual Holiday Challenge registration can be found on the Facebook pages of the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club and The Coal City Courant.

The Virtual Holiday Challenge will serve as a main fundraiser for the non-profit organization that provides scholarships for high school students, presents community events and supports local causes.

## JV Panthers lose heartbreaker in OT

The 7th grade Panthers traveled to Sandwich on Tuesday and lost a heartbreaker in overtime, 39-35.

The Reed-Custer JV was ahead 25-21 heading into the fourth quarter but couldn't hold on. They missed several opportunities to seal a victory, including missing crucial free throws and committing too many

turnovers.

Matt Kuban led all scorers with 21 points. Kaiden Klein played well and contributed 11 points. Chase Isaac and Trent Boudreau also scored, adding three and two points, respectively.

The Panthers are now 4-2.