



Cole in the Senior Spotlight

Comet basketball on a hot streak



\$1.00
Vol. 64, Issue 50
1 section • 14 pages
Not over 75% advertising
www.braidwoodjournal.com

BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL.com

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Braidwood dog park inches closer to reality

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

It's not a done deal just yet.

But plans to bring a dog park to Braidwood are moving ahead, as the City Council and the members of the Braidwood Park District Board of Directors work together to create a space in town for man's best friend.

Last month, the City Council approved the purchase of fencing that will be used to create the space, expected to sit near the corner of Third and Center Streets at Old Smokey City Park.

"It took a few months to get all the paperwork together just for insurance purposes... We

did get estimates to build a dog park, which is just a double-fenced in area," City Administrator Tony Altiery said.

In November, the council approved a bid from AmericaDream fencing company to install a dog park for a total cost of \$14,000.

"All the maintenance afterward will be taken care of by the park. The city will not have to use our employees to do maintenance on it," Altiery noted.

Altiery first brought the idea to council for discussion in October. At that time, the administrator said the city had put feelers out on social media to see what kind of local amenities folks around town would be interested in having, and a dog park was on the top of that list.

Locally, residents can utilize the Godley Park District dog park at the park district building, or the Will County Forest Preserve District dog park on Ballou Road, but both require a travel. City leaders said residents expressed interest in having a dog park incorporated into Old Smokey.

Park District officials said now that the city has approved the fencing, the next step is to execute an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the park district and the city.

"Even though they've approved the fence purchase, the project can't officially begin until the IGA is in place," Park Commissioner Josh Bolatto noted. "We have instructed our attorney to begin drafting up the agreement which will

then be sent over to the city for review and comments by their attorney. If there's any issues with it, then our attorneys will have to work back and forth to come up with an agreement that both are comfortable with. Once it's ready for approval, each body will need to pass a resolution approve the execution of the agreement. After it is fully executed, then the installation and full scope of the project will be able to begin."

Bolatto noted that the city will cover the initial cost of all of the materials, installation and amenities including the fencing, double-

SEE PARK, PAGE 2

Santa, Baby



Photos by Marney Simon

SEVEN MONTH old Emery Fredericks of Braidwood may not be able to tell Santa her wishlist just yet, but the youngster let Jolly Old St. Nick know her feelings on the holiday with a tug of his beard! Emery was one of dozens of children who visited Santa and Mrs. Claus at Old Smokey City Park on Friday, Dec. 6. The annual visit with Santa was part of the annual event hosted by the Braidwood Park District, which also included treats, storytime and activities for families.



Courtesy photo

VANA WINCHELL (left) will take the stage as a Drosselmeyer Doll in Finale Academy of the Arts production of the beloved holiday ballet, The Nutcracker. She will appear along with Emellyn Winchell (right), who will portray a soldier in the Dec. 16 production. Vana is a seventh grade student at South Wilmington Grade School and Emellyn is in the second grade.

Braidwood says no to container stacking

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

As the city of Braidwood gets set for its new truck parking lot to open, city leaders have taken a step to ensure that that lot—or any future truck parking areas inside the city limits—don't become a place for containers to stack up.

Last month, the members of the Braidwood City Council unanimously passed an ordinance amending the city code with regard to driveway and

truck parking, as it pertains to cargo containers.

The amendment includes that language that "it is strictly prohibited to stack on top of another any semi-trailer, cargo container, shipping container, or other similar container."

"You drive up by Chicago and see where these truck parking lots are, and they have stacked containers as high as they can get them. This prohibits that," city administrator Tony Altiery said.

The potential for contain-

er stacking was one of several concerns residents in town have voiced over the new truck parking lot at the Route 66 Business Park at Route 53 and Division Street.

The city council approved that development, by way of approving the combination of lots and vacating a street that was designated to run through the site, back in April of 2022.

While not fully developed just yet, the site plan includes a truck parking lot of 200 spaces, 100 of those spaces

dedicated to the owner's business where he dispatches flatbed trucks.

The intention is for the owner, Secure Truck Line, Inc., to rent out those remaining 100 spaces on a monthly bases, which would be made available for truck, RV, and boat parking.

Back in April, the attorney representing the site said the expectation for traffic is 40-50 trucks per day, but said there were no plans to allow

SEE STACK, PAGE 2

A holiday tradition Finale Academy of Arts to present "The Nutcracker"

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

As Christmas draws near, we are reminded of the holiday traditions passed down from generation to generation. For many, the season would not be complete without a trip to the ballet for a performance of "The Nutcracker."

Across the globe, dance

companies—large and small—share the story of Clara and her beloved gift, a nutcracker that comes to life in her dreams and takes her on an

SEE DANCE, PAGE 2



BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

SALE VALID 12/14-12/20/22

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272
COAL CITY 815-634-4224
BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD AT BERKOTFOODS.COM

CHRISTMAS EVE 7AM-6PM
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

\$5.99 LB
with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase

USDA Choice, Angus EZ Carve Beef Ribeye Roast (without loyalty \$10.99/lb) **LIMIT 1**

Limited Release Berkot's Fresh Homemade Christmas Sausage Made with Fresh Bacon, Garlic, & Onion **\$4.99 LB**

\$9.99 LB
with loyalty

FREE CUSTOM CUT & TRIM!

Berkot's Famous Whole Beef Tenderloin (without loyalty \$12.99/lb)

Sugardale Cook's Smithfield Hormel

88¢ LB
with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase

Cooks, Sugardale, Hormel or Smithfield Spiral Sliced Ham **LIMIT 1**

Varieties Vary By Location!

Park

gated entry area, any shade structures, lighting fixtures, trash cans, dog waste stations, regulatory signage for usage of the facility and the creation of a parking area. Bolatto said the park will be situated just off the roadway, similar to the setup at the Lions Kiddie Park on Lincoln Street.

"After everything has been installed and the project is complete all of the materials and amenities will become property of the Park District to maintain and insure," he added, noting that there is still a bit of work to complete before residents actually see the park created. "I would say that we still have a few more

months yet to go before we can officially get the project started because of the time frame with passage of the resolutions and full execution of the agreement between both of our respective boards."

The property where the park will be placed is owned by the Braidwood Park District, which generally uses that green space for overflow parking or other events. Bolatto said once the dog park is in place, the plan will likely be to designate parking along Third Street, which sees less traffic than Center Street.

"We are also planning to take care of putting up a couple of security cameras in that area that way if something does happen from either misuse, or from a users dog, we will at least be able to pull the video footage to see what happened and who's involved," Bolatto added.

For the park district, the collaboration with the city is just another way to add to outdoor recreational offerings for local residents, without adding any burden to taxpayers.

"We looked at putting in a dog park several years ago, however the biggest deterrent for us was the cost of installation," he said. "Due to such a small budget, it wouldn't have been feasible for us as we would want to see it done right and something nice installed, not just a cheap section of chain link fencing. With the City being willing to cover the cost of all of the materials, installation and amenities, that is a game changer. Our part-time maintenance employees will still have to mow that area anyway and empty the trash, so it's not like it's a huge impact on upkeep for us."

Dance

adventure.

This holiday season, Finale Academy of the Arts in Wilmington is bringing the tale to life as the two act ballet will be presented by a cast of some 100 dancers, gymnasts and athletes.

Studio owner/director Kimberly Larson said her company will be presenting the traditional ballet, a tale adapted from "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," a short story penned by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816.

Dancer Emily Starkey will take the stage as Clara and the role of her brother, Fritz will be played by Alex Rosenberg.

According to Larson, the dancers have been working on the production since mid-August and put in 10 hours of rehearsal time a week.

Finale Studio has presented an annual holiday show for a number of years, and Larson said the time was right to stage the classic ballet.

"You have to have a certain skill level in your studio to even be able to do it, and we are there," said Larson, who noted her students have to take a certain number of hours in pointe and ballet classes which is a requirement for the choreography presented in the ballet.

Along with Starkey and Rosenberg, "The Nutcracker" cast includes Ella White, Nutcracker; Sara Borik, Sugar Plum; Lyla Bruner, Mouse King; Aubrey Bryant, Snow Queen; Abigail Kirchner,

Uncle Drosselmeyer, and Vanna Winchell and Chella Kuyper, Drosselmeyer Dolls.

And, appearing in the Land of Sweets celebration dancers are Kennedy Larson and Ivy Bruner; "Arabian Coffee"; Addison Rosenberg, "Spanish Chocolate"; Kara Keslin, Maecyn Rodriguez and Ava Spicer, "Chinese Tea"; and Emberlyn Paquette, Abigail Kirchner, Sally Clifford, Alivia White, Jaycee Chase, and Kara Malone in "Russian Candy Cane."

A special appearance will be made by gymnasts from Gymkhana in Hanover Park.

"The Nutcracker" will be presented at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 on the stage in the historic Rialto Square Theatre in downtown Joliet.

Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the theatre box office on the night of the show. The lobby opens at 6 p.m.

Finale dancers and the cast that joins them is looking forward to seeing the community in the theatre this Friday.

"We have a reputation in the dance community for putting on a stellar shows," said Larson, who opened her studio 23 years ago.

"The Nutcracker" is set to become a Finale Studio tradition and this is its inaugural year.

Audition dates have already been set for next year's production and participation will be open to all area dancers—no matter where they train. Auditions will take place in August 2023. Additional information on auditions can be obtained at finalestudio.com.



Courtesy photo

FINALE ACADEMY OF the Arts will present a holiday classic, The Nutcracker, a two act ballet on Friday, Dec. 16 at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet. Kennedy Larson, a seventh grader at Coal City Middle School, is among the featured dancers in the one night only performance.



Courtesy photo

THE DANCE OF the Sugar Plum Fairy will be performed by Sara Borik, a junior at Wilmington High School.



Courtesy photo

AVA SPICER, a freshman at Wilmington High School, will perform in Finale Academy of the Arts upcoming ballet, The Nutcracker. The ballet will be presented at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet.

Reed-Custer Dist. #255U to hold hearing to certify Tax Levy

PUBLIC NOTICE
HEARING FOR PROPOSED TAX LEVY REED-CUSTER DISTRICT #255U

The Reed-Custer Board of Education will consider and approve a resolution regarding the Certification of the Property Tax Levy for 2022 for the Reed-Custer District #255U during the next Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, in the Administrative Center board room, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood, IL.

A copy of the Tax Levy Resolution is available for public review until the day of the meeting during normal office hours at the Administrative Center, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood, IL.

Published in the Braidwood Journal, December 14, 2022

Coffee & Newspapers

One wakes you up
One opens your eyes

Stack

for container stacking, since the site is slated to be used for parking rentals. Since the area is designated as parking and not a truck stop, it would be unlikely that trucks would be parked and running for an extended period of time or stacking.

That said, the new ordinance would officially end any potential for any stacking at the site, or at any future development in Braidwood, which currently includes a truck stop and three car dealerships.

In addition to banning container stacking, the ordinance on truck parking and cargo containers includes the following provisions:

- No semi-trailer or trailer cargo container shall be parked or stored on any zoning lot in any ER, R-1 or RMF zoning district, except while actively engaged in making a pickup or delivery at that lot.
- No semi-trailer shall be parked or stored on any zoning lot in any ER, R-1 or RMF zoning district, except while actively engaged in making a pickup or delivery at that lot; provided, however, that, no more than one semi-trailer may be parked on a lot in such zoning districts under the following conditions:
 1. The owner or occupant of a residence within

- such zoning district who owns, leases or operates for hire a semi-tractor and has regularly parked such vehicle at his residence during the 90 days prior to Sept. 9, 2008, may park there after securing a permit from the city.
- 2. The semi-tractor parking area must be concrete, asphalt or gravel. The semi-tractor shall not be permitted to overhang any public sidewalk or other right-of-way.
- 3. Every semi-tractor shall be equipped with a functioning hot plug or core heater which shall be used whenever the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 4. The semi-tractor shall be used only for purposes of traveling to and from the owner's work place.
- 5. The certificate of occupancy for truck parking may be permanently revoked for any violation of this section. The owner of the semi-tractor shall be entitled to a hearing before the mayor to show cause as to why the certificate should not be revoked.
 - No truck tractor, semi-trailer or trailer cargo container shall be parked or stored on any zoning lot in any B-1 or B-2 zoning district unless a special use permit has been granted to the owner of the lot. Any such special use permit shall terminate if the person to whom it was granted transfers title or possession of the lot.

ComEd site improvement to benefit local customers

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

WILMINGTON - ComEd says construction of a new support structure just south of Wilmington will help increase the reliability of electric services to local residents.

Back in October, ComEd approached the city with a land use petition to install an infrastructure support tower on the northwest corner of Route 53 and Coal City Road. The corner already supports several transmission structures and a power substation. ComEd owns the property.

The plans for that tower went before the Wilmington's Planning and Zoning Board earlier this month before landing in front of the City Council on Dec. 6 for final approval.

The energy supplier was seeking a change in zoning from agricultural to industrial, and a conditional use permit to allow for a 104-foot antenna support. While the city's height limitation for a conditional use permit is 100 feet, there are exceptions for mechanical structures, which would allow the 104-foot height variance.

According to the application, the tower improvement is necessary to fulfill the regulatory commitments made by ComEd under two recently enacted Illinois laws, and includes expected upgrading of existing electrical distribution communication systems with newer technology as well as infrastructure improvements.

ComEd said the tower will be a key aspect of a smart grid infrastructure and technological upgrade. The resulting community benefits will be improved reliability of the electrical grid through the reduction of electrical outages and the duration of outages, and increased voltage efficiency along each distribution line, which should result in smoother electrical grid operations.

The tower will only be used to communicate with ComEd devices and will not be utilized for commercial communication services, such as 5G or cellphone technology.

City staff noted in its report that the rezoning for the tower conforms to the city's comprehensive plan.

The council approved the zoning change and conditional use permit unanimously. A date for construction to begin was not yet available.

Financial strategies built just for you.



Dean A Shepherd, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
311 W Baltimore St
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-6856

Member SIPC
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

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

Two Petitions were submitted for the Position of Director; Nicholas Stewart and Edward Wilson. The following incumbents have chosen to run for re-election as well; Rich Bolatto, P.J. O'Reilly, Troy Ehringer and Dan Belcher. Election will be for a 3-year term.

The names that will appear on the Ballot for Election will be: Rich Bolatto, P.J. O'Reilly, Troy Ehringer, Dan Belcher, Edward "Eddie" Wilson, and Nicholas Stewart.

No Petitions for By-Law Changes were submitted.

Voting hours for Resident Members will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

There is one vote per Membership. The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

There will be no processing of Club Dues on this day.

Board of Directors
Braidwood Recreation Club

Audit report for Braidwood Fire District available


PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT FOR THE BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Braidwood Fire Protection District, Will County, Illinois, hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the fiscal year beginning on June 1, 2021 and ending on May 31, 2022 was prepared by our auditor, Brian Zabel & Associates, 1040 W. Route 6, Morris, IL 60450.

The fiscal year 2021-2022 audit has been filed with the County Clerk of Will County in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The entire audit report and the annual statement of receipts and disbursements are available for public inspection at the Fire District Fire Station #1 located at 275 W. Main Street, Braidwood, IL from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

/s/ Michael Dillon
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Braidwood Fire Protection District
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022.

Award Winner



ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION
Serving newspapers since 1865

The Braidwood Journal
USPS No. 550-940

Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
Periodicals postage paid at Wilmington, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
The Braidwood Journal, P.O. Box 327;
Wilmington IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$43 Grundy & Will counties; \$50 other Illinois counties and \$57 out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:
• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002.

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2022 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G.W. Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G.W. Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Thomas Hennebry, he made a contribution

No one doubts that mining was the heart and soul of Braidwood. However, there were many who managed to make a living without going down into the shafts, or hauling supports, or driving mules. Thomas Hennebry is our subject this week.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Wilmington where he went into business with a partner in a general store. Again, after only 3 years he moved, this time to Braidwood where he partnered with several other people in the boot and shoe business.

Finally, after becoming the sole owner of the store, he was able to settle down. He was very well respected and in 1875 was elected Supervisor of the Township of Reed.

He was able to use his military talents to organize Braidwood's first fire fighters. We read on March 26, 1875 in the Wilmington Advocate, "Braidwood is happy; we have a thoroughly organized fire department.

The boys were out with the "masheen" last Monday and judging from what we saw, the day will come when they will truly be friends in need.

Under the able management of Capt. Thos. Hennebry, who is said to be well qualified for the position, we can in future sleep without quite that fear of the demon, as of old."

In 1878 he married Kate Keane, daughter of one of Reed Township's oldest settlers. This had a settling effect on him. His business prospered and his skill as a boot and shoe maker became well known.

We know that he extended credit to his customers because we read on March 23, 1883, "The Flynn family of Lower Braidwood left suddenly on Thursday morning's early train for Pittsburgh, it is thought.

They left bills unpaid in this vicinity amounting to nearly \$1,000. The creditors include Thos. Dyer, Thos. Hennebry, Charley O'Connell, Bambrick & Powers and others."

In 1885 he allowed himself to become tangled up in a political power struggle that was reported both in the Washington D. C. papers and in the Chicago Times.

"Concerning the future postmastership in Braidwood - William Mooney, of Braidwood, Ill., who arrived in the city (Washington D. C.) last night, is interesting himself in attempting to procure for Thomas Hennebry the postmastership of the town aforesaid.

"The other candidate for

the position is Mrs. Margaret O'Donnell, who, like Mr. Hennebry is well fortified with recommendations.

Mr. Mooney says the democrats in Braidwood demand recognition, and it would be bad party policy to bestow the office on the lady, while the active workers request the appointment of Mr. Hennebry. Mr. Mooney will probably lose caste with the lady democrats in Braidwood in case he persists in antagonizing Mrs. O'Donnell."

The next week it was announced, "Postmaster Hennebry is on duty at last, and all is lovely." Hennebry served as postmaster until the change of administrations in Washington four years later.

By 1900 the old wanderlust hit again and Thomas moved on to greener pastures in Joliet. He opened a clothing store and became very prosperous, Hennebry lived until March of 1924, a good long life.

Unlike many other returning Civil War veterans, Thomas Hennebry adjusted to civilian life, and more than that, he made a contribution to his community that is still remembered.

Wilmington Coalition awarded underage drinking prevention grant

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community (WCHC) was recently notified that it is being awarded an underage drinking prevention grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

As of Sept. 30, the WCHC began its first year of implementing the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act grant, which provides \$50,000 per year for up to four years.

The purpose of the program is to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth and young adults ages 12-20 by addressing social norms and creating community changes that lower rates of use and prevent related consequences such as vehicle crashes, assaults, and alcohol poisoning.

WCHC President Paula Ekstrom said the coalition board and members are

excited about the opportunity to better support the prevention of underage drinking in the Wilmington area and provide additional funding to educate youth, promote healthy family and community norms, improve server and seller training, and improve local access to counseling and other programs that assist youth and families.

The grant will enable the WCHC to hire a full-time coordinator to work on the STOP Act grant alongside another grant aimed at reducing opioid and prescription drug misuse and abuse.

The WCHC was eligible to compete for this award because of its status as a former Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantee under the fiscal oversight of the City of Wilmington.

As a result, the City of Wilmington is currently the fiscal agent for the STOP Act grant.

Cole in the RCHS Senior Spotlight for December

The Reed-Custer High School Senior Spotlight winner for the month of December is Caelan Cole.

Caelan is the daughter of Phillip and Catherine Hollis.

During her high school career, Caelan was involved in Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Comet Community Leaders (CCL), FCCLA. She was also All-Conference in Soccer, All-Area Soccer, Honorable Mention All-Conference Basketball, Academic All-Conference Soccer, Basketball, and Volleyball, as well as being on the High Honor Roll.

Her future plans are to attend a 4-year university to major in Biology/Kinesiology, play soccer, and then go to Colorado for Physician Assistant school.

Here are a few thoughts from Caelan's teachers:

Mr. Gleixner says that Caelan "is an outstanding student-athlete who is a great leader. She is definitely a role model to her younger teammates and classmates. Caelan continues to impress me as a person and will be very successful in life."

Mr. Randall thinks that Caelan "is a kind, hard-working, unselfish teammate who always gives 100%. She is the kind of player that every coach

would love to have on his team."

Mrs. Lee believes that Caelan is "a great student, and an even better person!"

Ms. Baron appreciates that Caelan is "a kind and creative student who has an eye for detail. She has an exceptional work ethic and is always willing to assist others. Her ceramics projects this year have been outstanding."

Mrs. Leveille is "thrilled to hear that Caelan will be spotlighted!! Caelan is a very bright and beautiful young woman. She has a positive personality and a great disposition! She is a hard worker and takes pride in putting her best efforts into her work."

Miss Zastrow says that Caelan is "a positive light in the classroom! No matter what the situation, I can always count on her to have a smile on her face and a positive attitude!"

Mr. Johnston believes that Caelan is "a tremendous student athlete. She is an extremely hard worker and always puts forth her best effort no matter the task."

Mr. Welsh appreciates that Caelan "always has a smile that brightens your day; even when things are rough, she always finds a way to stay positive!"

Mr. Wolf thinks that



Caelan Cole

senior spotlight



DECEMBER 2022

Caelan "is a talented, kind-hearted young lady who treats everyone like a friend. I always see her with a smile on her face, and that attitude is contagious to everyone around her. She is very deserving of this recognition, and I am so excited

to see what the future holds for her. Mr. Smith enjoys "a daily visit with Caelan. She is a humble, thoughtful, intelligent and funny young woman. I will be sad to see her go next year, but I am excited for her future. She

is bound to be a success wherever she goes and whatever she does."

As a final thought, Caelan's advice to younger students is, "Be accepting of constructive criticism; it is the best way to grow and improve. And don't

be afraid to ask questions."

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, congratulations to Caelan Cole as the December winner of the Senior Spotlight.

Comet wrestlers improve to 6-0



Courtesy photo

VICTORY HANDSHAKE - Reed-Custer's Jeremy Eggleston was a double winner last week during the match in Lisle.

The Wrestling Comets traveled to Lisle to take on the Lisle Lions and Wilmington Wildcats in their first conference showdown. Reed-Custer started off hot taking out a tough Lisle team, 43-30.

The Comets then wrestled Wilmington and got the win, 61-18. Wrestlers with 2 wins on the night include: Jayden Brodinski, Kris Budick, Jeremy Eggleston, Rex Pflieger, Kody Marschner and Gunnar Berg.

Wrestlers with one win included Jamison Borello, Josh Adams, Max Lichaj, Jason Davis, Zach Markle, Jordan Hickman, Dominic Alaimo, Owen Dooley, and Madsen Meyer.

The team record is now 6-0.

WANT TO SEE
YOUR SCHOOL
NEWS HERE?

SEND TO
news@

fpnusa.com

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
freepressnewspapers.com

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE CUSTER PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy for the CUSTER PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for 2022 will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the High Road School of the South Suburbs, 35445 Washington St., Custer Park, Illinois 60481

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Ron Pruss, Board President, 21750 Highway 113, Custer Park, Illinois, 815-458-2680.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were \$195,500.00.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$210,000.00. This represents a 7.42% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$_n/a_.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are \$0. This represents a 0% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were \$_n/a_.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$210,000.00. This represents a 7.42% increase over the previous year.

Celebrate the Season with Berkot's Amazing Deals!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!

Happy Holidays!

Avoid the Line & Visit Berkotfoods.com to Pre-Order Your Holiday Meats!

Sales valid 12/14/22-12/20/22 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM

ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

<p>CHRISTMAS EVE 7AM-6PM CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>\$5.99 LB with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus EZ Carve Beef Ribeye Roast (without loyalty \$10.99/lb) LIMIT 1</p>	<p>Limited Release Berkot's Fresh Homemade Christmas Sausage Made with Fresh Bacon, Garlic, & Onion \$4.99 LB</p> <p>\$9.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>FREE CUSTOM CUT & TRIM!</p> <p>Berkot's Famous Whole Beef Tenderloin (without loyalty \$12.99/lb)</p>	<p>99¢ PER LB WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 3 LBS</p> <p>Broccoli Crowns W/Out Loyalty \$1.99/LB</p>	
<p>\$15.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA PRIME, Angus Bone-In Rib Roast "THE REAL PRIME RIB"</p>	<p>\$13.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus Beef Tenderloin FREE CUSTOM CUT & TRIM (without loyalty \$17.99/lb) LIMIT 1</p>	<p>2 FOR \$5 WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 4 PKGS</p> <p>Farm Fresh - NEW CROP! Florida Strawberries 1 LB W/Out Loyalty \$2.99 each</p>	
<p>\$17.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA PRIME, Angus Boneless Rib Roast</p>	<p>\$2.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus Boneless Rump Roast</p>	<p>\$4.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus Skirt Steaks</p>	
<p>Berkot's has all your favorite <i>top-quality</i> meat!</p>			<p>69¢ EACH WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 1</p> <p>JUMBO Golden Pineapples W/Out Loyalty \$1.99 Each</p>
<p>49¢ LB with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase</p> <p>Cooks or Sugardale Smoked Shank Portion Ham LIMIT 1</p>	<p>88¢ LB with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase</p> <p>Cooks, Sugardale, Hormel or Smithfield Spiral Sliced Ham LIMIT 1</p>	<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Berkot's Fresh Homemade Polish, Mild or Hot Italian Sausage- Reg. Price \$3.99/LB</p>	
<p>\$9.99 PER LB</p> <p>Censea JUMBO Cooked Shrimp 16/20 ct- 1 lb bag</p>	<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Chicken of the Sea PREMIUM Shrimp Ring with Sauce-16 oz Reg. Price \$14.99</p>	<p>\$9.99 EACH</p> <p>Wild Caught, Australian Premium Cold Water Lobster Tail 5-6 oz</p>	
<p><i>'Tis the Season for Savings!</i></p>			<p>\$4.99 EACH</p> <p>Berkot's PREMIUM Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice 56 oz</p>
<p>2/\$5</p> <p>Lay's Potato Chips 7.75-8 oz</p>	<p>2/\$5</p> <p>Kraft Slices, Shreds, Crumbles or Chunk Cheese 5-8 oz</p>	<p>\$2.99 EACH</p> <p>FRESH Cuties Clementines 3 LB Bag</p>	
<p>\$2.88 EA</p> <p>Simply Orange, Apple or Grapefruit Juice 52 oz, Almond Milk 46 oz, or Smoothies 32 oz</p>	<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Oscar Mayer Sliced Bacon 12-16 oz</p>	<p>2 FOR \$5</p> <p>Red Potatoes 5 LB Bag</p>	
<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Entenmann's Donuts 15-17.5 oz</p>	<p>2/\$3</p> <p>Nabisco Snack Crackers 6.5-13.7 oz</p>	<p>2 FOR \$4</p> <p>Gorgeous Pint Blueberries</p>	
<p>99¢ EA</p> <p>7 Up Family 2 Liter Btls</p>	<p>2/\$5</p> <p>Nabisco Chips Ahoy!, Ritz or Toasted Chips 6.5-13.7 oz</p>		
<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Nabisco Oreo's 10.1-15.35 oz</p>	<p>\$1.49 EA When Buying 3</p> <p>Philadelphia Cream Cheese 8 oz</p>		
<p>\$1.69 EA LIMIT 1 With Loyalty</p> <p>Best Choice Granulated Sugar 4 LBS- Sale Price \$1.99 each</p>	<p>\$1.88 EA LIMIT 1 With Loyalty</p> <p>Best Choice Butter 1 LB- Sale Price \$2.99 each</p>		
<p><small>Due to shortages across the supply chain, availability limited across locations. No rainchecks at this time.</small></p>			

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Lower the thermostat just before bed for sleep

Studies prove that people sleep better when the thermostat is set between 60 to 67 degrees Fahrenheit. A programmable thermostat makes it easy to wake up to a warm room in the morning but have a cooler one at bedtime, automatically. Never open a window to cool a room. If you must, use a fan to cool your skin and consider a few bed coverings to offer different levels of comfort from sheets to light weight blankets and quilts. Increase your comfort while saving energy and cutting utility costs.

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry
 - New patients
 - Emergency visits welcome
 All forms of insurance accepted including Meridian and Dentaquest



267 S. Broadway, Coal City
 Call (815) 634-8844

We're on the MOVE to 459 Davy Lane!
 Wilmington (Including the Tin Man)

\$200 Rebate with this ad on any new install, hurry before offer ends.

★ Veteran & Senior Discounts ★
 Call the trusted team at

BREEZE-AIR
 Local, Trusted Company
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 Call (815) 476-6615



Thank You

The family of Ed SisteK would like to express our sincere appreciation to all family, friends, and loyal customers who expressed their sympathy at the time of his passing.

Sharon SisteK
 Paula & Mark Pourchot & Family
 Frank & Pat SisteK & Family
 David and Marsa SisteK & Family

Surf | Broadband Solutions
 Connect Further, Faster.

RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive **FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!**



(888) 274-6381 • www.surfbroadband.com

Trust the cheese state to perfect the Old Fashioned cocktail

Call me old fashioned...or call me Wisconsin Old Fashioned. Once a year we look to our neighbors to the north to decode the mystery that is Wisconsin's unique spin on the world's most popular cocktail.



Are you expecting visitors from Wisconsin this holiday season? Make them feel welcome with an Old Fashioned made "the Wisconsin way". Those of us that hail from other parts of the country have a few questions around why Wisconsin's Old Fashioned is not only brandy-based, but specifically Korbel Brandy-based. Why brandy? Why Korbel?

The roots of Wisconsin's Old Fashioned can be traced to The Chicago Worlds Fair, or Columbian Exposition of 1893. One of the many noteworthy events of the Exposition was the introduction of the Korbel Brandy to the American Midwest. This may not seem like a huge deal to 49 of our 50 states, but I assure you, this was a big moment for the state of Wisconsin. While it may not seem groundbreaking to make an Old Fashioned with brandy as opposed to bourbon or rye, it has become perhaps the most enduring variation of any classic cocktail.

How enduring is the Brandy Old Fashioned? It is so enduring that if you were to order an Old Fashioned in the Badger State you would have to specify that you would like yours made with whiskey if you do not want a Brandy Old

Fashioned. In Wisconsin they don't call it the Brandy Old Fashioned, it's just the "Old Fashioned". How did this drink, and Korbel Brandy in particular become so popular in America's Dairyland? Many Midwesterners traveled by train to the 1893 Chicago Fair, and most of them were German immigrants.

Wisconsin was part of the "German triangle" along with the area between Missouri and Ohio. European immigrants were more accustomed to drinking brandy than the American whiskeys, and Korbel became an instant smash in the Midwest as visitors to the Fair sampled the Korbel product.

In fact, Korbel is still a smash in Wisconsin. Literally 50% of Korbel production is shipped to the state of Wisconsin where imbibers are fiercely loyal to the brand. One widely held misconception regarding the Wisconsin Old Fashioned is that it is essentially a classic Old Fashioned merely substituting brandy for bourbon. That is not the case, there's more to a Wisconsin Old Fashioned.

For starters, the Wisconsin Old Fashioned is highly customizable, and is typically served with a topper also known as a "wash". When it comes to the wash, you have several options: sweet, soda, sour, press, or you may skip the wash altogether. You will have to voice your wash preference when you order the drink.

Let's decode the wash terminology. Sweet: lemon/lime soda, typically 7up. Soda: Soda water, club soda, or mineral water. Sour: grapefruit soda. Press: 1/2 ginger ale and 1/2 club soda. Have you decided on a wash? Great! Let's make one of these things.

One of the most significant departures from the classic Old Fashioned is the use of muddled fruit, specifically oranges and cherries. This may sound complicated, but it's not. This entire drink is built in the glass, no shakers, blenders, or special tools requires other than a muddler.

Start by cutting an orange wheel, and then cut the orange wheel into 4 wedges. Drop 2 orange wedges and 1 cherry into the glass, along with some simple syrup. Hit it with 4 healthy dashes of Angostura Bitters and gently muddle. The key to muddling the fruit is to be gentle enough to extract the juices from the oranges and cherries, but not so firm that the bitterness of the orange peel to find its way into the drink.

Now that your fruit is muddled and soaking in bitters and simple syrup, it's time to add the brandy. By the way, there are two non-negotiable ingredients in the Wisconsin Old Fashioned: the brandy and the bitters. It's always going to be the time-tested combination of Korbel Brandy and the classic Angostura Aromatic Bitters. If you swap either of these two ingredients, it won't taste like a Wisconsin Old Fashioned. Add the brandy, then fill the glass with ice. Be sure to



leave some room at the top of the glass for the wash. The most popular wash is the "sweet" option, which is typically 7 Up from a soda gun at the bar. Keep this recipe handy. If you are expecting company from Wisconsin this holiday season, a Brandy Old Fashioned will make them feel right at home while they are telling anyone who will listen that although things are not going well for the Packers in 2022, the outlook is even worse for the Bears.

The Wisconsin Old Fashioned is built and served in a chilled Old Fashioned glass. Combine in glass: 2 orange wedges, 1 cherry, 1/4 to 1/2 oz. simple syrup, 4 dashes Angostura Bitters. Gently muddle ingredients. Add 2 oz. Korbel Brandy. Add ice (lightly crushed) and stir. Top with splash of your choice of wash. Garnish with orange wedge and cherry. Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Pastoral vacancy has Grace Lutheran planning special Christmas service

Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington is thinking outside of the gift box for worship. While the congregation currently has a pastoral vacancy, getting an ordained person to come on Christmas Eve has been a challenge. But it seems there are some options for the day before. If family or work commitments keep you from a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service, Grace is offering an option on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 23, at 6 p.m. This will be a great time to hear and sing your Christmas

favorites. Gianna Kohl, soloist, will sing and play the guitar. Paul Kenyon is the pianist for the evening. Pastor Kyle Johnson will deliver the message and preside at Holy Communion. Kyle spent time at Grace as an intern during Covid, so it will be nice to see his smiling face again. All are welcome to this event, family members and friends of Grace, PreSchool families, members of other congregations, and anyone who just needs a break from commercialized Christmas.

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: _____

Will Co. focused 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, 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 creat-

ing 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 B&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 Roseville and the IKEA array in Joliet.

A recent Illinois study found that in an average year, people with a problem gambling estimated that they spent a median of \$16,750 on gambling. If you or someone you know have a gambling problem there is help Problem gamblers can call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Bald eagle is photo contest winner for November

An eagle with outstretched wings in the shape of a "V" signaled a victory for photo contest participant Bertrand Leclercq of Naperville.

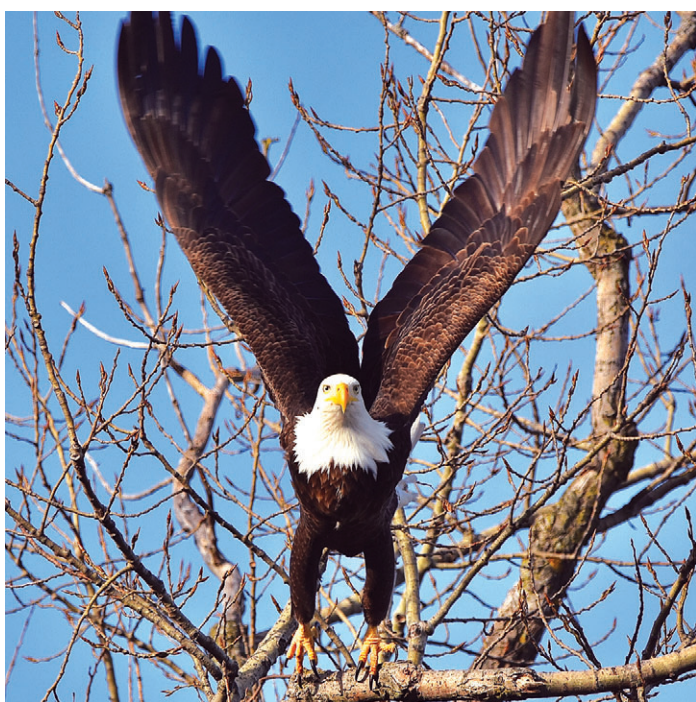
Leclercq won November's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest, which began in May. His stunning photo of an eagle lifting off from a branch at McKinley Woods preserve in Channahon was one of five photos selected by judges from all entries.

The five photos were voted on by members of the public on the District's Facebook page. Leclercq said he enjoys going into Will County forest preserve to take photos.

"I take long walks alone with my camera and it's very relaxing after a busy work week (I work as a chef)," he said in an email after being notified of his win.

"I feel truly connected with nature in these beautiful preserves, in particular McKinley Woods - Frederick's Grove where I took this photo. The wildlife in this preserve is truly amazing and rich, and perfect for great photo opportunities: bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, and so many more rare bird species."

The other finalists for November were: Carlos Molano of Chicago for a photo of a pelican hovering above the water and Greg Winkelmann of



Courtesy photo by: Bertrand Leclercq

NAPERVILLE RESIDENT Bertrand Leclercq snared a victory in November's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest with a picture of an eagle taking off in flight at McKinley Woods in Channahon. One more monthly winner will be chosen after the contest concludes on Dec. 31 and overall 2022 contest winners will be chosen in January. For more information on the contest, including rules and submission instructions, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Romeoville for a colorful photo of an American goldfinch perched on a flower, a merlin clutching a bird in its talons and fall leaves floating in the water.

One more monthly winner will be chosen for December before the Forest Preserve District's 2022 contest concludes on Dec. 31. Monthly winners each receive a \$75 Visa

gift card and all entrants receive a participation gift.

Overall contest winners will be chosen in January from among the eight monthly winners, with \$500, \$250 and \$150 Visa gift cards to be awarded for first, second and third place, respectively.

Three random drawings also will be held for all contest participants and those three winners will each receive a \$75 Visa gift card. All prizes are funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County, willcountynature.org.

For more information on the contest, including rules and submission instructions, visit ReconnectWithNature.org. To view all prior photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account, Flickr.com/willcoforests.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa visits!



**Saturday, Dec. 17
Noon - 2 p.m.**

Bring the kids and your camera for photos with Santa, cookies & hot cocoa.

Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment



1099 S. Water St.,
Wilmington
(815) 476-2700
Check out our website

Area gas prices drop under \$3

Motorists were filling up in Joliet Monday morning when the price per gallon for gasoline dropped to \$2.88, the lowest in over one year.

At the same time the price in Coal City was almost \$1 more per gallon at \$3.84 and as high as \$3.65 in Morris, according to GasBuddy.com.

Still, average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 17.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.42/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 73.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 1.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 14.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.91 per gallon.

"Not only has the decline in gasoline prices lasted five straight weeks, with again every state seeing a weekly decline in its average, but average diesel prices have fallen in 49 states over the last week as well. The relief is saving Americans roughly \$20 per fill-up compared to six months ago," said Patrick De

Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.72/g while the most expensive was \$5.79/g, a difference of \$3.07/g.

Mohsen station at I-55 and Lorenzo Road lowered its price to \$2.87/g Monday while the average in town was \$3.38/g. In Braidwood the price at the pump was \$3.32 while Bourbonnais area stations were charging \$3.58/G on average.

"On the previously hard-hit West Coast, average prices have fallen nearly \$2 per gallon since October. Fifteen states now have average gasoline prices of \$2.99 or less, with several more to join this week. We remain on schedule to see the national average gas price fall below \$3 by Christmas, with diesel set to fall 50 cents to \$1 per gallon over the next six weeks or so. While the Keystone Pipeline shutdown has been getting some attention, motorists need not worry much about the oil-carrying pipeline for now. There is no expected impact to gasoline prices as of now."

Annual driving tests required for those 79, not 75, under new law

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

About 299,000 drivers in Illinois ages 75 to 78 no longer have to take the annual driving test under a new law Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed. The annual driving test has been pushed to 79-year-old drivers for the next 10 months.

House Bill 5049 passed both chambers on the final day of last week's veto session.

State Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, said seniors will now be required to take an annual driving test starting at 79, rather than 75, based on an executive order from the Illinois Secretary of State.

"So what this would do, it

would extend that ... for four years, 79, you wouldn't have to take it every year," Hoffman said. "So seniors wouldn't have to go and take the driver's license test every year. It would extend that to Oct. 1, 2023."

The measure also requires the office to study the issue further. Hoffman said the aim is to not reduce the age at which older drivers need to test annually, but to permanently codify the policy since it's only in effect until next October.

"So, I think what we'll do is hopefully this will extend it for 10 months, the fact that they don't have to take the test every year, and then we'll extend it further after that study," he said.

Data from the Federal Highway Administration with the U.S. Department of Transportation shows a total of 8.5 million licensed drivers in Illinois in 2019. Of that, more than 573,000 were older than 75. Around 299,000 were between the age of 75 and 79.

The measure also creates a new specialty license plate.

"In addition, it authorizes the issuance of a retired constitutional branch officer license plate," Hoffman said.

That means outgoing Secretary of State Jesse White will be eligible to get a specialty plate after his term ends next month.

After being signed by the governor, the measure is now in effect.

KEEP THE WONDER BRIGHT

DECEMBER YOUTH CERTIFICATE SPECIAL

4.00% APY*

UP TO **\$10,000** for **12 MONTHS**

SOCU 800.595.2454
1544 CREEK DR
MORRIS, IL 60450
SOCU.ORG

*APY is Annual Percentage Yield. Yield based on all dividends remaining in account to compound. **Minimum deposit amount is \$500; Maximum is \$5,000. To be eligible, the minor must be primary on the account or named as the beneficial minor on an UTMA account and 21 years of age or younger. Certificate renews for one year. Limit one certificate per minor. Offer available December 1-31, 2022 only. Federally insured by the NCUA.

BREAKFAST With SANTA

SATURDAY, DEC 17TH
8AM-11 AM

1885 Fare Farm to Table
208 W Main Street
Essex, IL

\$8.00 entry at the door

Photos with Santa Available!!!

EGGS, PANCAKES, JUICE, COFFEE, & HOT COCOA

Entry fee to benefit scholarship for Culinary student!

7:45 a.m. JOIN US FOR RIBBON CUTTING

Wish your customers a Merry Christmas!



We have children from draw Christmas art to be featured Dec. 21

Your business can sponsor a child's drawing to send out a season's greetings message to your customers.

Parents and children comb through these ads looking at all the businesses who supported these community pages. Make sure your business isn't left out by scheduling TODAY!

Call 815-476-7966 to be included

Deadline is Dec. 16
Publication: December 21



Expect a big push to ban assault rifles in Illinois

There's been sort of an unwritten rule the past several years in Springfield to stay away from doing things like ban assault weapons.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

The votes to pass one have seemingly been there in both chambers, but the will of past Democratic leadership seemed to be to not overtly poke any big, cash-rich bears, like the National Rifle Association, or to alienate or electorally imperil conservative members of their Democratic caucuses.

Perhaps more importantly, Democratic leaders also haven't wanted to unintentionally set off a pro-gun judicial tripwire that could not only kill the state law they passed but expand national gun owners' rights even further and perhaps imperil other laws here and elsewhere around the nation.

Under duress from the federal judiciary several years ago, Illinois legislators approved a law allowing for concealed carrying of firearms. Tucked into that law was a short, ten-day window allowing local governments to pass their own ordinances to ban assault weapons.

Highland Park passed such an ordinance within the time limit, but other mayors figured that the state would eventually get around to ban-

ning the weapons, so they waited. Five years later, in 2018, Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering and other suburban leaders went back to Springfield and asked, in lieu of statewide legislative action, that the local option to pass a ban be reinstated. Their proposal went nowhere.

Fast-forward to this past summer, when Rotering's Highland Park was the scene of a horrific massacre at its Independence Day parade. A man fired an assault weapon 83 times within seconds and killed seven people, wounding 48 more.

Freshman Rep. Maura Hirschauer (D-Batavia) introduced an assault weapon ban this past January, but she had only picked up one co-sponsor before the July 4th holiday. After the Highland Park shooting, Hirschauer signed up 55 more co-sponsors in quick order.

Hirschauer was not able to round up the 71 House votes it would've taken to pass a bill with an immediate effective date in the summer and fall. But I'm told it's quite safe to say that she had lined up more than the bare majority of 60.

House Speaker Chris Welch convened several working groups over the summer,

including the Firearm Safety & Reform Working Group, headed by state Rep. Bob Morgan, who was at the Highland Park parade. Rep. Morgan (D-Deerfield) and the working group rolled out House Bill 5855 last week, the Protect Illinois Communities Act. Among other things, the bill prohibits the sale of assault weapons and requires existing owners to register their weapons with the Illinois State Police.

The bill's first hearing was scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12. It's widely assumed that Rep. Morgan has more than enough votes to pass his legislation after January 1, when approval will only require a simple majority of 60 votes. Rep. Hirschauer is also helping line up votes.

But gun law reform groups aren't taking any chances. A new not-for-profit group called "Protect Illinois Communities" has been formed to push for passage of the bill in both chambers.

The group will use "paid and grassroots engagement," including TV ads, phones and direct mail, for a "well-funded" campaign that is apparently designed not only to counter groups like the National Rifle Association, but also to prod legislative Democrats to move past their reluctance and take some action. Expect a significant expenditure.

In the past, we've seen things like nearly identical bills advanced by each chamber, with nothing ever actually get-

ting through both chambers and to the governor's desk, or (as under former Gov. Rauner) only advanced to the governor's desk in the face of a guaranteed veto that couldn't be overridden.

So, keep an eye on the Senate, where the presiding officer has been a vociferous proponent of gun law reform his entire career, but whose caucus contains a sizable number of moderates who have wanted to shy away from such legislation.

Meanwhile, the "Illinois Freedom Caucus" issued a press release attacking Rep. Morgan's Protect Illinois Communities Act proposal.

The group, composed of far-right Illinois House members, called on legislators "to fulfill their oath of office by standing up for our Constitution even the parts of that document they don't like."

So, I asked the group's spokesperson if members, who are all avowed Donald Trump supporters, had any thoughts about former Pres. Trump's recent claim that the 2020 election, which he still falsely claims was stolen, "allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution."

It may not surprise you to learn that I never heard back.

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

Veterans outreach event Dec. 19

The Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission (GCVAC), along with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Edward Hines Medical Center, can answer questions regarding federal, state and local veterans benefits and services at the South Resource Center of the Community Foundation of Grundy County at 229 Liberty St., Gardner from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19.

This event is free and open to all veterans.

If a veteran is interested in enrollment in the VA Health Care System, bring a copy of their DD214 and a government issued photo ID. One may be eligible for VA health care benefits if they served in the active mil-

itary, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

Those who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty. There are other conditions under which you might be eligible, attending these outreach events will allow you to discuss your situation with the enrollment coordinator directly.

If you are not able to attend an outreach event the Grundy County VAC can be reached at vac@grundy-countyil.gov or 815-941-3152 to schedule an office appointment to discuss all of the benefits and services available to veterans.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY
INSURANCE

State Farm

"Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years"
Jerry Hallahan - Agent
1350 E. Division St., Diamond
(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

FRESH FACE SPA

815-710-1588 110 N. Water St. Wilmington, IL 60481
www.freshfacespa.net

- Facials
- Sea Salt Body Scrub with massage oil rubdown
- Hand, Foot, and Scalp massage

GIFT CERTIFICATES!

Pension debt grows to \$139.7 billion

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois' unfunded pension liability grew by \$9.8 billion, or 7.5%, in the fiscal year that ended June 30, due in large part to market losses in a volatile economy.

The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported last week that the total unfunded liability in the state's five pension funds reached a total of \$139.7 billion, leaving them with a funded ratio of just 44.1%.

Those numbers are based on an annual report from the state actuary, who reviews the preliminary financial data submitted by each of the five funds.

The funded ratio reflects the difference in the market

value of the funds' assets and the amount of money the funds would need to immediately pay all members the full amounts of benefits they are owed for the rest of time.

Although that's an important measure of the systems' long-term financial health, it does not reflect their current ability to pay out benefits that are owed. All five of the pension funds continue to pay out benefits to eligible retirees on a timely basis.

All told, the five pension funds had combined liabilities of \$248.8 billion June 30 and total assets of \$109.1 billion.

Pension systems generally receive funding from three sources — employee contributions; employer contributions; and returns on investments. The large unfunded liability in Illinois' pension funds is the result of the state failing for

decades to make adequate contributions as the employer.

In 1994, then-Gov. Jim Edgar, a Republican, pushed through legislation whereby the state would gradually increase its contributions over the next 50 years until the funding ratio would reach 90% by 2045, a plan commonly referred to as the "Edgar Ramp."

But the state has not always met its targets under that plan.

Since taking office in 2019, Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker has included full funding at the statutorily required levels in each of his budgets, and over the past two fiscal years authorized an additional \$500 million above what was required by law, bringing the total amount paid in to just under \$11 billion, including \$9.9 billion from the General Revenue Fund.

According to those reports, COGFA said, preliminary estimates show the required contributions for the upcoming fiscal year will total \$10.9 billion, including \$9.8 billion from general revenues.

Even that, however, would be far short of what it would take to cover the actual costs that the funds will accrue during the year. The "actuarially

determined contributions" for the five funds — the amount the state would be obligated to pay, even if the systems were 100-percent funded — would be \$15.4 billion.

Better for Mother Nature

With ice and snow on the horizon, it is time to remind friends and family that salt damages our cars, our plants and can harm our waterways when it washes down the storm systems.

The Conservation Foundation wants to help get

the message out that a single coffee cup (12 ounces) of hot water is enough to melt ice on 500 sq ft. Be sure to shovel first and when it drops below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, salt becomes ineffective so more only hurts the environment.

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

Sponsored by
Gymshoe Art

Email submissions or if you have questions contact:
GymshoeArt@gmail.com

Drawing by Tandon S.

Smiley Slip-Ons (Fruity)

Help us express kindness! Create!

December 7, 2022

RE: Notice of Semi-Retirement

To my clients and friends:

After 40 years in a rewarding career that allowed me to help and counsel thousands of clients on their legal matters, I am announcing my retirement from the full time practice of law while I am still healthy and able to properly finish business at hand. Starting Jan. 1, 2023, I will be semi-retired, handling limited estate planning and real estate legal matters through Meents Law, P.C. coordinated by my partner, Frank Meents and other attorneys in the law firm. All my client files and records will be retained and kept under my supervision through Meents Law, P.C.

Over the past four decades I've had the privilege and honor to represent many entities and individuals during some of the best events in their lives such as buying or selling a home, starting new business or standing before a judge to help a couple adopt a newborn child. Other clients experienced tragic events such as the death of a family member, work accidents or personal injuries arising from a motor vehicle accident. Every day of my law practice was handling different challenges dealing with many personalities and fact situations that kept my career interesting. I appreciate all the business and clients for the support they provided so I could live in Wilmington and raise my family.

It has been my great pleasure and sincere honor to represent you as clients, and many of you are, and have remained, my friends over the years. I tried to provide each client with honest and diligent representation to the best of my ability. I hope your contact and experience with me met your expectations.

My health continues to be good as does that of my wife, Theresa, but we never know for certain how much sand is left in our individual hourglass. I hope to travel and spend more time with my children, grandchildren and friends. I have many activities and hobbies I still want to participate in and accomplish. There are many books to be read, places to see and community events to attend. I also plan on volunteering for charitable causes and to pass on my knowledge and experience to the Associates at Meents Law, P.C. I know I have an excellent partner, Frank Meents, who has the skills, compassion and ethics to uphold the legal standards I followed in building my practice. May you have the same confidence in Meents Law, P.C. as you had with me.

Very truly yours,
Jeffrey Fisher
Attorney at Law

Thank You

Coal City Promfest would like to thank all of the following contributors for their support of the 2022 Festival of Trees

Coal City High School Class of 2024 Diamond Banquet Hall Coaler Bar Diamond Liquors D'Orazio Ford Elliott Electric Inc. D Construction Insulation Concepts Bob's Advanced Auto Lori Bonarek Realty Thrive, Lander & On Broadway Dance Grundy County Sheriff Bank of Pontiac - Coal City D'Arcy Chevrolet Buick Cadillac - Morris Morris Hospital Hairbenders Salon Coal City Public Library Coal City Miners Rick Hakey - State Farm Insurance Sistek Sales Midland Bank Prime Bath & Home Solutions 2 Girls and a Door Jackson Landscaping Athletico - Coal City Country Club Kennels Mustachio's Coal City Dental Julie Hutchings - Norwex Sandy Hennessy - Onorato Realty Katie Fisher Provance - Onorato Realty SSC Installation The Cove Ferrari Funeral Home Financial Plus Credit Union Joliet Slammers - Duly Medical Field Coal City Lions Club Village of Carbon Hill Village of Coal City Village of Diamond Savvi Formalwear Bodacious Curls Frisch Aesthetics Jackson Landscaping Free Press Newspapers	Berkot's Barth Dental Care Benson Insurance Quality Autobody Laborers Union The Whistle Stop Naked Sun Peaches Boutique ASK Boutique Corleone's Countryside Village & Gifts Ace Hardware Aldridge Family Harden Family Durham Family Cori Forsythe Dawn Aldridge OBD Dance Moms Route 66 Family Restaurant Arnie Bauer Chevrolet - Wilmington Wharrie Law Firm Babe's Tap & Grill Big Bash Pine Bluff Animal Hospital Dylan Tambling Country Financial Geo's Pizza Major School of Dance The Queen Bee's Tiffany Wills - Mary Kay Tunnel Vision Marge Mlyniec Jack Micetich Mrs. Davidson Mrs. Foley & Mrs. Terrell's Classes Mrs. Rhodes, Mrs. Phillips & Mrs. Owenaby's Classes Renee Norris CCHS Art Club CCHS Band CCHS Madrigals GAVC Early Childhood Mueller's Dance TNT Dance Tiffany Stewart Bomb Squad Cheer & Stunt Jaime Martiz-Prazier Yoga Santa & Mrs. Claus
--	---

Tips on upgrading your house to be greener for a good price

Dear EarthTalk: I'd like to upgrade the energy efficiency of my condo but can't afford the up-front cost of new equipment and materials. Are there any federal or other programs designed to help working people afford to make such transitions?

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

-- Paul B., Monroe, NY
As of now, residential and commercial buildings contribute up to 40 percent of the world's energy consumption. Increasing the energy efficiency of these structures can go a long way toward reducing that consumption and our carbon footprint while saving money along the way.

The biggest pitfall with investing in efficient energy sources is the upfront cost. Low-income households which could benefit most from such upgrades are the least likely to have the funds to do so. But now, utilities and local governments are working to implement these services prioritizing needy households.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) uses U.S. Department of Energy funds to reduce the energy bills of low-income households by helping to pay for efficiency upgrades.

The program has benefited over seven million American families so far. Every year, WAP funds such upgrades in 35,000 households, saving almost \$400 annually on each. To qualify for WAP, your household must have an annual income equal to or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Another place to look for help is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Using U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds, LIHEAP provides free energy upgrades that will decrease monthly energy bills while



A RANGE OF federal & state programs can help defray the costs of upgrading the energy efficiency of your home.

concurrently improving residents' health and safety.

Household incomes must be at or below 60 percent of their state's median income to meet eligibility requirements.

Nonprofits, usually using WAP funds, also offer a range of incentives for upgrading energy efficiency. They also provide weatherization to households that can't afford it.

By searching "weatherization non-profits" and your state, you can find an array of organizations that can help upgrade your home.

These weatherization programs usually offer a selection of efficiency upgrades including: improved insulation and heating systems, fixing leaks and gaps within pipes, and repairing windows and doors.

To apply, you can often find directions on the organization's website. In general, the first step is determining your eligibility; you will usually need proof of annual income.

Then, you can complete the application process online or contact a local administrator. If your application is accepted, you can move forward.

But what can you do if you aren't eligible for these programs? You can still weatherize your own home by fixing minor things around the house.

One thing you can do is seal up leaks within air pipes. This can cut your energy consumption by 10 to 20 percent. In addition, by adding insulation, you can make your home less vulnerable to temperature change.

You should also clean your filters regularly to make your system run more smoothly. Even simple things like switching to LEDs will increase your efficiency.

These small steps can add up and boost the energy efficiency of your home in surprising amounts. The sooner we implement such steps, the sooner we can tackle the problem of climate change making our world less hospitable.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://lemagazine.com>. To donate, visit earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Join in a special service

Christmas Eve Eve

Friday, Dec. 23 at 6 p.m.
Come hear and sing your Christmas favorites
All are welcome!

Grace Lutheran Church
907 Luther Dr., Wilmington

Don't know what to give?

Here's the Perfect Gift!

Get more from giving this year with a gift subscription to The Free Press Advocate, The Coal City Courant or The Braidwood Journal. By delivering in-depth coverage of local news, lifestyle features, local sports and money saving special offers, what's not to love? What's more is your present helps ensure the future of local journalism.

52 weeks for as little as \$43

That's a \$9 SAVINGS off the newsstand price! Outside Will & Grundy \$50; out of state \$57.

Call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315



Morris Hospital adds family Nurse Practitioners

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has added two family nurse practitioners to offices in Morris. Both are excellent resources for routine check-ups, preventive medicine, immunizations and physicals, illness and injuries, nutrition and lifestyle counseling, and health risk assessments for children, adolescents, adults and seniors.

Diana Olsen serves as a primary care provider for patients of all ages and is currently accepting new patients at the Morris Healthcare Center. Having previously worked at the Morris Hospital Yorkville Campus, Olsen has more than 12 years of experience as a registered nurse,



JULIE SIELING



DIANA OLSEN

including four years of experience as a family nurse practitioner in family practice and urgent care environments. She also has a clinical interest in

treating diabetes. Olsen received her master's degree in nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner certificate from Lewis University

in Romeoville. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Lewis University and a bachelor's degree in biology from Northern Illinois University.

Julie Sieling serves as a primary care provider for patients ages 2 and up and is currently accepting new patients at the Morris Healthcare Center. Prior to becoming a nurse practitioner in 2010, Sieling worked as a registered nurse in various roles in the hospital setting for 17 years. She received her master's degree in nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner certificate from Rush University. She also has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Olivet Nazarene University. Additionally, she is board certified by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and am also a certified Breast Patient Navigator.

Report: Illinois sees biggest increase in cigarette smuggling

BY ANDREW HENSEL
THE CENTER SQUARE

A new report shows that many Illinois residents are going out of state to purchase their cigarettes, costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue.

A joint report by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Tax Foundation shows that due to Illinois' high sales taxes on tobacco, many residents have been smuggling in the product from other states.

Illinois had the biggest increase in smuggling from 2019-2020, the report said. Net cigarette smuggling increased by more than 14 percentage points for 2020, resulting in a smuggling revenue impact loss of \$334 million.

"Illinois has a pretty high cigarette tax rate, especially in Chicago," Adam Hoffer of the

Tax Foundation noted. "The state increased their excise tax rate on cigarettes by a dollar a pack."

Illinois has an excise tax of \$2.98. When including the \$3.00 per pack tax in Cook County and \$1.18 per pack tax in the city of Chicago, the total price for the tax alone comes to \$7.16 per pack. Taxes in neighboring states are lower, with Wisconsin's tax at \$2.52, Iowa's at \$1.36, Indiana's at \$1.00, Kentucky's at \$0.60 and Missouri's at \$0.17.

"Illinois' neighbors - Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Wisconsin - all saw an increase in outbound smuggling," the report said.

Michael LaFaive of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy said when customers leave the state, neighboring states get the benefits.

"When you look at the revenue flowing to the treas-

ury for the state of Indiana, it is a positive one as a function of cigarette smuggling because so many people from Illinois will go and buy their cigarettes from there," LaFaive said.

When buying cigarettes across state lines, Illinois residents also can purchase other products as well, LaFaive said.

"Cigarettes are a complementary good, if you go to the mom-and-pop store to buy alcohol, you often pick up cigarettes and vice versa," LaFaive said. "I think there is very clearly a spillover impact that we are not measuring."

The report shows that outbound smuggling increased by 17.7 percentage points in Indiana, totaling more than \$42 million in revenue for the state.

Bids to upgrade Audio-visual system for Grundy County meeting room sought

PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County is requesting proposals from qualified vendors to upgrade the audio-visual systems in our county board room. A contract will be awarded to the proposer who submits the best proposal in compliance with this RFP. This RFP is being issued under the authority of the Grundy County Board. The Grundy County Director of Information Technology and the Grundy County Purchasing Manager will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board.

Sealed proposals will be received for Board Room Audio Visual. Sealed envelope must be clearly marked on the exterior "AV Upgrade" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original signature and one (1) digital copy on a flash drive. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee, or agent, for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 2:00 pm (cst.) December 22ND, 2022 at the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At 2:00 (cst.) December 22ND, 2022; sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Respondents should complete a personal examination of the proposed worksite for consideration on the actual conditions and requirements needed to complete the total scope of this project. A pre-bid meeting will be held on December 8th, 2022 at 11:00 am (cst.) at the Grundy County Courthouse. Respondents should contact Alec Macdonald at (815) 941-3120 amacdonald@grundycountyil.gov to confirm attendance at the pre-bid meeting by December 7th, 2022 at 4:00 pm. It is the responsibility of the respondents upon visitation of site to conduct a thorough, alert, and visual examination of the site and adjacent areas; to become familiar and satisfied at to the general, local, and site conditions that may affect cost, progress, and performance of the overall project. Respondents shall not at any time after submission of the proposal, dispute or assert that there was any misunderstanding with regard to the nature of any work to be completed.

The County of Grundy is aiming to improve the layout of the current Public Board Room, to enhance the capabilities of the current meeting space. The vision of improving the board room for public meetings by upgrading the current space, will help to increase efficiencies and functionalities benefiting the team members of Grundy County, the board members of Grundy County, and the taxpayers of Grundy County. The project will be awarded to the proposer who submits the best proposal in compliance with this RFP. This RFP is being issued under the authority of the Grundy County Board. The Grundy County Information Technology Department, along with the Grundy County Finance Department will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board.

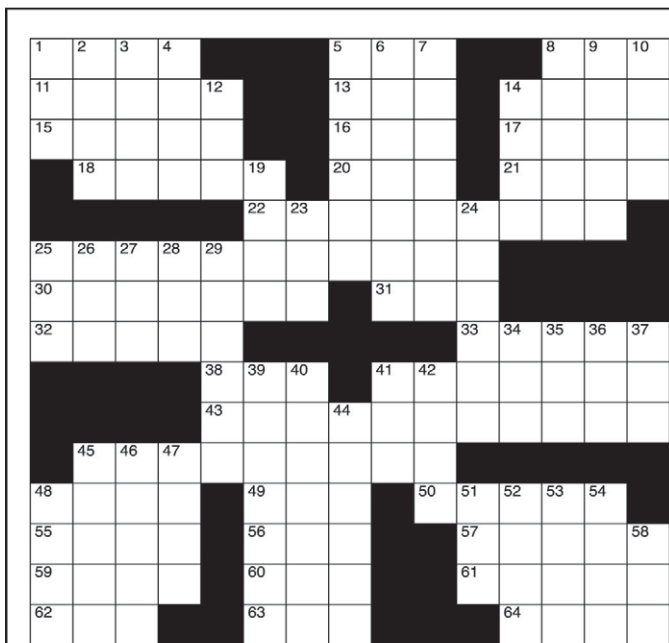
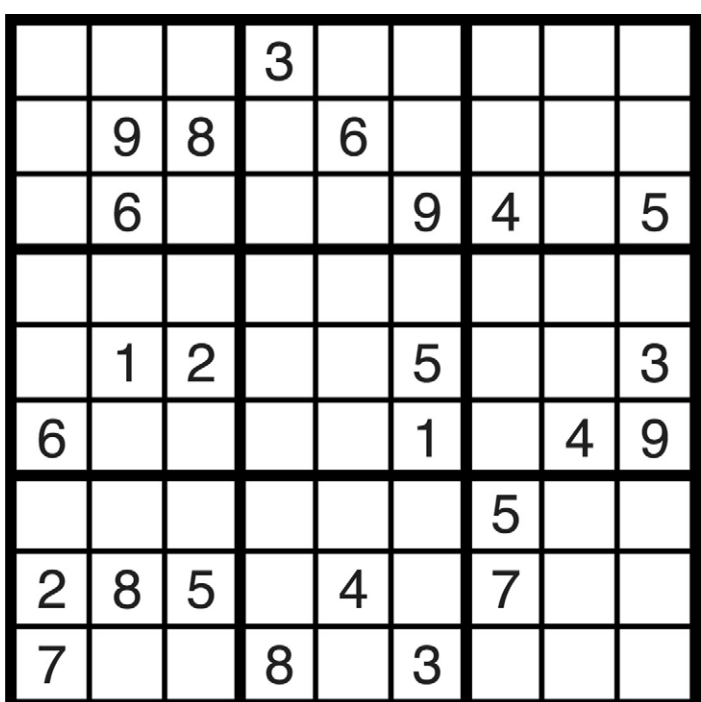
The proposed project will require full compliance with all Federal, state, and local regulations. You are invited to submit a proposal that includes your qualifications and a work plan for completion of the stated project.

Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at www.grundy-countyil.gov/proposals-and-rfp/ or Demandstar www.demandstar.com. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website.

All bidders are advised that this contract is subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act 820 ILCS 130; as disclosed in the following BID package.

The County of Grundy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive technical errors or informalities in proposal.

Chris Balkema
County Board Chairman
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 2022.



CLUES ACROSS

1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan
5. Supervises interstate commerce
8. Touch lightly
11. Relating to bees
13. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
14. Mosuo culture religion
15. Italian village
16. Stiff bristle
17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
18. Cause to lose courage
20. Examines animals
21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
22. Gets rid of
25. Having easily perceived thoughts
30. Removed surgically
31. Principle underlying the universe
32. Popular airline
33. Antelopes
38. Peacock network
41. Utter repeatedly
43. One from the Golden State
45. Photographers
48. Father
49. Popular BBQ dish
50. Cavalry sword
55. Ancient Greek sophist
56. Atomic mass unit
57. Afflicted in mind or body
59. Indian mythological figure
60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Jewish spiritual leader
62. Brew
63. Doctor of Education
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. State attorneys
2. Imitated
3. Latvian capital
4. Irish goddess
5. Taste
6. Dried
7. Spanish saloon
8. Mother of Perseus
9. Evergreen coniferous trees
10. Refuse to comply
12. Negative
14. Hyphen
19. A way to record
23. Not good
24. One who tends the furnace
25. Small amount
26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. The whole quantity
28. __ King Cole, musician
29. One's opinion
34. Holds ashes
35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
36. Side-blotched lizards genus
37. Legislator (abbr.)
39. Concentrated bombardment
40. Took for oneself
41. Nigerian City
42. Thousands of pounds
44. Inspired
45. Secret clique
46. Expression
47. Dough made from corn flour
48. Comedian Carvey
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Resistance fighters
58. Criticize

Expect delays if shopping online this year BETTER YET - SHOP LOCAL



Online retailers are warning of supply and shipping delays. To avoid paying extra for expedited shipping **JUST SHOP LOCAL!** You'll avoid extra costs, invest in your community, and walk out the door with product in hand.

Don't know what to give?

Give Wilmington Chamber gift certificates

They're good at any over 100 different businesses in Wilmington. They're easy to buy, easy to use and you don't have to travel far to spend them. Just stop at Grundy Bank, 120 S. Main St., Wilmington to purchase them. They can be redeemed anywhere you see a Wilmington Chamber of Commerce member sticker. They're good for groceries, hardware, liquor, crafts, automobile repairs, gasoline, ordering off a menu, a subscription to the Free Press Advocate and much more.

For questions call the Chamber at 815.476.5991

Drawing is Friday! Last chance to get a button



Support local families, buy a Christmas Parade button

You could win over \$500* if you have the button with the lucky number.

A split-the-pot drawing will be Dec. 16th with half the proceeds going to one winner and the other half to the Christian Help Association's food drive.

Buttons are being \$3 each at various Wilmington stores, bars and restaurants. Be sure to ask!

*Actual winning amount won't be determined until the day of button drawing. Last year's winner took home \$620.

COMET SPORTS

A recap of Lady Comet victories so far

Editor's note: Braidwood Journal readers who have missed out on game reports for the Reed-Custer girls basketball team will be glad to know game summaries are coming in. We decided to publish this recap of the season in order to be up to date.

Nov. 14 - The Lady Comets picked up their first win of the season on Monday night. Reed-Custer beat Grant Park, 48-34 in the first round of the Reed-Custer Thanksgiving Tournament.

Reed-Custer out rebounded their opponent 34-19. Leaders for the Comets were Kaylee Tribble with 18 points and 8 rebounds. Caelan Cole added 9 points, 6 rebounds, and 4 steals. Brooklyn Harding had 7 points, 3 rebounds, and 3 assists.

Nov. 15 - Reed-Custer picked up their second win of the season against Wilmington on Tuesday night, 33-23. The Comets had a very slow start in the first half, but came out firing in the second half scoring 20 of our 33 points.

Reed-Custer was led by Caelan Cole with 14 points, 3 rebounds, and 6 steals. Kaylee Tribble added 8 points, 5 rebounds, 6 steals, and 5 blocks.

Nov. 16 - Reed-Custer Lady Comets took a tough one off the chin at the Comet Classic. They lost to Plainfield Central 54-21. The girls played with great sportsmanship and leadership despite what the score showed.

Leaders for Reed-Custer was Kaylee Tribble with 9 points, 5 rebounds, and 2 steals. Laci Newbrough added 3 points, and 5 rebounds. Brooklyn Harding had 3 points and 3 steals.

Nov. 19 - Reed-Custer lost a defensive battle on Saturday against Morris, 33-29. Reed-Custer led after the 3rd quarter, but lost momentum and couldn't recover to finish the game. Kaylee Tribble led the Lady Comets with 14 points and 6 rebounds.

Laci Newbrough added 4 points and 7 rebounds. Caelan Cole had 4 points. The Comets earned 4th place in the Lady Comet Classic. Kaylee Tribble earned All-Tournament Team honors.

Nov. 21 - The Lady Comets pick up a huge non-conference win at home against, GSW, 42-27. Reed-Custer was down 17-12 at half and outscored GSW 30-10 to win the game. Reed-Custer had two players earn a double-double on the night.

Kaylee Tribble had 15 points, 13 rebounds, 4 steals, and 2 blocks. Laci Newbrough had 10 points, 11 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, and 1



SETTING UP the Lady Comets on offense is Brooklyn Harding, a senior.

Photo by Zadie Sims

block. Caelan Cole added 11 points and 2 rebounds.

Nov. 28 - Reed-Custer dropped their first conference game of the season on the road to

Herscher, 40-27. The Lady Comets had too many costly turnovers to begin the game that put them down early and had a tough time bouncing back. Reed-Custer was led by Kaylee

Tribble with 10 points, 8 rebounds, 5 blocks.

Brooklyn Harding, Gwen Stewart, and Maddie Keenan each had 4 points.

Nov. 29 - Reed-Custer dropped a tough one on the road to Seneca, 40-20. The Lady Comets came out hot in the first half, but lost steam to finish the game. Offensive production was at a standstill for Reed-Custer. Brooklyn Harding had 6 points followed by Gwen Stewart and Kaylee Tribble with 4 points each. Record drops to 3-4.

Dec. 1 - The Lady Comets picked up a huge win at home, beating conference rival Manteno, 39-31. Reed-Custer came out hot in the first quarter scoring 14 points and never looked back. Huge rebounds on both ends of the floor led to scoring opportunities for RC.

Leading the Comets in scoring was Kaylee Tribble with 13 points followed by Brooklyn Harding with 10 points and Laci Newbrough with 9 points.

Dec. 5 - Reed-Custer won a double OT thriller on Monday night against conference rival Lisle, 55-49. The Lady Comets struggled to produce offensively in the first half, but came out with strong energy in the second half to win a hard fought game.

Reed-Custer had four players in double digits including Brooklyn Harding with 13 points, Kaylee Tribble with 11 points, Caelan Cole with 10 points, and Madison Keenan with 10 points. Reed-Custer is now 5-4 on the season, 2-1 in ICE conference play.

Dec. 6 - Reed-Custer lost to a hot shooting Prairie Central team on the road Tuesday, 43-28. The Lady Comets held them to a tight game in the first half, but went cold in the final two quarters of the game.

Scoring leaders for Reed-Custer were Kaylee Tribble with 11 points and Samantha Sprimont with 4 points. Record is 5-5 on the season.

Dec. 8 - Reed-Custer took a tough one to the chin against Peotone, 49-20. The Lady Comets were led by Kaylee Tribble with 12 points. Laci Newbrough added 4 points while Gwen Stewart and Natalie Flores each had 2 points.

Current record as of Monday is 5-6, 1-2 in conference play. They will play at Somonauk Thursday before hosting Wilmington Dec. 19. Then it's off to the big Lisle Holiday Classic tournament Dec. 27-30.



Photo by Zadie Sims

AMBER SYC scrambles for a rebound while playing G-SW.



Photo by Zadie Sims

ONE HANDED - Reed-Custer senior Samantha Sprimont drives the lane for an easy bucket over a Lisle defender when the Lady Comets won 55-49.



Photo by Zadie Sims

CAYSIE ESPARZA shoots the ball in the basket against GSW.

Segoviano sinks four treys in Panther win

On Monday, the Panthers added another victory by defeating Limestone, 22-19. Ethan Segoviano hit four three-pointers to lead the way in scoring and finished with a season high 14 points. Tyler Compton, Lucas Walsh, and Alex Fierro each had 2 points. Frank Crotty and Jesse Tresouthick rounded out the scoring with 1 point each.

The team is now 6-4 on the season and looks to continue their winning streak when they take on Channahon at home on Thursday.

On Friday, the team hosted Saratoga and were able to get back in the win column by defeating the Hawks by a final score of 36-27. Orion Bergmann led the way in scoring with 11 points followed by Jesse Tresouthick with 9. Alex

Fierro contributed in the post with 6 points. Lucas Walsh added 4, and Ethan Segoviano and Tyler Compton each nailed a 3 pointer.

On Thursday, the team traveled to Coal City and were defeated 44-18.

Alex Fierro and Orion Bergmann led in scoring with 6 points each. Jesse Tresouthick and Lucas Walsh added 2 each, and Michael Burke and Broden Alexander added 1 point each.

Last Wednesday, the Panthers were defeated by Minooka by a final score of 44-34. Orion Bergmann was the leading scorer with 14 points. Jesse Tresouthick had 9, Alex Fierro added 6, Lucas Walsh had 3, and Ethan Segoviano chipped in with 2 points.

JV Panthers defeat Channahon

The Panther 7th grade boys basketball team defeated Channahon, coasting to a 33-20 victory. Leading the way with 19 points and seven steals was Matthew Kuban, who played an outstanding game in an abbreviated 13 minutes.

Kaiden Klein also had a nice game scoring eight points and collecting four rebounds. Chase Isaac did a little bit of everything to help the team secure a win. Isaac scored five points, three assists, three steals, and gathered three rebounds.

Reed-Custer is now 7-4

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 37 years!"

37TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY **\$28⁹⁹**

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 12/31/22.

Order online at www.geospizza.net

634-8858
 715 S. Broadway • Coal City

Gift Certificates Available

WANT TO SEE YOUR TEAM REPORT HERE?

SEND STATS TO sports@fpnusa.com

COMET SPORTS

Hot-shooting Comets on a streak

The Reed-Custer boys basketball team made an impressive 14 three-pointers Monday night to remain undefeated with a 72-52 victory over Clifton Central at home.

The Comets were generous with each other, dishing out 13 assists while making six steals during a run-and-gun offense that resulted in a 24-10 first quarter lead and 45-22 at the half.

For coach Mark Porter and his squad it was their fourth consecutive win.

The dynamic duo of senior Jake McPherson and Lucas Foote shot seven and five treys, respectively. McPherson would finish with 23 points while Foote was right on his heels with 21.

Wes Shats provided the muscle underneath with nine rebounds while scoring 11 points. Jace Christian delivered four assists while tallying seven points. Scoring five points was Collin Monroe while Drew Anderson and Jake Reardon had three and two points, respectively.

Reed-Custer controlled the boards with a 34-to-27 rebounding edge.

Taming the Lions

Lesson learned, if you're going to foul someone to stop the clock in a close contest you may want to avoid Reed-Custer's Jace Christian.

The Comet senior made 10-of-15 free throws Friday night to lift the Comets to a 51-48 win in overtime against visiting Lisle.



FIGHTING FOR THE BALL is Reed-Custer sophomore Jacob Reardon during varsity action last week. Photo by Zadie Sims

The score was tied 23-23 at the half and 41-41 after four quarters. Reed-Custer went on a 10-7 run in overtime to win it thanks to 18-to-27 (66%) free throw shooting as a team.

Christian finished with 16 points, three steals and three assists to lead the Comets. McPherson contributed 12 points off seven rebounds and three assists. Shats had 10 points to go along with 11 rebounds. Foote contributed nine points while Connor Eggleston tallied four points.

Manteno rallies

The Comets almost let one slip away last Tuesday when visiting Manteno went on a 24-9 run in the final frame. Thankfully, the Comets had built a large enough lead to win it 53-50.

Reed-Custer trailed 9-6 after the opening frame but turned things around in the second quarter with a 21-9 run to build a 27-18 lead at the half. After three quarters the Comets were up 44-26 before the Panthers threatened in the end.

McPherson sank four treys to pace RCHS with 21 points. Shats chipped in with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Christian added eight points and five assists to the effort while Foote finished with six points, Eggleston four points and Cooper Smith two.

The Comets, who beat Herscher 62-46 to start the season, travels to Peotone Friday and Somonauk Monday. Their next home game won't be until Jan. 13.



GETTING A REBOUND for Reed-Custer is Wesley Shats while battling Manteno at home. Photo by Zadie Sims



REED-CUSTER senior Jake McPherson scored 21 points to lead the Comets to a 53-50 victory over Manteno last week. Photo by Zadie Sims



MAKING A BASKET for Reed-Custer is Jace Christian playing against Manteno during the first home game of the season last week. Photo by Zadie Sims



WESLEY SHATS makes a basket against Manteno on Tuesday's game at home. Photo by Zadie Sims



LUCAS FOOTE dribbles out front while playing Manteno last week during the first home game of the season. Photo by Zadie Sims