

BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL!

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

"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," 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 then be sent over to the city for review and com-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

ments 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

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





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.



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 **FDITOR**

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

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 er stacking was one of several cargo containers.

The amendment includes As the city of Braidwood 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-

concerns residents in town have voiced over the new truck parking lot at the Route 66 Business Park at Route 53 and Division Street.

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 Nutcracker."

Across the globe, dance

companies-large and smallshare 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





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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 per-

parking area must be con-

crete, asphalt or gravel. The semi-tractor shall not

be permitted to overhang

any public sidewalk or

3. Every semi-tractor shall be equipped with a

functioning hot plug or

core heater which shall be

used whenever the tem-

perature falls below 32

shall be used only for pur-

poses of traveling to and

from the owner's work

occupancy for truck park-

ing 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

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 per-

son to whom it was grant-

ed transfers title or posses-

sion of the lot.

• No truck tractor,

should not be revoked.

4. The semi-tractor

5. The certificate of

2. The semi-tractor

mit from the city.

other right-of-way.

degrees Fahrenheit.

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 cheep 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

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.

owner/director Studio Kimberly Larson said her company will be presenting the traditional ballet, a tale from 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 Rosenburg.

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 Rosenburg, "The Nutcracker" cast includes Ella White, Nutcracker; Sara Borik, Sugar Plum; Lyla Bruner, Mouse King; Aubrey Bryant, Snow Queen; Abigail Kirchner,

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 res-

olution 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,

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

Published in the Braidwood Journal,

Drive, Braidwood, IL,

December 14, 2022

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 Rosenburg, '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

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

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 put-ting 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

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

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

Coffee &

<u>Newspapers</u>

One wakes you up

One opens your eyes

in Joliet.



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



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

BY MARNEY SIMON

EDITOR

Stack

for container stacking,

since the site is slated to be

used for parking rentals.

Since the area is designat-

ed 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 current-

ly includes a truck stop

and three car dealerships.

container stacking, the ordinance on truck park-

ing and cargo containers

includes the following pro-

trailer cargo container shall be parked or stored on any zoning lot in any

ER, R-1 or RMF zoning dis-

trict, except while actively

making a pickup or deliv-

be parked or stored on any

zoning lot in any ER, R-1 or

RMF zoning district,

engaged in making a pick-

up or delivery at that lot;

provided, however, that,

no more than one semi-

tractor may be parked on a

lot in such zoning districts

under the following condi-

pant of a residence within

1. The owner or occu-

• No semi-tractor shall

actively

ery at that lot.

except while

visions:

In addition to banning

• No semi-trailer or

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

ComEd site improvement

to benefit local customers

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

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 munity 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 opera-

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.

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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 3year 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 addison April 2022 was presented by 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

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



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> Eric D. Fisher, publisher Marney Simon, editor

Thomas Hennebry, he made a contribution

doubts that mining was the heart soul 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. He is a good example of a Civil War veteran who searched for his niche in life. He was born in Ireland in 1845; in 1848 his family immigrated

to Du Page County where they

took up farming. Thomas was content with that life until 1862, one year into the War, when he enlisted in the 90th Illinois Voluntary

Infantry. Although he only rose to the rank of Corporal in the three years he fought, he participated in many hard battles such as Vicksburg, Kennesaw Sherman's Mountain and march to the sea.

After mustering out at the end of the war, Hennebry went home to farm, but he become dissatisfied with that life.

In 1869 he moved to



Sandy Vasko

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

becoming the sole owner of thought. the store, he was able to settle 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 the position is Mrs. Margaret Keane, daughter of one of Reed Township's oldest settlers. This had a settling effect on eral store. Again, 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 Finally, after train for Pittsburgh, it is

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 oth-

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 oostmastership in Braidwood -Mooney, 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 afore-

"The other candidate for

O'Donnell, who, like Mr. Hennebry is well fortified with recommendations. 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 lady democrats in Braidwood in case he persists antagonizing O'Donnell.'

The next week it was announced, "Postmaster 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 remem-

Wilmington Coalition awarded underage drinking prevention grant

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 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 poi-

Ekstrom said the coalition fiscal agent for the STOP board and members are Act grant.

Wilmington 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 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 fulltime 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 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantee under the fiscal oversight of the City of Wilmington.

As a result, the City of WCHC President Paula Wilmington is currently the

Cole in the RCHS Senior Spotlight for December

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 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

for Assistant school. Here are a few thoughts

Physician

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 suc-

always gives 100%. She is the finds a way to stay positive!" kind of player that every coach

The Reed-Custer High would love to have on his ool Senior Spotlight winner team."

Mrs. Lee believes that Caelan is "a great student, and

Ms. Baron appreciates that Caelan is "a kind and cre-

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

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!"

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

an even better person!"

ative 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

Miss Zastrow says that

Mr. Johnston believes that



Caelan "is a talented, kindhearted young lady who treats Mr. Welsh appreciates that everyone like a friend. I always

The Wrestling Comets

The Comets then wres-

Brodinski,

Wrestlers with one win

The team record is now

Reed-

Mr. Smith enjoys "a daily Mr. Randall thinks that Caelan "always has a smile that see her with a smile on her visit with Caelan. She is a huming, unselfish teammate who things are rough, she always gives 100%. She is the kind of player that every coach

I work work brighten your day, even when the dec, and that attribute is continued in the dec, and the dec,

is bound to be a success wher- be afraid to ask questions." ever she goes and whatever she

Caelan "is a kind, hard-work-brightens your day; even when face, and that attitude is contable, thoughtful, intelligent and advice to younger students is, tions to Caelan Cole as the

On behalf of the teachers As a final thought, Caelan's and staff at RCHS, congratula-December winner of the Senior

Comet wrestlers improve to 6-0



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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.

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

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Become the storm

WILMINGTON—A little food for thought. The devil whispers in my ear, you're not strong enough to withstand the storm. But today I whisper in the devil's ear and I told him I am

Prisoner swap

COAL CITY—It's a sad situation when America swaps a sports celebrity for a terrorist who has more blood on his hands than Bin Laden did as a former arms dealer to so many countries. I guess Putin gets the final laugh in this one. What was Biden thinking? Old man Biden is just a puppet to the media, who kept Brittney Griner's name in the headlines, and to Putin, who now has an arms dealer to help him with weapon purchases for his "war" with the Ukraine.

What a mistake

WILMINGTON—Went to Bradley Saturday to do some Christmas shopping. Every big box store was the same, long lines and not enough help. At the last store I went to, where I was about 10th in line with only two registers going, I was so tired of waiting I pushed my cart aside and walked out. I got back into town and made a stop downtown at the gift shop. No long lines, two workers there to help me and it was actually enjoyable to talk with them. I'll do the rest of my Christmas shopping online but also back at that gift shop. No more out of town shopping hassles for me.

Speeds on East

COAL CITY-41-36-38. These are not basketball scores! They are speeds on East 4th St. in Coal City on any day, usually between 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. The traffic of cars, trucks, motorcycles have increased since all the stop signs were taken down to increase the flow of vehicles. Children are waiting for their school buses, people are backing out of their driveways, and some people are exercising by walking. I guess with the new license plate reader going into effect maybe it will slow down the speeders. Yes there are police vehicles patrolling in the area and on 4th St. How about stopping and sit in my driveway in an unmarked car with radar? I am requesting a police car for one hour, one day to slow vehicles down. Signs are posted entering Coal City, by schools for 25 mph limit. How about enforcing them on side streets. On Dec. 16 there will be a speed limit sign put up on 4th St. and license plates of speeders will be recorded.

It's the cruelty

WILMINGTON—If you've ever had major surgery, you know how frightening it is. Recently in Ukraine the power was knocked out of hospitals in Kyiv forcing surgeons to operate by flashlight. But Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene doesn't give a hoot. She wants to end all aid to Ukraine, every last dollar, and other Republicans agree because they support dictator Putin. Marjorie Taylor Greene professes to be Christian but you wouldn't know it by her words nor her deeds. Fortunately the Democrats hold the Senate and won't allow such cruelty to prevail. Irene

A folk art tribute

SHADOW LAKES—If "Braidwood Zoo" your screen will light up and you will learn about Jack Barker a local artist and you will also learn about historical Route 66. Most important, you will learn about the little town's zoo, which is slowly becoming a local attraction. Braidwood doesn't really have much to offer to the tourist that drive historical route 66 but the little bit we have is now in danger of being destroyed. The Braidwood zoo is an asset to the community. It has great potential that could be exploited for the benefit of the community. Instead, the city's administration is trying to get rid of it. They should be looking at ways to improve on it. It would be nice to see an annual celebration involving folk art that would celebrate the life of Jack Barker. Many people throughout the state of Illinois, and maybe even the country, hold art pieces that

were created by local artist Jack Barker. It would be nice to see an annual gathering, it may be people can bring some of their art pieces to show them off. It will be sad to see the Braidwood zoo disappear. Local people should stand up and defend it.

Protecting my family SHADOW LAKES—I see our beloved gov-

ernor is trying to rid us of the Second Amendment. My question is this, who is going to protect me? I am sure you have figured out where all the violence in this state is. You don't have to be a genius to know 90% is in Chicago. Mayor Lori Lighthead has the nerve, day after day, to tell you it is getting better. Let us stop here for a moment and say this. The Chicago mayor has 90 bodyguards babysitting her and her family as she rules over a city of 2.7 million. We understand the need for bodyguards but don't you think 90 is overkill? Remember who is paying for this. Let us divert to another. The mayor of Dolton, Mayor Tiffany Henyard, has spent over \$258,000 since May of 2021 making sure her around-the-clock bodyguards ensure her safety. After her term of four years will cost over \$1 million of Dolton's tax money. How many bodyguards do you think our beloved governor has? I go often to the range and practice. I plan to purchase a pistol for my husband. After all, who is going to protect my family?

The right direction

BRAIDWOOD—Elections are just a few months away. The city and police department are in the best shape they have been in for years. Past administrations put out a lot of false information. Please check facts before voting. When in doubt you can go to the city and FOIA. Let's keep this city moving in the right direc-

But no roads

SHADOW LAKES—A person called into sound-off last week saying the oil companies have over 7,000 leases on government land. That is true, but they don't have leases to build roads to the sites or are they allowed to build pipelines to get the oil out. It's a game Biden's playing, it's like having a drilling lease on the

We elected him

BRAIDWOOD—Why does the Braidwood City council have issues with Fay Smith? He was elected to his position and not appointed like the people on the council who have the issue with him. I, for one, think Fay is doing a great job like always and am concerned about what is best for the city and his employees. He is not trying to line his pockets and give his "buddies" breaks on rules and policies like the appointed council members. Can't wait until April 2024 elections....when the votes will say you're fired. Not voting for people on current council for they can appoint their "good ole boys buddies" to take advantage of taxpayers. People of this town better wake up before there is no town to care about.

Protect our kids

WILMINGTON—The school district thinks they have done such a great job teaching our kids that they are asking to raise your property taxes to cover a increase in funding. I'm not a fan of what they choose to teach our kids nowadays. Most people aren't. People of Wilmington it is time to act. Show up at the district 209-U meeting next week that is open to the public. It's your only chance to hold them accountable for the curriculum that they choose to teach your young children! Get off your a.. and protect your kids from these phonies. They aren't there to teach reading, writing and arithmetic to your kids. They are pushing an ideology that most disagree with. Ît's up to you to protect your kids. Don't let them get away with brainwashing and corrupting the children. They are there to teach, not influence a sexual or political opinion. And I say if any teacher decides to do so then they should be arrested and put in jail for not sticking to basic teaching that these kids deserve. I say instead of defunding the police how about

Legislators expected to debate gun sales in January

BY CAPITAL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—Among the issues expected to be debated when lawmakers return to the Capitol in January is a proposed ban on the sale or possession of assault-style weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

Those are the same types of weapons and ammunition systems that have been used in multiple mass shootings in the United States. But calls for banning them in Illinois intensified after a mass shooting at days after the effective date of instead of six months.

an Independence Day parade the act, unless it is registered last summer in Highland Park that left seven people dead

and dozens more injured.

On Thursday, Dec. 1, the final day of the veto session, Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield, filed HB 5855, the "Protect Illinois Communities Act." which would make it illegal to manufacture, deliver, sell or purchase an assault weapon, assault weapon attachment, .50-caliber rifle or .50-caliber cartridge.

It would also make it illegal for anyone to possess such a weapon or ammunition 300

with the Illinois State Police. The bill would also remove the ability of people under age 21 to own firearms and ammunition, with an exception for those serving in the U.S. military or National

And it would amend the state's Firearms Restraining Order Act by allowing state's attorneys and assistant state's attorneys to act as a "friend of the court" in restraining order petitions while extending the maximum length of those restraining orders to one year or it will be too late later on. A family situation MORRIS—I don't know how to deal with

defunding the school district? Especially if they

continue on with the insane curriculum they

are pushing in today's schools. Makes sense

right? Send your kids to a private school. Home

school. You have options. Be part of their life

and stand up for your kids. Protect them now

my selfish, inconsiderate, arrogant brother-inlaw and his family especially his wife. I just want to estrange them from our lives and my husband agrees but we can't. My husband and I and his brother each have our own home in the country given to us by his parents. His brother's house is roughly 1000' away and his parents live across the street and about the same distance away. Our children are close in age. His brother, his wife and I are all the same age. My husband's is 4 years older. We are all going through the same life milestones, in the same situation (pretty close) but we just can't get along. The reason we can't is because they are mean self-centered people. They only help us if there is something in it for them. They have double standards and they allow their oldest teenage daughter to bully our kids especially our youngest who is 7. They make unfair rules for our children that only our kids have to obey. example- my boys can't go into the basement unless one of their girls go with them. That's where the toys are! Their oldest daughter won't let them pet their dogs, she has made them wait outside in the pouring rain for the bus. They're not considerate enough to say go wait in the garage. (I used to drop them off there in the mornings because of my work schedule, now I get them on the bus myself). She has told my boys to wait outside for us to pick them up when it's cold. Not that temperature even matters, that's very rude. She is mean. She tells my boys they can't walk over to their house because the dogs bark and its annoying. The worst part of it all is that when I bring this up to her parents her mother makes up these ridiculous excuses for her behavior and justifies it. I even sometimes end up being the bad guy because her daughter lies and says I yell at them but I don't. I am at the point now where I feel like I need to record our conversaonone so i nave prooi oi ner aisre spectful behavior and the absence of my "yelling." I have brought this up to my in-laws and his mother says "I know she can be difficult." or "it's their house, it's their rules" even though she agrees the rules are not fair and very strange. The reasoning behind them doesn't even make sense. Really it's not my brotherin-law's house, it's my in laws' house, they own it. I wish they would do something or at least say something but I know they don't want to get in the middle of it. It's just so petty and stupid and I refuse to let their daughter bully my kids any more or disrespect me. She doesn't even acknowledge me half the time. I'll say hello and she turns away from me. That's one of many examples of her being disrespectful. I'm at my end. I don't want anything to do with them. I don't want to go to my in-laws for Christmas. I'm just so tired, exhausted and defeated. What do I do?

Vow breakers

WILMINGTON—If evangelicals spent less time persecuting the LBGTQ community and more time denying services to adulators, we could bring that divorce rate down. And wouldn't that be good for the children of these Christian vow breakers.

Move to Cuba

MORRIS-In the Sound-Off column Nov. 30, there was an article from Wilmington where an individual states that they identify as a Progressive Liberal with Socialist leanings like public schools, roads and redistribution of wealth. What you do not grasp is that Fascism, Socialism and Communism are cut from the same cloth and when children are taught to hate this country and are pushed into believing that they are racist it is indoctrination of children. Just like Adolf Hitler did

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in Germany in the 1930s teaching children to hate anything against the party. Even turn in their relatives to the government if they said anything against the party. If you want to talk about Communism you do not have to go look any further than the people that are being held in prison without charges or bail from the Jan. 6 imprisonment of these people. Just like Cuba and China, they are political prisoners. So if you like Socialism so much move to Cuba or China. Maybe you should learn something before telling someone else to use a dictionary.

Right to serve or not

SHADOW LAKES—I'm watching C-Span, the Supreme Court case on free speech and LBGTQ rights. The oral arguments 303 creative LLC Vs Alito the Colorado Solicitor General, the company's attorney and the nine Supreme Court Justices asking questions and receiving answers from the solicitor general and the company's attorney. Having to do with this website creator that refuses to do things for LGBTQ people. My question is what has happened to this country? I ran my business for 44 years. I accepted people, I refused people, because it is my business. The government has no right to tell me who I can serve and who I can't ,or who I must and who I don't want. What's going on with this country that a ridiculous argument like this goes to the Supreme Court? Dan Hill

A safety issue

COAL CITY— There has been a motor home parked across the sidewalk in the 600 block of W. Daisy Pl. in Coal City. It has been parked across the sidewalk for over a month. Our children can't even walk on the sidewalk to go to and from school. They have to walk on the side of the road putting them in danger of getting hit by a car. I hope our police department will make them move that motor home so our children can walk safely on the sidewalk walk-

ing to and from school. Thank you. Conservatives complain-

WILMINGTON—I Conservatives complaining about Twitter and ree speech. But don't vou ave to pay to be on premium Twitter? So what's free about that?

Your false God

WILMINGTON— Now that Trump has suggested we need to abandoned to Constitution will any of you Trumpies publicly renounce this false God via the Sound-Off

page. At long last have you no sense of decency. On vacation

SHADOW LAKES—Biden has been 271 days on vacation in two years of being president. He's never visited the border. He has traded a useless individual for a terrorist. What is wrong with people like my neighbors who voted for Biden and Harris? They have to be union people. Dan Hill

Going postal

WILMINGTON—Post Office? Back in Aug. 2022, I did not get any mail for 10 days. I went to the P.O. and asked if they were holding my mail for some reason, they said I had it transferred to Austin, TX 10 days ago. I don't know anyone in TX. So after a short argument, they found that someone in the "Suburban center had my mail sent to TX. We searched and found the home and phone number in Austin, no mail was ever sent. I was given the number for the postal investigation service. After three calls I was given a case number and would receive updates on the progress from them or the local P.O. I must have forgot to give them my phone number, not one call back. I was told they have to send a form out when mail is transferred so you know it is sent somewhere else. They must have run out of forms. I had to cancel and change anything that had info on it. I didn't get any mail back from the 10-day period, or get one call back from anyone. Do they

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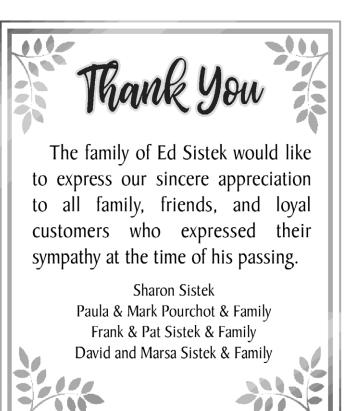
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Trust the cheese state to perfect the Old Fashion cocktail

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 the 1893 Chicago Fair, and them feel welcome with an Old Fashioned made

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 Brandybased. 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 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

Fashioned.

In Wisconsin they don't call it the Brandy Old Fashioned, it's just Fashioned".

How did this drink, and Korbel Brandy in particular become so popular in America's Dairyland? Many Midwesterners traveled by train to

most of them were German immigrants.

Brian Rung

"the

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 whiskies, and Korbel became an instant smash in the Midwest as visitors to the

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.

Fair sampled the Korbel prod-

One widely held misconception regarding 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 yours made with whiskey if to voice your wash preference you do not want a Brandy Old when you order the drink. Let's decode the wash ter-

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 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 dash-

es 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 timetested 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 responsibly.



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

Combine in glass: 2 orange wedges 1 cherry

1/4 to 1/2 oz. simple syrup 4 dashes Angostura Bitters Gently muddle ingredi-

Add 2 oz. Korbel Brandy Add ice (lightly crushed)

Top with splash of your choice of wash

Garnish with orange

wedge and cherry Until next week, enjoy

Pastoral vacancy has Grace Lutheran planning special Christmas service

Grace Lutheran Church in favorites. Gianna Kohl, soloist, 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 Eve, Friday, Dec. 23, at 6 p.m.

This will be a great time to hear and sing your Christmas

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

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.

WILL COUNTY - Will

County leaders are calling

contest returns to Custer The 14th annual Lighting Up Your House For the

Light Up Your House

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 For more information call Bill Marquardt at 708-372-

Lighting Up Your House for the Holidays Contest

Will Co. focused on attracting green industries

One of the first counties in Illinois to permit battery

energy storage

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 lowcost 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

"This simple change in zoning helps keep Will County at the cutting edge of the clean energy industry," said Will

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 Storage Energy 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 charg-

ing 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-

County Board Land Use and 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 "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 spot-

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

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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 District's Facebook 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

"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, redheaded 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 water.



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

One more monthly winner of an American goldfinch will be chosen for December perched on a flower, a merlin before the Forest Preserve clutching a bird in its talons District's 2022 contest conand fall leaves floating in the cludes 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 by The 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.





Area gas prices drop under \$3

Monday morning when the price per gallon for gasoline dropped to \$2.88, the lowest in

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

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 gal-

"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

Motorists were filling up in Joliet 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

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. I.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 study," he said.

would extend that ... for four years, 79, you wouldn't have to Highway Administration with 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 a new specialty license plate. which older drivers need to test annually, but to permanently codify the policy since it's only in effect until next

'So, I think what we'll do is hopefully this will extend it will be eligible to get a specialfor 10 months, the fact that they don't have to take the test every year, and then we'll extend it further after that

Data from the Federal 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

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

That means outgoing Secretary of State Jesse White ty plate after his term ends next month.

After being signed by the governor, the measure is now



Wish your customers a Merry Christmas!

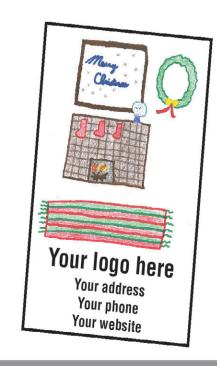


We have children from draw Christmas art to be featured Dec. 21 Your business can sponsor a child's drawing to send out a season's greetings message to your customers.

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



OBITUARIES

Jim Dent

WILMINGTON-Jim Dent, 83, of Wilmington, formerly of New Lenox, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 at Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care in Joliet.

Born July 26, 1939 in Herrin, IL, James LeRoy was a son of Earl and Fave (Counsil) Dent. He was raised in Herrin and New Lenox and graduated from Lincoln Way High School with the Class of 1957. On Feb. 24, 1966 Jim married the love of his life, Kathleen Gail Bennett in Mokena, and together they moved to

He worked as a welder and millwright, and gained employment with Caterpillar Tractor Company in York, PA. Jim and his family later relocated to New Lenox and continued his employment with Caterpillar in Joliet, until he gained employment with All Steel Iron Works in Lemont from where he would retire. In his free time, he enjoyed going fishing on

the Kankakee River and at the Meneoka Sportsmans Club, as well as playing washers and going to the casino. Jim was proud to be a mason and was a 45 year member of the A.F & A.M. Charity Grand Lodge of Liberty and Freemasonry in Freeland, MD. Though he was a man of few words, his kind and gentle nature spoke volumes to those who knew and loved im. Jim was the definition of a family man who cherished spending time with his children and grandchildren. He always made time to go to all their extracurricular activities, and to keep an eye on his special great grandchildren: Cooper "CJ the DJ" and Olivia "Little Spitfire".

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Kathy

WILMINGTON—Deborah Jean

Dent of Wilmington; five children: James (Deb) Dent of York, PA, Harold (Karen) Dent and Judi (the late Keith) Keller, both of Renova, PA, Jeanette (Gary) Proffitt of Wilmington, and Jenny (Butch) Parkman of Monroe, GA; fourteen grandchildren: Amanda, Kelly, Rachel, Jimmy, Amanda Mae, Holly, Wyatt, Garrett, Nichole, Brittney, Haley, Lily, Markie "Big Guy", and Darion, as well as nineteen great grand-

children; one brother and one sister: Earlene (Lee) Colley of Reisterstown, MD and John (Pam) Dent of West Frankfort, IL, brothersin-law and sisters-in-law: Todd (Rene) Bennett of Manhattan, Sheila (Ralph) Swanberg of Mokena, and Donna (the late Butch) Vandygriff of Diamond; and numerous nieces and Jim was preceded in death by his parents,

his father-in-law and mother-in-law: George and Elsie Bennett; one brother, Ken (Rose) Dent, and several brothers-in-law and sisters-Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec.

2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. Cremation rites were accorded following the funeral services. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jim's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage in

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and

share Jim's memorial page via social media. Funeral services and cremation arrange-

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

₋ Deborah Jean Douglass ₋

Douglass, 64, of Wilmington, formerly Gardner and Kentucky, passed away Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 at her home with her husband by her side. Born July 31, 1958 in Joliet, she was a daughter of Carmel and

Marcine (Hicks) Boyle. Deborah graduated high school in 1976, and on July 19, 1980 she married Charles Douglass in Wilmington. Together they cherished 42 years. Deborah worked as a CNA for Riverside Medical Center for 20 years, and also for Aperion Care for a few years until her retirement. Deborah had a playful spirit and a selfless heart. Her southern soulfulness loved people and would do anything for anyone. She enjoyed watching Cardinals in her back yard. Deborah first and foremost was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt who cherished spending time with her family. She loved being a mother to her boys' many friends, and loved spending time with her grandchildren. She was

dearly loved and will be deeply missed. Survivors include her husband, Charles, of Wilmington; two sons, Nathaniel (Kim) Douglass, of Normal and Jeffrey (Stephanie) Douglass, of El Paso; four grandchildren: Nolan, Lyla, Jaxson and Juliette; two sisters, Kay (Steve) Gibson and Sue Davis, both of Coal City; one sister-in-law, Trish (the late Robert) Hall, of Wilmington; as well as many nieces and nephews. Deborah was preceded in death by

her parents, one sister, Kathy (Bill) James and one niece, Heather Davis. Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial service was held at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. Pastor Jim Olson officiated.

Preferred memorials in Deborah's memory may be made as gifts to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

Cremation arrangements and memorial services were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home

John "Jack" Graham

HUDSON, OH-John R. "Jack" Graham, 82, passed away on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022 in Hudson, OH.

He was born to Thomas and (Watson) Graham Braidwood, on Jan. 6, 1940. John was a Professor of Psychology at Kent State University for 47 years and served in a variety of administrative positions at KSU. His most lasting contribution to Psychology is a graduate-level textbook

on personality assessment (MIMPI) that has been in continuous publication since 1977. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend and we will miss his loving ways, quick wit and infectious smile.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Parris Stephens, of Hudson; son, John R. Graham Jr., of Brecksville; daughter, Mary K. (Graham) Bruns, of Kent; stepdaughter, Camille S. Stephens, of

Kent; six grandchildren: Kyle Graham, of Cleveland; Katherine Graham, of Bowling Green; Michael Graham, of

Columbus; Stephanie Bruns, of Memphis, TN; Sydney Bruns, of New York City; Jesse Gramuglia, of Kent and two great-grandchildren, Caiden Stephens, of Kent and Caleb Stephens, of Akron.

He was preceded in death by son, David M. Graham and granddaughter,

Chelsea S. Stephens.
A private memorial service will be held at a later date. The family requests that contributions in his memory be sent to Kent Social Services, S. Water St., Kent, Ohio 44240.

To share a memory, send a condolence, light a candle or send flowers, visit the tribute wall at www.bisslerandsons.com.

Kathleen Carpenter -

CITY—Kathleen Carpenter, 72, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at 7:03 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, in Naperville at her Born March 25, 1950, in Coal City,

she was a daughter of Thomas and

Kathryn (Schwab) Kasher. Kathleen

was raised and educated in Coal City, graduating from Coal City High School with the class of 1968. In 1969 she married David Onsen, and together they raised their family until his passing in 1996. In 2000 Kathleen married Tim Carpenter and they cherished 15 years until his passing in 2015. Kathleen worked as a beautician for Reflections and Town & Country Hair Salon for many years. She loved to cook and shop and was always known to her family and friends to dress very fashionably. Kathleen spent many days and hours attending her son's and grandchildren's sporting events throughout the years. She was a loving mother, grandmother and sister who will

Survivors include her son, Jason (Kimberly McCormick) Onsen, of Naperville; three grandchildren: Carson, Helen and Meghan Onsen; three brothers: Jim Kasher, of Herscher; Tom Kasher, of Georgia and Dan (Maria) Kasher, of Downers Grove; one sister, Terri (Tom) Convery, of Darien; as well as numerous brothers and sisters-in-laws and nieces

Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents, first husband, David Onsen and second husband, Tim

Carpenter. Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends on

Monday, Dec. 19, 2022 at Reeves Funeral

Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. A private funeral mass will take place at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church. Father Joshua Miller will preside with Deacon William Dunn assisting. Following mass Kathleen will be laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Preferred memorials in Kathleen's memory may be made as gifts to Assumption Catholic

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

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

Here is where your energy is coming from

Illinois is the nation's power plants fifth-largest electricity producer, and typically sends about one-fifth of the power it generates to other states over interstate transmission lines

tricity generation mix, cur-

• 52.6% of the electricity generated comes from six nuclear plants

• 9.3% from natural gas plants

6% from renewable sources

Many of Illinois' coal pow-Illinois has a unique elec- ered plants have or are in the process of converting to natural gas. More renewable sources of energy generation are being added each day.

This is great news for the • 31.7% from coal-fired environment as we are switch-

ing from highly polluting sources of energy reliant on fossil fuels to cleaner sources and with enough to power to switch to electric vehicles.

Homes and businesses that are adding solar are supporting the switch to renewable supply and decentralizing the grid, increasing the power grid's strength and resiliency.

Allen Randt _

BRAIDWOOD-Allen "Pepsi Man" Randt, 60, of Braidwood, formerly Chicago, Wisconsin and Diamond, passed away on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 at AMITA Health St. Joseph Medical Born Dec. 17, 1961 in Chicago, he

was a son of Carole (Bass) Randt and step-mother, Mary Lawson. He was raised and educated in Chicago. In 1988 he married Michelle Krebs and together they cherished 34 years. Allen most recently worked as a Pipe Fitter for Local 190, but previously owned and operated A & W Towing and drove a school bus for Illinois Central School Bus in Coal City. He was an avid car and Harley Davidson enthusiast who could always be seen with his favorite beverage, Pepsi. A great man with a big heart, Allen, aka Pepsi Man and CarBer Al, never knew a stranger, and anyone who ever met him would not easily forget him. He was deeply loved by many and will be dearly Survivors include his wife, Michelle, of

Braidwood; five children: Anthony Randt, of Illinois; Nicole (Chris Lowe) Wiltz, of Diamond; G (Samuel) Romans, Keith (Maralee) Randt and Kurt (Alexandrea) Randt, all of Braidwood; four grandchildren: Alexa, McKenna, Ezekiel and

Uriah; one brother, Richard (Kim) Randt, of Morris; two half-brothers, Matt and Mikey Randt, of Wisconsin; five halfsisters: Monica, Melinda, Melissa, Ellie and Michelle; sister-in-law, Donna (Don) Williams; numerous nieces and nephews; cousin, Ron Buchanan and best friend and brother, Charles "Pinto Man" Trytek. Allen was preceded in death by his

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parents, one sister, Rhonda Randt; one brother, Billy Randt in infancy; David "Pops" Lewis and son-in-law, Michael Wiltz. The family will receive friends on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022 from 4 p.m. until time of funeral

service at 7 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City. Cremation rites will follow funeral services.

Preferred memorials in Allen's memory may be made as gifts to Toys for Tots.

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

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

Hazel Scorby _

RED WING, MN-Hazel Louise Scorby, 87, of Red Wing, MN, formerly Coal City and Lockport, IL passed away on Saturday Dec. 10, 2022 surrounded by all her children. Born Jan. 24, 1935 in Alton, IL, she

was a daughter of Paul Harry and Alberta E. Ackerman-Blundell. Hazel was raised and educated in Streator, IL, graduating with the class of 1953. On Nov. 22, 1956 she married Richard Neil Scorby in Streator and together they cherished 46 years until his passing on Sept. 24, 2002. Hazel was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lockport, Assumption Catholic Church and attended St. Joseph Parish in Red Wing, MN. She was a proud homemaker who enjoyed reading and cooking, and loved every chance she got to volunteer her time.

Hazel cherished her family and enjoyed spend-

ing time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include five children: Deborah (James) Fox, of Peotone; Pamela Fraser, of Amarillo, TX; Cynthia (Tim) Eddy, of Morris; Cheryl (Michael Scott) Seybert, of Red Wing, MN and Richard (Susan) Scorby, of Wilmington, NC; 10 grandchildren: Adam Fox, Ryan (Amanda) Fox, Taylor (Kurt Benninghuff) Fox, Ashley (Curt Demel) Fraser, Emily Fraser, Erin Fraser, Danielle (Daniel) Cassani, Kelen (Lindsey) Eddy, Casey (Jesse) Vignali and Chase (Nada) Seybert; eight great-grandchildren: Gabriel Fox, Skyler Fox, Landon Demel, Darien (Matthew) Fincher, Keegan (Layne Engel) Clampitt, Jadyn Cassani, Harper Vignali and Vivian Seybert; one great-greatgrandson, Oliver Fincher; sister-inlaw, Nida Blundell; three nephews: William (Kathy) Blundell, Michael Blundell and David Blundell; numerous cousins and special friend, Suzanne Neuman, of Streator, IL.

Hazel was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Richard; brother, William Blundell and sister, Pauline Blundell in childhood.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 195 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City from 10 a.m. until time of funeral mass at 11 a.m. Reverend Joshua Miller will preside with Deacon William Dunn assisting. Graveside services will follow in St. Stephens Cemetery in Streator, IL at 2:30 p.m.

Preferred memorials in Hazel's memory may be made as gifts to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or any local hospice organi-

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

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

Pauline Shelton -

MORRIS—Pauline "Pat" Shelton, 95, of Morris, passed away Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 at the Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care Center in Joliet,

with her family by her side.

Born May 9, 1927 in Chandlers Ford Hants, England, Pauline Patricia was a daughter of Charles and Alice (Ford) Pilkington. She was raised and educated in England, and on April 30, 1945 she married Raymond B. Shelton in

Lymington, England. Pat and her husband moved to Morris in 1952 which she would call home for the last 70 years. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, and she enjoyed gardening and feeding the birds. Pat was an avid reader and she would rarely miss her favorite television program, Jeopardy. She was a loving wife, mother, and Nan who lived to care for her family and those she loved the most.

Survivors include three daughters: Carolyn Stratton, of Iron Mountain, MI and Debra Olsen and Gail (Richard) Maskel, both of Morris; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, two brothers, Peter and Anthony Pilkington, both of England and several nieces

Pat was preceded in death by her parents

and her husband; one son and one daughter: Dale Shelton and Cheryl Styner and five brothers and sisters: Arthur Pilkington, Sydney Pilkington, Peggy O'Neil, Jeanne Smith and Kathy

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church, 600 E. Jackson St., in Morris from 9:30 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Jason Stone presid-

Cremation rites will be accorded following funeral services, and Pat will be laid to rest at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Morris with her husband.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Pat's memory to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church or to Lightways Hospice.

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

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

Jerry Stewart

WILMINGTON—Jerry David Stewart, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022 at Ascension Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, surrounded by his family and loved

11, 1952 Born Iune Glennonville, MO, Jerry was a son of Herman Joseph and Marjorie Ann (nee Fitzgerald) Stewart. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1970. Jerry attended Joliet Junior College where he graduated with an associate degree in liberal arts. He later gained employment as a pipefitter through the Pipefitters Local Unions 422 and 597 until his retirement in 2017.

Jerry was active in Wilmington community, serving as the Wilmington Township Supervisor for over 28 years and was a member of the Wilmington A.F & A.M. Lodge 208. He was also a member of the Double Eagle Club and enjoyed golfing with his golf league. Jerry was a great sports fan who loved the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, and the Joliet Slammers. He took great pleasure in playing the guitar and going for rides on his Goldwing motorcycle.

A sociable man, Jerry loved spending time with his family and friends, and was always up for meeting anyone for breakfast. He had a passion for genealogy and tracing his family's history. Jerry's family was the most important thing in his life, and was a proud father and grandfather who cherished the lasting memories made with his family.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years,

two children: Jerry (Lisa) Stewart, of Longwood, FL and Sheryl Stewart, of Joliet; two granddaughters, Abigail Grace and Emma Kay Stewart, both of Longwood, FL; three brothers and three sisters: Joseph (Rolene) Stewart, of Columbus, GA; Robert (Debbie) Stewart, of Stockbridge, GA; Charlie Kathy) Stewart, of Braidwood; (Kathy) Kathleen (Greg) Fisketjon. of Bertoud, CO; Betty Jo (Tim) Kelly, of Joliet and Florence (Rich) Olmsted, of Dunlap, IL; one

Wilma (States) Stewart, of Wilmington;

brother-in-law, John Bladorn, of Janesville, WI and numerous nieces and nephews. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Louis Stewart, and one sister,

Marguerite Bladorn. The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 10 a.m. until the time of Masonic Funeral

Cremation rites will be accorded and Jerry will be laid to rest privately at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jerry's memory to the Wilmington A.F. & A.M.

Lodge 208 Family and friends are encourag sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Jerry's memorial page via social media.

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

Rites at 12 p.m.

Expect a big push to ban assault rifles in Illinois

Nancy

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

The votes to pass one seemingly been both there in chambers, but the 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

Under duress from the federal judiciary several years Illinois legislators approved a law allowing for concealed carrying 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 such an ordinance within the time limit, but other mayors figured that the state would eventually get around to ban-



posal 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

Hirschauer (D-Batavia) introduced an assault weapon ban this past January, but she had only picked up one co-sponsor the July 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 cant expenditure.

ing groups over the summer, with nothing ever actually get-

ed 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

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.

weapons with the Illinois State

But gun law reform groups Freshman Rep. Maura aren't taking any chances. A new not-for-profit "Protect Communities" 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 signifi-

In the past, we've seen House Speaker Chris things like nearly identical bills Welch convened several work- advanced by each chamber,

ning the weapons, including the Firearm Safety & ting through both chambers so they Reform Working Group, head- 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 found 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.

Veterans outreach event Dec. 19

The Grundy County itary, naval, or air service erans

Assistance and didn't receive a dishon-Commission [GCVAC], along with Department of Veterans after Sept. 7, 1980, or 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, 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 they served in the active mil- available to veterans.

orable discharge.

Those who 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@grundvcountyil.gov or 815-941-3152 to schedule an office ID. One may be eligible for appointment to discuss all VA health care benefits if of the benefits and services



Pension debt grows to \$139.7 billion

BY PETER HANCOCK

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

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

The funded ratio reflects the difference in the market

value of the funds' assets and decades to make adequate the amount of money the contributions as the employer. 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 by 2045, a plan commonly ability to pay out benefits that referred to as the "Edgar are owed. All five of the pension funds continue to pay out 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

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% Ramp.'

But the state has not benefits to eligible retirees on a always met its targets under

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 reports, COGFA said, preliminary estimates show the required contributions for the upcoming fiscal year will total

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 "actuarily

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



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•Hand, Foot, and Scalp massage

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encouragement, positive attitude, funny humor, or just feelings from past memories. Sponsored by

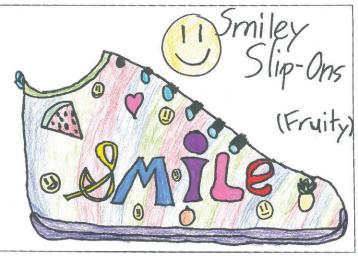
Goal: draw, color

and create your own

artwork to express

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

Drawing by Tandon S.



Help us express kindness! Create!

Better for Mother Nature

With ice and snow on the the message out that a single 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

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.

December 7, 2022

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 semiretired, 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

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey Fisher Attorney at Law

207 S. Water St., Wilmington



Phone: 815-476-7635



their support of the 2022 Festival of Trees

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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

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. Owensby'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-Frazier Yoga

Santa & Mrs. Claus

Berkot's

Barth Dental Care

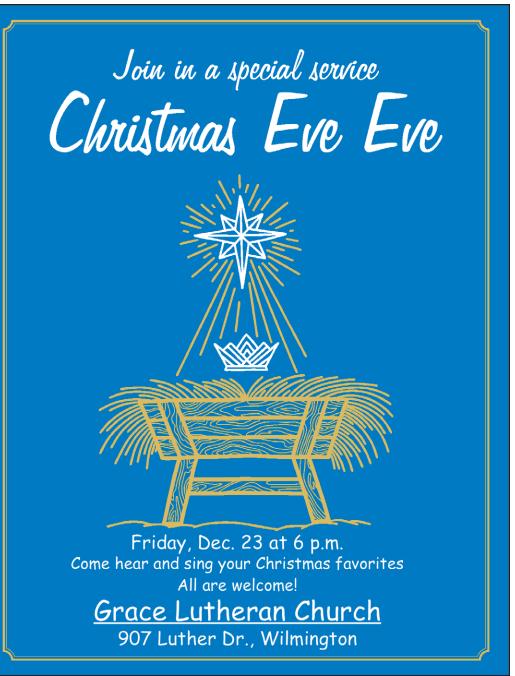
Benson Insurance

Quality Autobody

Laborers Union

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

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





-- 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.

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 benefitseven million over 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

Another place to look for help is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Using (LIHEAP). 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 pro-

grams 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 for-

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 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See https://emagazine.com. donate, visit earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@ earthtalk. org.



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





THE BRAIDWOOD

Morris Hospital adds family Nurse Practitioners

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.

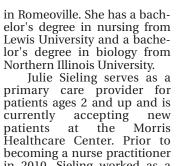
Diana Olsen serves as a primary care provider for patients of all ages and is currently accepting new patients at the Morris Healthcare Having previously worked at the Morris Hospital Yorkville Campus, Olsen has more than 12 years of experience as a registered nurse,



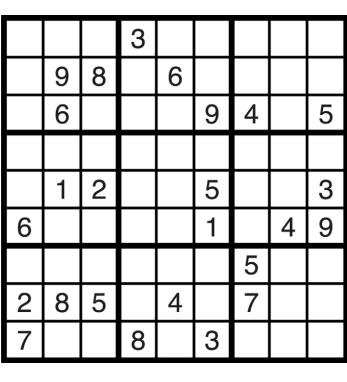
including four years of experitreating diabetes. ence as a family nurse practi-



Olsen received her mastioner in family practice and ter's degree in nursing and urgent care environments. She Family Nurse Practitioner ceralso has a clinical interest in tificate from Lewis University



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 Nurse Practitioners and am also a Breast



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.

the Mackinac Center 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 revenue flowing to the treas-

rate on cigarettes by a dollar a

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.

neighbors 'Illinois' 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

Grundy County seeking bids for

renovation of Board Room meeting space

PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County is soliciting sealed proposals from responsible and responsive vendors for the renovation and remodel of the Grundy County Administration Building's public board room meeting space. Sealed proposals must be submitted in an envelope and clearly marked on the exterior "Board Room Remodel" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with an original signature. No responsibility

ceany flarked on the exterior boater Room Remoder and Contain 10th (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with an original signature. 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 3:00 pm (cst.) December 22ND, 2022 at the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At 3:00pm (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

Respondents should complete a personal examination of the proposed workshie 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 10:00 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

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 Maintenance 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

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

countyli.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.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21,

Respondents should complete a personal examination of the proposed worksite for

Tax Foundation noted. "The ury for the state of Indiana, it is state increased their excise tax a positive one as a function of 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 complimentary good, if you go to the mom-and-pop store to buy alcohol, you often pick up cigarettes and vise 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.

Elwood Fire Protection District accepting bids for 2023 Can-Am Defender

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Elwood Fire Protection District will be accepting bids for one (1) 2023 Can-Am Defender Pro XT 6x6, pursuant to all the specifications laid out by the Apparatus Build Committee. Bid specifications/bid packets are available for pick up at the Elwood Fire Protection District, Mon-Fri between the hours of 9am and 3pm or you may email admin@elwoodfpd.com to may email admin@elwoodfpd.com request a packet. All bids must be submit-ted by 9:00am December 19th, 2022. The sealed bids may be mailed to: Elwood Fire Protection District, 309 W Mississippi Street, Elwood, IL 60421, or dropped off in person between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri. The Fire District will not accept bids after the December 19th deadline. The bids shall be opened at the Elwood Fire Protection District Fire Station on December 19th, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The District reserves the right to reject any and all hids

all bids.

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7

5. Supervises interstate commerce 33. Antelopes

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 audiovisual 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 contract that the county county is the contract to the county of the county of

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 port marked according to this instructhe premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruc-

the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.

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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.

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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,

CLUES ACROSS

1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan 32. Popular airline

38. Peacock network

41. Utter repeatedly

45. Photographers

50. Cavalry sword

29. One's opinion

37. Legislator (abbr.)

40. Took for oneself

42. Thousands of pounds

41. Nigerian City

45. Secret clique 46. Expression

34. Holds ashes

49. Popular BBQ dish

56. Atomic mass unit

55. Ancient Greek sophist

57. Afflicted in mind or body

61. Jewish spiritual leader

59. Indian mythological figure

60. Mild expression of surprise

35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency

36. Side-blotched lizards genus

39. Concentrated bombardment

47. Dough made from corn flour

48. Father

43. One from the Golden State

- 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
- 62. Brew 63. Doctor of Education 64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- 1. State attorneys 2. Imitated
- 3. Latvian capital 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
- 48. Comedian Carvey

44. Inspired

- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Resistance fighters
- 58. Criticize

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

Chris Balkema

County Board Chairman



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.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines Classified Display Fridays - 5 p.m. **Classified Word Ads** Mondays - noon

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

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

HELP WANTED

check. You must have a clean driving record and a current valid driver's license. Duties include but are not limited to shop work such as cutting wood for window sashes, cutting roll aluminum. formed staining or painting window sashes. Also required will be field installations, deliveries, Our shop is clietc. controlled and mate very clean; we like to keep it that way. There will be little to no supervision, we need someone who can manage their time efficiently and honestly. Experience with shop tools such as a tape measure, miter saws, table saws, drill planning chines is a plus but not required if you are teachable. We offer excellent health insurpaid holidays, ance, and paid vacation all through our parent company. Work hours are 7:30am to 3:30pm with no weekends

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MORRIS, ILLI-GRUNDY -NOIS U.S. BANK TRUST ASSOCIA-TRUSTEE OF NATIONAL TION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-CABANA SERIES IV TRUST; Plaintiff, vs. JEREMIAH MARTIN ANGELICA I; STATE OF ILLI-UNKNOWN OWN-VIGNALI; NOIS; UNKNOWN OWN-ERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 20 CH 5 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclo-sure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty
Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 05-03-303-012. Commonly known as 322

a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property subsection Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sot-tile & Barile, LLC, 7530 Lu-cerne Drive, Middleburg cerne Drive, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. (440) 572-1512. INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES COR-PORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13209279 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, December 14, 21 & 28, 2022.

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A Thousand Words **Photography** 385 N. Second Ave. Coal City

Mandy Eaton 815-791-2913

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GRUNDY COUNTY'S

Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 By Grundy County Offices

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SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966.

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Janet Fisher-Schatz

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

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

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 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

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

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



Photo by Zadie Sims

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

block. Caelan Cole added 11 points and 2 Herscher, 40-27. The Lady Comets had too

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

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

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

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

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

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.



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



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



CAYSIE ESPARZA shoots the ball in the basket against GSW.

Segoviano sinks four treys in Panther win

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

On Monday, the Panthers Fierro contributed in the post ed another victory by 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. Iesse 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

Comets won 55-49.

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



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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

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 heals 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, respec-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.

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 con-

Manteno rallies

tributed nine points while Connor Eggleston

tallied four points.

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

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.

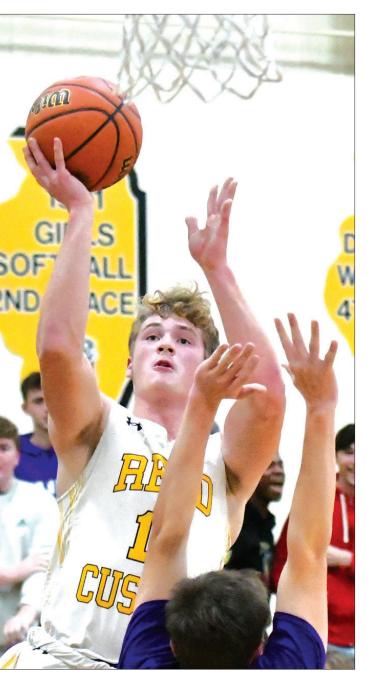
The Comets, who beat Herscher 62-46 to start the season, travels to Peotone Friday and Somonauk Monday. Their next home game won't be until Jan. 13.



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



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



game at home.



Photo by Zadie Sims WESLEY SHATS makes a basket against Manteno on Tuesday's

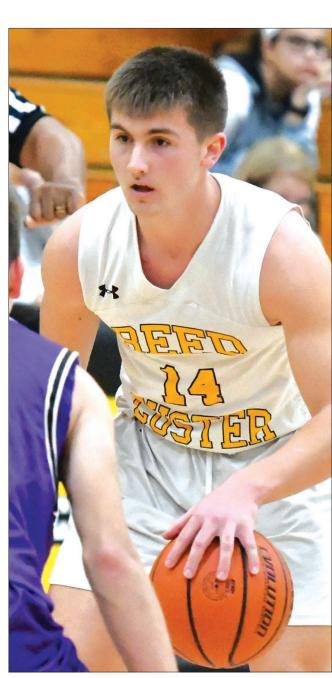


Photo by Zadie Sims LUCAS FOOTE dribbles out front while playing Manteno last week during the first home game of the season.

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