



DOWNTOWN MORRIS IL

invites you to be a part of our

Holiday Shopping Season

For more info visit morrissil.org or Morris Retail Association's Facebook page



EVENTS:

Dec. 2 Midnight in Morris

Dec. 11 WinterFest Market

Dec. 17 Holiday in the park



Morris Retail Association

MORRIS
Shop. Dine. Enjoy.

COAL CITY COURANT.com

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

Tornado continues to tax residents

STAFF REPORT

Seven years ago a powerful EF-3 tornado struck the village of Coal City, forcing village officials to issue bonds to cover the costs of damage from the storm. The burden of debt has been passed on to taxpayers ever since.

The village maxed out its debt issuance capability and pledged alternative revenue bonds in order to generate the funds it needed to recover from the June 2015 storm.

Town officials put the cost of the storm at nearly \$13.1 million, the majority of that reflecting the shortened life span and deterioration of

public streets and alleys due to the amount of heavy machinery and equipment that passed through the community in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

A review of the damage assessments by the state's Emergency Management Agency resulted in the figure being reduced to just over \$3 million.

The total failed to meet the threshold for federal funding assistance, and at the time, the state was without a budget and unable to assist the community.

So the village had no choice but to issue \$3 million in bonds to secure the dollars needed to

cover debris removal, security, restore impacted infrastructure and renovate damaged neighborhoods.

In the months and years that followed, town leaders reached out to state officials for any financial assistant that could be provided. Eventually the Illinois Department of Transportation was able to secure just over \$92,000 for the village. Those dollars were utilized to lover the cost of the annual tax levy in 2020.

It's through the annual tax levy that the village has secured the dollars necessary to cover the annual debt payments and this year is no

different.

Following a pubic hearing last week to address the debt payment, village trustees adopted a resolution setting forth a means for paying the yearly debt through the collection of property taxes. It's a process that town leaders go through each fall prior to adopting the levy.

In calendar year 2023 \$361,750 is due in principal and interest and the entirety of the payment will come from property taxes.

The amount will be included within the annual property tax levy that is scheduled to be discussed and voted on by trustees when the Village Board meets on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Santa Claus comes to town



Photo by Ann Gill

SANTA CLAUS MADE a pre-Christmas visit to the village of Coal City on Sunday. His stop in Grundy County was coordinated by the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club who worked with the village of Coal City on the holiday kick-off event that included the official lighting of the village's holiday decorations. Santa had the honor of flipping the switch to turn on the lighted display that line Broadway and Division Streets, as well as the tree and lights around Campbell Memorial Park and Village Hall. The highlight of the visit was meeting with children and Santa had dozens of youngsters stop by the park for a visit and to share their holiday wishes. Among those offering Santa some suggestions for under the tree were Emmy Provance [left] and Ellie Campo [right] who let the him know they would be happy to find Barbies, makeup and even a rainbow purse under the tree on Christmas morning. The girls were joined by Emmy's little brother, Duke.

\$51,620 approved for squad car purchase

STAFF REPORT

A new set of wheels will soon be patrolling the streets of Coal City.

The purchase of a new police squad car was included in the current year budget to replace a unit that has racked up considerable miles, but will be kept within the fleet.

According to Coal City Village Administrator Matt Fritz, the unit being replaced will be moved to one of the school district buildings for use by the school resource officers and will replace a vehicle that was purchased several years ago from the Ohio State Police.

A bid was obtained and the Village Board accepted the

SEE PURCHASE, PAGE 2

Trees, decor and so much more

Festival of Trees to support 2023 post prom celebration

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

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

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

Themed holiday trees and festive indoor and outdoor decor will be on display at 55 S. Daley St., Diamond from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on

Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. when the winning raffle tickets will be drawn.

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

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

Organized by parent volunteers from the junior class at Coal City High School, all

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 2



BERKOT'S
SUPER FOODS

SALE VALID
11/30/22-12/06/22

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272

COAL CITY 815-634-4224

BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR
WEEKLY AD AT
BERKOTFOODS.COM



Berkot's has all your favorite *top-quality* meat!



USDA
CHOICE

USDA Choice, Angus
Bone-In Strip Steaks
"The Kansas City Strip"
LIMIT 8 STEAKS

\$4.99
PER LB



USDA
CHOICE

USDA Choice, Angus
Boneless Top Round Roast

\$3.99
PER LB



BERKOT'S
SUPER FOODS

Berkot's Famous
Country Style Bacon
7 lbs or more

\$4.99
PER LB

Happy Holidays! - Visit Berkotfoods.com to Pre-Order Your Holiday Meats!

Insurance renewals approved by trustees

STAFF REPORT

The village of Coal City will keep its general liability and workers' compensation coverage through the Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative (IMIC).

Coal City has participated in IMIC for some time, but was looking at other options.

"Due to the collective actions of the group, some changes resulted and IMIC remains the best option for Coal City to gain these necessary coverages," said Village Administrator Matt

Fritz.

According to the administrator, Coal City's renewal outpaced the group as a whole with a 6.2% increase over the prior year as a result of increases in the total cost of payroll and vehicles.

Fritz said the insurance industry is pricing the replacement of assets at 115% of original value, due to inflation, should an asset need to be replaced.

The coverage rates obtained by the village include \$7 million of total coverage with deductibles at \$1,000 per property and auto

claim with the boiler and machinery policy requiring a \$25,000 deductible.

In other matters from the Nov. 21 meeting of the Village Board:

- Per the terms of a 2014 annexation agreement, trustees adopted ordinances abating the 2022 property taxes levied on the Coal City Area Club and the Cullick Farm.
- The annexation agreements provided the village with a path to extend sanitary sewer service to Prairie Oak Estates Subdivision.
- At the recommendation of the village engineer, trustees approved a \$316,399.80 pay-

ment to D Construction for street maintenance work completed this summer.

- Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$58,316.94. Included in the bills were a \$7,262.48 payment to Grainco E.S. for fuel, \$12,103.20 to The Economic Development Group for administrative fees related to the town's TIF district and an additional \$3,025.80 to Jacob & Klein, Ltd., and \$2,605 to CAMZ Communications, Inc. for the installation of printers in police squad cars.

The next meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Coalers named Students of the Month



COURTESY PHOTO

COAL CITY HIGH School principal Jennifer Kenney has announced 23 students were selected by their teachers as Students of the Month, an honor bestowed for their character. Recognized are [row one, from left]: Owen Quarles, Lance Perino, Weston Kucera, Tyler Gibson, Aidan Kenney, Jacob Cimino, Claire Ellena, Eric VanCleave, Alaina Morales and Anayi Mayorga. Standing are Amelia Fritz, Abby Stiles, Kiley McKim, Keaton Stoner, Carter Gill, Colin Schimandle, Jacob Peters, Mateo Blessing, Trey Buck, Khloe Picard and Lauren Hiles. Not pictured were Mia Ratajczak and Griffin Winke.



TEACHERS AT COAL City High School recognized the organizational skills of their students by nominating them for Students of the Month. The students were recently honored by building principal Jennifer Kenney. Those honored include [from left, seated]: Sydney Larson, Heather Kroeger, Emma Norrington, Melody Kinder, Carley Moris, Cabby Babcock and Ella Edwards. Standing: Colin Schimandle, Olivia Sage and Elliana Allen. Not pictured were: Bradley Burla, Joey Horkavy and Kylie Jackson.

Purchase

\$51,620 price submitted by D' Orazio Ford in Wilmington.

The new 2023 Explorer Interceptor is coming to the village below its retail price of \$60,000.

Initially, the village had planned to finance the new vehicle over a couple of budget cycles, however Fritz said due to the current general fund balance, the purchase will be made without financing.

The new unit will utilize radio equipment currently in use in the older squad car.

The last squad car acquired for the department was provided by D'Orazio Ford at no cost to the village.

Festival

proceeds from the event will be used for Promfest.

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

Endrst said there is a Little Tykes house, Blackstone Grill, hot chocolate beverage cart, large outdoor bench, leaf blower and an electric fireplace that are also up for raffle.

Tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5, 12 for \$10 and 25 for \$20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CCMS selects its Students of the Week



TROY LARSON
Middle School



LORELAI ERHARD
Middle School



XAVIER BAER
Middle School



GRACE HUNT
Middle School

Students of the Week



CIANNA MCKEE
Intermediate School



JAYCE CHRISTENSEN
Intermediate School



DRAKE AICHELE
Intermediate School



COURTESY PHOTO

COAL CITY EARLY CHILDHOOD Center Students of the Week for Nov. 30 in row one are (from left) Savannah Jessen and Maeve Hamann. Carter Pruden is in row two with Zac Harris, Owen Hoffmeyer, Isabella Jones and Caleb Provance. Completing the group in row three are Justine Jones, Ava Kirchner, Cooper Marshall, Autumn Mannoja, Gavin Holman and Everett Libner.



COURTESY PHOTOS

THIRD GRADE STUDENTS of the Week at Coal City Elementary School for the week of Nov. 30 are (from left): Vivian Hannon, Skylar Pfeiffer, Lorelei Miotk, Elliot Olson and Reed Clements.

freepressnewspapers.com

In Loving Memory of

Mike Lissy

And then I realized even though you are gone, a part of you will always remain inside of me. As long as the memories don't fade like the sun behind the fog on a cloudy day. I will see you on the other side of the stars, Mikey John

Love always

Melissa and Madyson

Award Winner

ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Serving newspapers since 1865

The Coal City Courant

USPS No. 120-060

Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by

G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,

271 S. Broadway St.

Coal City, IL 60416

Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Free Press Newspapers; P.O. Box 327; Wilmington, IL 60481

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

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

Advertising and Business Offices:

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

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

Display Advertising: Friday, noon

News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

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

Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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

Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Ann Gill, editor

A night to remember, a night of hope and healing

STAFF REPORT

They unite under the stars every December 6 to remember the children that look down on them from above. Together, they grieve the loss of their sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

The Angels of Hope candlelight remembrance vigil provides a place for grieving families to find strength and comfort in one another, a time and place for peace, hope and healing.

The vigil is centered around the Angel of Hope statue in Coal City's Campbell Memorial Park.

For 16 years the angel statue has served as a symbol of hope for all parents whose children have become

angels. It's a place for bereaved parents to find peace and healing, and find strength and comfort in one another.

Coal City's statue is the 69th nationwide and was dedicated to the community in 2006.

The concept of the angel statue is taken from the Richard Paul Evans' best-selling book, "The Christmas Box," a story of an elderly woman who grieves the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument.

This year's ceremony will take place at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, Dec. 6 around the angel statue.

Those attending are invited to bring a single white flower to place at the base of the statue at the conclusion of the program.

Election results are official

STAFF REPORT

Over half of Grundy County's 34,048 registered voters cast a ballot in the general election this fall.

Grundy County Clerk and Recorder Kay Olson reports voter turnout for the Nov. 8 election was at 57.53%, a combination of election day ballots, early in-person voting and vote by mail ballots.

The results of the election were made official last week upon a final canvas of the vote totals in all races.

Elected to represent the residents of Grundy County Board District 3 were incumbent Republicans Doug Boresi, Caleb Counterman and Harold Vota, and incumbent Democrat Ann Gill.

Joining the board will be James Riley and Georgette Vota, both Republicans.

The top six vote winners were Boresi 3,756, Riley, 3,710, Counterman 3,546, Harold Vota 3,268, Georgette Vota 3,017 and Gill 2,899, followed

by Jake Olson 2,724, Mike Onorato 2,691 and Dave Stover 2,006.

District 3 is comprised of Braceville, Felix, Garfield, Goodfarm, Goose Lake, Highland, Maine and Mazon Townships.

Representing the residents of County Board District 1 are incumbents Drew Muffler, Dan Cheshareck and Jerald White. Joining the board are Christina Jenkins-Likar, Douglas Ferro and Nathanel Greene, all are Republicans.

The lone Democrat in that race, incumbent Cody Mulac, failed to received the votes necessary to retain his seat.

There was no change in the representation within County Board District 2 as all six candidates were incumbents. Those continuing on the board for another term are Debra Warning, Chris Balkema, Joseph Schiavone, Eric Rasmusson and Greg Ridenour. All six are Republicans.

As a result of the election that found the entire 18 mem-

ber board up vote, the makeup of the County Board is 17 Republicans and one Democrat.

There was no change in the countywide office holders as the clerk, treasurer and sheriff were all unopposed in their bids for re-election.

The final vote totals showed Olson received 14,852 for clerk, Todd Koehn received 15,481 votes for treasurer and Sheriff Ken Briley received 15,925 votes.

Following a primary challenge last spring, Regional Superintendent of Schools Chris Mehochko was unopposed in the general election and will continue on his position serving the residents of Grundy and Kendall counties.

Grundy County State's Attorney Jason Helland will be departing his countywide office as he was elected to served as judge in the 13th Judicial Circuit filling a vacancy created by the Hon. Eugene P. Daugherty.

Helland, a Republican, faced a challenge from

Democrat Christina Cantlin.

The final votes from Nov. 8 show the Braceville Fire Protection District failed to receive enough support to pass a referendum that sought an increase in the corporate tax rate to cover the replacement of outdated equipment, payroll and insurance costs and cover dispatch fees.

The measure failed 145 to 172.

Grundy voters supported the Constitutional Amendment Proposal that would "guarantee workers the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively and to negotiate wages, hours and working conditions, and to promote their economic welfare and safety at work."

The local vote was 9,949 yes and 9,167 no. The measure was approved statewide.

The final vote totals cast by Grundy County voters in all races can be viewed by clicking the election result link on the main page of the county website at grundycountyil.gov.

Sharing songs of the season



IT'S THE BUSIEST time of the year for the Coal City High School Madrigals. As the holiday season gets underway the choir is keeping a busy schedule of performances leading up to the annual Christmas concert and play. To help kick-off the holiday season the Madrigals have appeared at the 3 French Hens Market and took part in Morris' Home for the Holidays event last weekend and participated in the lighting of Chapin Park. This week the choir will be sharing the sounds of the season at the annual Promfest Festival of Trees at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Diamond Banquet Hall. The choir's annual performances are set for Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. Members of the choir performing during Home for the Holidays include (from left): Elaina Patten, Gianna Savarino, Chessa Kuhel, Angelina Seeley, Elsa Bunton, Sammy Thackeray, Melody Kinder, Adeline Dowling, Sam Vota, Lilith McCants, Olivia Sage, Izzy Kostabe, alumn Aidan Kostbade, Logan Hausman, Logan Hawkins, alumn Eli Fritz and Shana Kelly and Collin Dames.

Holiday happenings

Thursday, Dec. 1—Coal City Intermediate School fifth grade and Coal City Middle School sixth grade band concert, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Saturday, Dec. 3—Santa visits the Coal City Public Library, 10-11:30 a.m. Register for a spot to visit with Santa and take part in other holiday themed activities.

Saturday, Dec. 3—Promfest Festival of Trees, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Diamond Banquet Hall. Santa visits from 1-3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4—Promfest Festival of Trees, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Diamond Banquet Hall. Santa visits from 1-3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4—Santa visits the Coal City Fire Protection District's Station 2, 1455 S. Berta Rd., 1-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6—Coal City High School choral concert, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10—Coal City High School Madrigals Christmas performance, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Sunday, Dec. 11—Coal City High School Madrigals Christmas performance, 2 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Tuesday, Dec. 13—Coal City Middle School seventh and eighth band concert, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Thursday, Dec. 15—Coal City High School j concert band performance, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Tuesday, Dec. 20—Coal City Middle School chorus concert, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Notice of deadline for filing Election petitions

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice for Filing of Consolidate Election Petitions

Notice is hereby given by the office of the Clerk of the Village of Diamond, 1750 E. Division St., Diamond, IL, will be open Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 through Friday, Dec. 16 from 7:30am-4:00pm and Monday Dec. 19, 2022 from 7:30am-4:30pm for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions for Village Commissioner. Consolidated Election to be held April 4, 2023.

Lori Holmes
Village Clerk
1750 E. Division St.
Diamond, IL 60416
Phone: 815-634-8149 ext. 110
Fax: 815-634-3149
clerk@villageofdiamond.org
www.villageofdiamond.org
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 30, 2022.

Diamond approves 2023 meeting dates

PUBLIC NOTICE

Approved 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

Listed below is the schedule of regular meetings for the 2023 calendar year of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for the Village of Diamond. Regular meetings of the Mayor and Commissioners shall be held on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday each month at six o'clock p.m. (6:00 p.m.). If a regular meeting falls on a legal holiday, the meeting shall take place on an alternate date as determined by the board.

The approved board meeting dates for 2023 are as follows:
January 10, January 24, February 14, February 28, March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25, May 9, May 23, June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22, September 12, September 26, October 10, October 24, November 14, November 28 and December 12.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 30, 2022.

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 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 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 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 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.grundycountyil.gov/proposals-and-rfp/ or Demandstar www.demandstar.com. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website.

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

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

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

Massage Serenity files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on November 15th, A.D. 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Massage Serenity, located at 208 Depot St., Unit C, Gardner, IL 60424.

Dated this 15th day of November, A.D. 2022.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2022.

Attorney Schmidt files Pink estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

No. 2022-PR-92

In the Matter of the Estate of Brandon R. Pink, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Brandon R. Pink. Letters of office were issued on November 23, 2022 to Lisa Johnson as independent administrator, whose attorney of record is Charles L. Schmidt, 117 W. Washington St., Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed on or before the 30th day of May 30, 2023 or claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Grundy County Courthouse, PO Box 707, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450, or with the representative through her attorney, or both. Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Charles L. Schmidt
Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd.
117 West Washington Street
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-0701
grundylaw@gmail.com

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14, 2022.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Because it's your right to know

Attorney Meents files Esparza estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GONZALA NEVAREZ ESPARZA,, Deceased; No. 2022PR88

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of GONZALA NEVAREZ ESPARZA, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on November 7, 2022, to Arturo "Art" Esparza, whose address is 55 North Second Avenue, Coal City, 60416; whose attorney is Fisher Meents LLC, 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 17, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinois-e-galaid.org.

ARTURO "ART" ESPARZA
Independent Executor of the Estate of GONZALA NEVAREZ ESPARZA, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
E-mail Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 23 and 30, 2022.

Village of Coal City to hold hearing for Community Development Block Grant

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Coal City will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at Coal City Village Hall at 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federal funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact the North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG), 613 W. Marquette St., Ottawa, IL (815) 433-5830 no later than December 9, 2022. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

On or about January 19, 2023, the Village of Coal City intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant from the State CDBG program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: grant administration, construction supervision, and housing rehabilitation of approximately 10 owner-occupied, single-family homes in the project target area of, bordered by the Village Limits of Coal City, in Grundy County Illinois. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$650,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons is \$650,000. The Village of Coal City also proposes to expend \$20,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. The \$20,000 non-CDBG funds will be derived from the Village's Capital Fund.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of November 30, 2022, at the Coal City Village Hall located at 515 S. Broadway in Coal City between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to NCICG no later than December 14, 2022, in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the Village of Coal City and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Connie Buchanan, (815) 433-5830, or write to Connie Buchanan, NCICG, 613 W. Marquette St., Ottawa, IL 61350.

Terry Halliday, President
Village of Coal City

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 30, 2022..

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to
www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-

lish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Made the town proud

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

What's the purpose?

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

25 mph please

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

We're the pawns

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

Always, Margot Lane

Violence will rule

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

Grab a rake

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

For the future

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

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

Share the holidays

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

Be thankful

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

Know what's happening

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

Tired of it

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

A good pick

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

Great parade

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

For the record

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



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

What's wrong here?

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

Seeking service

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

The ones you love

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

Have faith

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

All are suffering

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

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

Sharon

Need a break

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

Appreciate community

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

A sad fact

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

It's been 20 years since first AMBER alert

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

The AMBER Alert System is named after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was abducted and later found murdered in 1996 after playing near her home in Arlington, Texas. In response to community concern, the Texas Association of Radio Managers and law enforcement created the first AMBER Plan. Today, all 50 states have similar plans.

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

The Alerts are broadcast

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

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

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

To receive AMBER Alerts on your cell phone, visit www.amberillinois.org.

Automatic extensions for driver's licenses to end this week

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

To avoid lines at Secretary of State offices it's best to conduct business online at ilsos.gov.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

warrencollisioncenteril.com



✓ **Finest quality warranted collision repair**
✓ **Rentals available**
✓ **Certified technicians**
✓ **All insurance accepted**
✓ **Completed in a timely fashion**

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER

860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

YOUR NEW HOME DESERVES THE BEST PROTECTION

American Family Insurance is proud to be named Best Homeowners Insurance of 2021 by Forbes Advisor.

Contact me today and get the protection you deserve.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies, American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2020 19714-421-1472310

Forbes ADVISOR BEST Homeowners Insurance 2021


From Forbes Advisor, Jan. 12, 2021 © Forbes Media Intelligence Operations, Inc. 2021

Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364
863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404
teamgresham@amfam.com
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry

- New patients
- Emergency visits welcome

All forms of insurance accepted including Meridian and Dentaquest



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

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

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

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Spice up the Holidays with a Homemade Wassail

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fast forward to 2022, and you will find that the Wassail bowl over the fire has been replaced by the slow cooker.

There are hundreds of Wassail/Mulled Wine recipes available online, and who knows how many handwritten recipes are tucked away in drawers and recipe books around the globe.

The common thread in



Brian Rung

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

Homemade Wassail is best prepared in a large slow cooker.

Combine in slow cooker:

- 2 750 ml bottles red wine (Pinot Noir or rioja)
- 4 cups apple cider
- 2 1/2 cups orange juice
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 cups frozen pitted cherries
- 1 large apple, sliced thin
- 1 large orange, sliced thin
- 1 piece fresh ginger, sliced
- 8-10 cinnamon sticks
- 1 vanilla bean, cut open
- 1 teaspoon cloves

Cover and heat on high for 3 hours, or on low for at least 5 hours. Ladle into glasses, garnish with fruit and cinnamon sticks.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



Courtesy photo by: Ken Murp

A SHORT-EARED OWL flies over the Group 63 Trail at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The trail is located near the Iron Bridge Trailhead.

“Owl Watch” photo tours will take place at Midewin Prairie

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Saturday, December 3

U.S. Military veterans and family members: This tour is tailored to connect U.S. Military veterans and family members with nature through Brushwood Center’s “At Ease” Nature Platoon at Midewin.

- Saturday, December 10

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

To register to participate in an “Owl Watch” Photography Tour at Midewin, please call 815-423-6370 or email sm.fs.Midewin_RSVP@usda.gov.

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

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

Forest Preserve to host “Sensory Sundays”

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

This independent program is for guests with sensory-processing needs, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and those who would benefit from a small-group experience.

The center will be open only to registered participants.

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

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Deer harvest up in first half of firearms season

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

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

Hunters in Grundy (172) and Will (134) counties harvested more deer than the year before while in Kankakee County there was a decline from 140 deer to 114.

Other deer hunting opportunities in the weeks ahead include:

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

Gas price lowest in nine months

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May God Bless,
Dave Czys & Family

MOLD SQUAD RESTORATION & CONTRACTING

MOLD • WATER • FIRE • ASBESTOS • CONSTRUCTION
WATERPROOFING • EXTERIORS

312.607.8225
www.moldsquadusa.com

24/7 emergency service We're local

THANK YOU

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

Bill & Georgia Phelan

Thank You

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

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

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

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

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

★ Veteran & Senior Discounts ★
Call the trusted team at

BREEZE-AIR
Local, Trusted Company

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Call (815) 476-6615

ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB Rating: A+ American Standard

BY ZETA CROSS
THE CENTER SQUARE

"Prices have gotten so high. I expect them to start coming down," Professor Daniel McMillen of the Stuart Handler Department of Real Estate at the University of Illinois Chicago said. "With interest rates as high as they are, it has to be the case that the housing market has to slow up."

"The low-priced homes start to drop out of the market. Higher-priced homes will often continue to sell," McMillen said. That was what the market saw in October, he added.

"I'm talking about an adjustment back to the 4% to 5% range," McMillan said.

Phone: _____



Tickets are free in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food and/or paper products or if preferred, monetary donations are also appreciated with all donations going directly to Daybreak Center in Joliet to assist residents in need.

FREE



At the time of the delivery of the Boxes of Joy to the central delivery station on Nov. 10, St. Rose was leading all other deanery participants with 131 boxes in addition to monetary donations of \$197.00.



**20%
DISCOUNT**
All Christmas
Decor
(some exclusions
apply)

COUNTRYSIDE VILLAGE Gifts

Christmas

OPEN HOUSE

Sat., Dec. 3 — 9am-5pm &
Sun., Dec. 4 — 10am-4pm



WINE TASTING
Noon - 4pm
Saturday Only

Enjoy our
Refreshments & More!



Christmas Greenery, Wreaths, Trees,
Decorations, Signs, Ornaments,
Snowmen, Linens, Flags, Gnomes,
Pillows and SO MUCH MORE!

1540 N Division St., Braidwood Ph. 815-458-2191
(right off of RT 113 & Frontage Road) countrysidevillagegifts.com



Like us on
Facebook

OBITUARIES

Dale Kane

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

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

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

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



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

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

Cremation rites have been accorded per Dale's wishes.

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

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

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

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

Wilma L. Ingalsbe

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

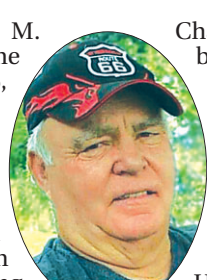
Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Marvin M. Manegold

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

John T. Cavanaugh

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Memorials may be directed to the Ronald McDonald House Charity.

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

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Michael E. Parcell



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

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

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

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



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

Mike was preceded in death by his parents.

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

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

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

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

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

Edna Riggs

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Cremation rites were accorded following the services.

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

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

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

Need printing?

We'll put our award-winning graphic arts department to work for you to typeset and print practically anything.

Sure you can order printing online but it's not always cheaper when you add in those hidden art charges and shipping.

Get a local quote first!

Specializing in full color business cards

- business cards
- banners
- business forms
- dinner tickets
- posters
- fliers
- letterhead
- raffle tickets
- resumes
- full color copies
- envelopes
- yard signs and more

We'll take care of your printing needs from start to finish.



Stop in for a free competitive quote
111 S. Water St., Wilmington
Ph. 815-476-7966

OBITUARIES

JoAnn Friddle

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

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

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

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

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

Survivors include her loving husband, Don;



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grundy Bank coat drive a huge success

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

Wilmington.

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

"The Wilmington Branch of Grundy Bank was pleased to

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

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

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

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



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



Preserving Assets From Generation to Generation

Taking legal action to protect your assets, provide for your loved ones, and ensure your final wishes are followed while you can make these decisions on your own terms is important.

- Elder Law
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning
- Living Trust
- Last Will & Testament
- Power of Attorney
- Probate

To speak with an attorney about the best way to secure peace of mind and protection, call our office today.



207 S. Water St., Wilmington

815-476-7635

Cookies with Santa Dec. 4

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

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

child.

To register email: hoopie2012@gmail.com and include your family name and the number of children attending.

Come out to see Santa and have some delicious

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

NOW OPEN



Easy Online Booking: wildcatsst.com

Or Contact: chris@wildcatsst.com / 815-768-0681
eric@wildcatsst.com / 630-750-1279

131 N. School St., Wilmington, IL

Walk in. Feel better.



Convenient Care 7 days a week!

No appointment needed.

Mon-Fri 8am-7pm
Sat & Sun 8am-2pm



MORRIS HOSPITAL
DIAMOND-COAL CITY
CAMPUS

1450 E. Division Street, Diamond

Additional urgent care locations:

Channahon, Morris & Yorkville

For hours by location, go to morrishospital.org/urgentcare.



Christmas in the Commons

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 18
4:00-8:00 PM
NEW LENOX VILLAGE COMMONS

Featuring visits from Santa, a holiday market,
horse-drawn wagon rides, reindeer,
ice skating, and much more...
all under a dazzling display of lights!



FREE ADMISSION

NEWLENOX.NET/EVENTS | (815) 462.6400

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY



State Farm

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

"Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years"

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond
(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

INSURANCE

Overturning Roe v. Wade changed outcome of recent election

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

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

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

"Right now, we're a single Legislature or a single Supreme Court away from losing [abortion] rights," Welch told KSDK TV.

Welch will soon have more members of his party than any Speaker since the state constitution was revised to reduce the chamber's membership by a third. He said there were a number of explanations for his caucus' expansion, but the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade was "monumental."

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

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

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

Senate President Don Harmon told me it been a couple of things.

"Across the country, Democrats did about three points better than they were polling. And I think it's in part because of the way voters responded to [the repeal of Roe v. Wade]. This is the first time in a long time a long-held right has been taken away in such dramatic fashion. I think that did motivate voters, but not necessarily the voters we were calling because they weren't part of the turnout model. So I think when we unpack this, I think you're going to see some voters, younger voters, younger women in particular, but not just women, who said, 'I'm not giving up my rights that easily and I'm going to go vote.'"

"And I also suspect, and would love to prove it with the analysis of the numbers, something we saw anecdotally going door to door, that women who would traditionally be considered Republican women weren't thinking about voting Republican because of that issue. And they might have been lying to their husbands, they might have been lying to the pollsters, but they weren't lying once they got inside the voting booth."

To sum up, Harmon said, "I think voters we didn't think

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

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



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

Drawing by Elijah S.



Help us express kindness! Create!

Santa Claus will be visiting Festival of Trees Sat. & Sun., Dec. 3 & 4 1 - 3 pm



COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIOR CLASS PRESENTS

Festival of Trees

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 2022

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 4, 2022

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

DIAMOND BANQUET HALL

55 S. DALY STREET, DIAMOND

Free Admission - Raffles - Entertainment - Refreshments

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

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Extra patrols resulting in fewer shootings

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

deter criminal activity.

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

Sunday.

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

Man pleads guilty to illegally importing live catfish into Will County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



STARTING ON GIVING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29,
2022, THROUGH
DECEMBER 18TH:

Matching
Angels

Our Anonymous Matching Angels have returned again this holiday season! The first \$3,000 in donations received until December 18th will be matched.

Mark your donation "Angel Fund" and mail to:

Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington IL 60481

or donate online at www.kuzmacarecottage.org

Concerns on the shortage of batteries

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

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

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

Renewable alternatives are starting to garner more support for both electricity

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

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

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



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

Renewable energy projects are also reporting difficulties procuring lithium and nickel due to having to compete against the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers.

EV companies have proven to be a formidable competitor in the market due to their consistency and predictable ordering patterns which make them a favorite for battery manufacturers to work with.

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

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

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

While we wait for the next

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

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

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



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

Will County increases focus on attracting green industries

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

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

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

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



Photo provided by the Clean Grid Alliance

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

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

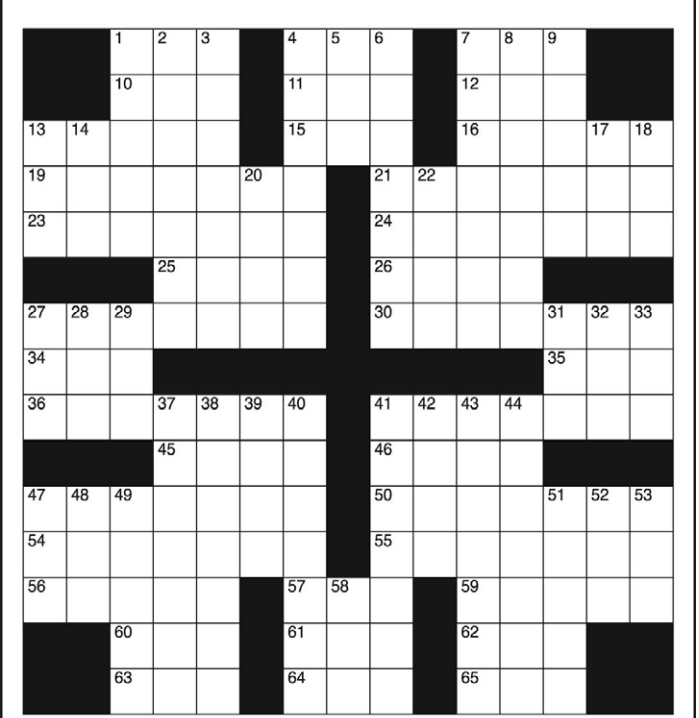
This zoning amendment makes Will County one of the

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

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

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

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



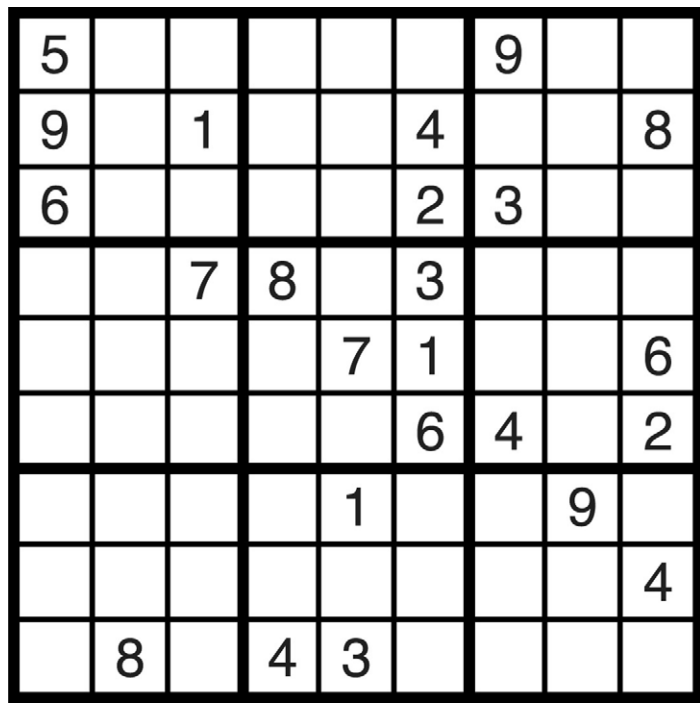
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Single Lens Reflex
- 4. People of southern Benin
- 7. One who is learned (abbr.)
- 10. Neckwear
- 11. Solid water
- 12. A way to work the soil
- 13. Inspiring
- 15. Pick up
- 16. It wakes you up
- 19. Parcel
- 21. Popular dog breed
- 23. Lets out a sigh
- 24. Embedded into the surface
- 25. Hard liquors
- 26. One from Scotland
- 27. Satisfy
- 30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement
- 34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)

- 35. Similar
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. Soft drink maker
- 45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
- 46. Nursemaid
- 47. Inheritor
- 50. Hot, often dusty wind
- 54. Serves as an introduction
- 55. Earned top billing
- 56. Mansion
- 57. A partner to a carrot
- 59. War-horse
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. It checks the heartbeat
- 62. Aquatic salamander
- 63. CNN's founder

CLUES DOWN

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



Mountain lion removed from residential area, transported to rescue center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Costa Rica

9 Day Tour. Includes All Meals, All Hotels, and All Activities.

\$995

Choose a Guided Tour +tax, fees

Costa Rica	9 days	\$995
Panama	8 days	\$995
Guatemala	8 days	\$995
Mexico		
- Ancient Civ.	9 days	\$995
- Copper Canyon	8 days	\$1295

Hike in jungle rainforests, view volcanoes, soak in hot springs, cruise biological reserves and relax on tropical ocean beaches. Join the smart shoppers and experienced travelers.

Caravan

Fully Guided Tours Since 1952

Surf Broadband Solutions

Connect Further, Faster.

RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive
FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!

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

Coal City Community Unit School District No. 1 files annual financial report

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022										
The summary must be published in the local newspaper.										
Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.										
Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:										
Coal City CUSD 1		550 S Carbon Hill Rd Coal City, IL 60416 1663		815-634-2287		8 AM to 4 PM (Mon-Fri)				
School District/Joint Agreement Name		Address		Telephone		Office Hours				
Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.										
SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.										
Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2022										
		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	21,942,691	3,846,090	3,449,884	1,556,075	832,396	58,416	329,469	387,380	40,784
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	24,253	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	1,772,507	0	0	865,307	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	2,597,763	0	0	0	0	948,363	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		26,337,214	3,846,090	3,449,884	2,421,382	832,396	1,006,779	329,469	387,380	40,784
Total Disbursements/Expenditures		23,152,374	2,841,527	3,497,556	2,597,361	720,010	1,170,021		95,619	0
Other Sources/Uses of Funds	(513,474)	(1,000,000)		13,474	0	0	1,500,000	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2021		11,228,689	2,333,393	34,198	2,571,520	410,997	331,480	404,306	554,754	358,698
Other Changes in Fund Balances - Increases (Decreases)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2022		13,900,055	2,337,956	0	2,395,541	523,383	1,668,238	733,775	846,515	399,482
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2022		14,266,011	2,337,956	0	2,395,541	523,383	1,668,238	733,775	846,515	399,482
STATEMENT OF REVENUES RECEIVED/REVENUES, EXPENDITURES DISBURSED/EXPENDITURES, OTHER SOURCES/USES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022										
Student Activity Funds should be listed separately on Lines 34, 36, and 38.										
Description	Acct No	(10) Educational	(20) Operations & Maintenance	(30) Debt Service	(40) Transportation	(50) Municipal Retirement & Social Security	(60) Capital Projects	(70) Working Cash	(80) Tort	(90) Fire Prevention & Safety
RECEIPTS/REVENUES										
Local Sources	1000	21,942,691	3,846,090	3,449,884	1,556,075	832,396	58,416	329,469	387,380	40,784
Flow-Through Received/Revenue from One District to Another District	2000	24,253								
State Sources	3000	1,772,507			865,307					
Federal Sources	4000	2,597,763					948,363			
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		26,337,214	3,846,090	3,449,884	2,421,382	832,396	1,006,779	329,469	387,380	40,784
Rec. Rev. for "On Behalf" Payments	3998	1,581,405								
Total Receipts/Revenues		27,918,619	3,846,090	3,449,884	2,421,382	832,396	1,006,779	329,469	387,380	40,784
DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENDITURES										
Instruction	1000	16,406,797				720,010				
Support Services	2000	6,363,805	2,642,164		2,597,361		1,170,021		95,619	
Community Services	3000	48								
Payments to Other Districts & Govt Units	4000	381,724	199,363							
Debt Services	5000			3,497,556						
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		23,152,374	2,841,527	3,497,556	2,597,361	720,010	1,170,021		95,619	
Disb. Expend. for "On Behalf" Payments	4180	1,581,405	0			0	0		0	
Total Disbursements/Expenditures		24,733,779	2,841,527	3,497,556	2,597,361	720,010	1,170,021		95,619	0
Excess of Direct Receipts/Revenues Over (Under) Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		3,184,840	1,004,563	(47,672)	(175,979)	112,386	(163,242)	329,469	291,761	40,784
Other Sources of Funds	7000									
Other Uses of Funds	8000	513,474	1,000,000	(13,474)			(1,500,000)			
Total Other Sources/Uses of Funds		(513,474)	(1,000,000)	13,474	0	0	1,500,000	0	0	0
Excess of Receipts/Revenues & Other Sources of Funds (Over/Under) Expenditures/Disbursements & Other Uses of Funds		2,671,366	4,563	(34,198)	(175,979)	112,386	1,336,758	329,469	291,761	40,784
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2021		11,228,689	2,333,393	34,198	2,571,520	410,997	331,480	404,306	554,754	358,698
Other Changes in Fund Balances - Increases (Decreases)										
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2022		13,900,055	2,337,956	0	2,395,541	523,383	1,668,238	733,775	846,515	399,482
Student Activity Fund Balance - July 1, 2021		323,030								
RECEIPTS/REVENUES - Student Activity Funds										
Student Activity Fund Revenues	1799	306,539								
DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENDITURES - Students Activity Funds										
Student Activity Fund Expenditures	1999	263,613								
Excess of Direct Receipts/Revenues Over (Under) Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		42,926								
Student Activity Fund Balance - June 30, 2022		365,956								
RECEIPTS/REVENUES (with Student Activity Funds)										
Local Sources	1000	22,249,230	3,846,090	3,449,884	1,556,075	832,396	58,416	329,469	387,380	40,784
Flow-Through Received/Revenue from One District to Another District	2000	24,253	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	1,772,507	0	0	865,307	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	2,597,763	0	0	0	0	948,363	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		26,643,753	3,846,090	3,449,884	2,421,382	832,396	1,006,779	329,469	387,380	40,784
Rec. Rev. for "On Behalf" Payments	3998	1,581,405	0	0		0				
Total Receipts/Revenues		28,225,158	3,846,090	3,449,884	2,421,382	832,396	1,006,779	329,469	387,380	40,784
DISBURSEMENTS/EXPENDITURES (with Student Activity Funds)										
Instruction	1000	16,670,410				720,010				
Support Services	2000	6,363,805	2,642,164		2,597,361	0	1,170,021		95,619	0
Community Services	3000	48								
Payments to Other Districts & Govt Units	4000	381,724	199,363							
Debt Services	5000	0		3,497,556		0				
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		23,415,987	2,841,527	3,497,556	2,597,361	720,010	1,170,021		95,619	0
Disb. Expend. for "On Behalf" Payments		1,581,405	0			0	0			
Total Disbursements/Expenditures		24,997,392	2,841,527	3,497,556	2,597,361	720,010	1,170,021		95,619	0
Excess of Direct Receipts/Revenues Over (Under) Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		3,227,766	1,004,563	(47,672)	(175,979)	112,386	(163,242)	329,469	291,761	40,784
Total Other Sources/Uses of Funds		(513,474)	(1,000,000)	13,474	0	0	1,500,000	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2022		14,266,011	2,337,956	0	2,395,541	523,383	1,668,238	733,775	846,515	399,482
* This tab should match the amounts in the Annual Financial Report (AFR) on the "Acct Summary" tab										

