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BAHCC explores connection between experiences, addiction

Experiences in childhood can impact long-term health, wellness

BY MARNEY SIMON
STAFF WRITER

With a record-breaking year for drug deaths in the county, and more than 10 people already placed into treatment for opiate addiction with the help of the Braidwood police department, Braidwood continues to be a city in crisis.

But members of the Braidwood Area Healthy Communities Coalition (BAHCC)

are looking at the problem from more than one angle. This month, members began to tackle understanding how adverse childhood experiences – ACEs – can affect the health and well-being of those in Braidwood.

“Why do you think Braidwood has more of a drug problem than other communities? It’s a really tough question to answer,” said Pete Dell’Aquila, project coordinator for the BAHCC. “If we had that answer, we’d be able to do a lot more about the problem.”

Dell’Aquila said part of the problem may lie with how many ACEs are experienced by local youth.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ACEs are part of the foundational research connecting childhood experiences – both pos-

“If YOU CAN IDENTIFY THESE THINGS EARLY, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE DOWN THE ROAD.”

PETE DELL’AQUILA
BAHCC PROJECT COORDINATOR

itive and negative – with future physical, mental health, and behavioral issues, including future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health issues.

“What happens with these adverse childhood experiences, is that when they happen at a very young age, they kind of alter the way that the brain develops,” Dell’Aquila said. “You’re a lot more likely to experience different

health problems, whether it’s heart disease, or a lot of different health disparities that come from having an adverse childhood experience.”

ACEs are identified as abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. Abuse includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Neglect includes physical and emotional neglect.

Household dysfunction includes growing up in a home where one of more members suffers from mental illness, domestic violence, or substance abuse, having a relative who is incarcerated, or where the parents are divorced.

Nationwide, 67 percent of children live in a home with at least one ACE. The more ACEs a child experiences, the more likely they are to have disrupted neurodevelopment, social, emotional, or cognitive impairment, or adopt

health-risk behaviors.

“People with high ACEs scores are the people who are a lot more likely to commit suicide, they are more likely to abuse substances, and if we can start screening or we’re more aware of these ACEs, it might give us a better picture of what’s going on in our community.”

According to the CDC, states have been contributing to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) since 1982. Over the past eight years, many states have also collected data on ACEs for the BRFSS, an annual, random-digit-dial telephone survey that collects data from non-institutionalized U.S. adults regarding health conditions and risk factors.

The most recent results of that

SEE BAHCC, PAGE 2

RC preps kids for STEM futures

BY MARNEY SIMON
STAFF WRITER

The Reed-Custer School District is working hard to focus students on STEM careers. To that end, the district has upped its efforts in STEM education, and increased opportunities for students to reach out and connect with the folks in STEM-based careers right here in the community.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

The district is taking a two-pronged approach to STEM education – the classes students need, and helping them connect to real world careers by partnering with the area’s two local Exelon power plants.

“The first part is creating some networking opportunities within our own community. Connecting with the Braidwood plant and well as with the Dresden plant,” said Christine Nelson, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. “Every year we’ve had students go to the Braidwood plant training facility, and they experience what it’s like to be in the control room. This year, we had a group of 6th grade students go to the Dresden plant. They spent the day there and they were able to do some hands-on activities in each of the different components of the training facility. So, they had some exposure to engineering, they had some exposure to the mechanical side of running the plant, they learned a lot

about how that plant operates.”

It’s a lesson that has become more important as demanding careers in STEM disciplines expand. Nelson said that students at the middle and high school were able to connect even further with Exelon engineers, net-working with some of the younger professionals who work at the power plants.

“Our 8th graders and our high school students had breakfast with six of the engineers from the Dresden plant, which was a more informal setting,” Nelson said. “They talked about their education, all that experience that led them to those engineering careers, so our kids were really interested in what they had to say and had a lot of questions for them, about their college experience, their high school experience, and then their career experience as well. They were able to really connect with them.”

The increase in STEM work and exposure has continued this spring. This week, six high school students will participate in an all-female conference at Argonne National Laboratory.

“I’m trying to push the science piece with our girls as well,” Nelson said, noting that the process to participate in the Argonne conference was selective. “They will have some hands-on opportunities at Argonne National Laboratory to work with females in science and

SEE STEM, PAGE 2



Courtesy photos

THE REED-CUSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT has stepped up the efforts in the 2016-2017 school year to make STEM a priority. STEM - which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math - has become not just academically focused, but career focused, as the district works to expose students to a network of STEM professionals. Middle and high school students had the opportunity this month to meet with engineers from Exelon’s Dresden Station, to learn more about jobs in science and engineering. Sixth graders also got to visit Dresden, and get an immersive experience with hands-on activities in each of the different components of Exelon’s training facility.



Road maintenance to return for spring

STAFF REPORT

Winter has made a bold return to the area for a blast of cold in mid-March. But while this week’s weather has put salt trucks out on the road for – hopefully – one last clearing this year, city crews are already preparing for road work and maintenance.

This week, the city set out to map out spring projects, using motor fuel tax (MFT) funds.

Braidwood has been appropriated \$350,000 in MFT funds from the state of Illinois.

The MFT fund is managed by the state, with funds passed on to municipalities. The state takes the tax at gas pumps, imposed for what is described as the “privilege” of operating motor vehicles along state highways as well

as recreational watercraft on Illinois waterways. Taxes are charged at the pump, then collected by the state and later distributed to municipalities and road districts specifically for use on road projects.

The tax is based on the consumption of motor fuel, and is imposed at a rate of 19 cents per gallon on unleaded fuel and 21.5 cents per gallon on diesel.

The \$350,000 allocated by the state for this year’s repairs is earmarked predominantly for patching of city streets, where needed. Work will include any necessary engineering, patchwork, street and shoulder repair, and street improvements. The total estimated cost of maintenance is \$297,414, with an additional \$25,043 in estimated engineering costs for the city-wide projects.

Officer to pedal 350 miles in charity ride

Funds raised will benefit families of officers killed in line of duty

BY PAM MONSON
EDITOR

WILMINGTON - His brother got him into this, but he keeps rolling in support of his brothers in blue.

Officer Matt Kiebles of the Wilmington Police Department will mark his fifth year as a rider in Cycle Across Illinois, a charity bicycle ride that raises money and awareness for the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), Illinois Chapter. The ride honors law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty, and organizers try to route it through or near the homes, communities and departments of the officers being recognized.

Kiebles served as an escort for the ride for three years until his brother, Curt, a police officer in Wheaton, convinced him to leave the comfort of the escort detail and get on a bicycle and pedal the 300- to 400-mile route with him. It was at the very least an opportunity to get in shape, at best a chance to go beyond a blue light bulb to show his support for fellow officers.

“I come from a law enforcement family, and COPS is an organization that benefits the families of officers who are killed in the line of duty. So, being from a law enforcement family, being law enforcement, it means something to me in the sense that, if something happened to me in the line of duty, I know that COPS

SEE RIDE, PAGE 2



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BAHCC

survey show that almost two-thirds of adults surveyed have at least one ACE, and more than one in five reported three or more ACEs.

That ACE score is used to assess cumulative childhood stress. The findings of that study over the past several years show a relationship between ACEs and negative health and well-being outcomes as an adult.

"We've heard a lot about trauma as a child, but there hasn't been a lot of science behind it. This study is focusing on the science aspect of it," Dell'Aquila said.

Subjects with increased ACEs also have higher risk of myocardial infarction, asthma, mental distress, depression, smoking, disability, lower income, unemployment, lowered educational attainment, coronary heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.

This latest survey follows a CDC-Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, conducted between 1995 and 1997. According to the CDC, that study was one of the largest to explore childhood abuse and neglect, and how experiences cor-

relate to negative health and well-being later in life.

The information pulled from state and national studies can be used on the local level, to help the BAHCC members tackle community problems more effectively.

"This might be able to help answer our question, 'why does our community look different from others?'" Dell'Aquila said. "There might be some people who have experienced these traumatic events that are slipping under the radar... Then we need to bring those services to our community, and that's something that we're working on as well, through the coalition and some of the work we're doing with the Wilmington Coalition."

Dell'Aquila noted that if BAHCC members can understand how ACEs affect members of the community, then the coalition can more effectively understand how Braidwood residents perceive the world, and how they cope with stress.

"If you can identify these things early, we may be able to help people down the road," Dell'Aquila said.

More information on the BAHCC can be found online, at braidwood-coalition.org.

STEM

technology positions."

Nelson said the shift to get more girls involved in STEM classes and careers is slowing gaining momentum, especially with the addition of classes within the new industrial technology department at RCHS.

"It's shifting slowly, and with this new group of high school students coming in, our 9th graders that have seen this program now which is new, I think we're going to see an increase in the number of girls that we see in those programs," Nelson said.

Nelson said the increase in STEM education and access to folks in STEM careers is a necessary step for introducing students to post-graduation career possibilities.

"The career opportunities are really expanding in the science and technology fields," Nelson said. "So, for our kids to understand what the opportunities are is really important. Especially when they get to high school, the courses that they take will help them in that direction... It's really just to let our kids know what is out there, and really right in our backyard."

Nelson said that for parents, it's not just about making sure their students are talking math and science classes. STEM careers



File photo

STUDENTS IN MR. SMITH'S Industrial Technology class learn to use the district's CNC router during class last fall. The new IT classes offered at RCHS are part of the district's commitment to introducing students to STEM education that can be used later for college and career advancement.

need well-rounded individuals, which means that electives and arts are also an important part of the system.

"It was interesting, what the engineers were talking about, in addition to taking a lot of science and math course, obviously, they also said take art classes, which help with the design process and the problem-solving process,"

Nelson said.

Meanwhile, the district will consider expanding curriculum options for students, especially in AP and dual credit courses.

"We're looking to expand some of those dual credit opportunities that we have with JJC," Nelson said. "We're talking with JJC about some other delivery models, where we may – and nothing is set yet – but

we'd like to create some opportunities for students to actually take courses at JJC or have some visiting adjunct professors come here to work with our students. All of that is still in the infancy stages."

More information on the district's STEM program can be found through the district's website, at www.rc255.net/Pages/STEM.aspx.

Local early voting registration

Several early voting sites located throughout Will County will soon be open for early voting. Each site has separate dates and times.

In Wilmington, early voting registration for residents only will be at Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., Tuesday through Friday, March 21 to 24, and Monday through Thursday, March 27-30, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Early voting registration will be held at Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St., Monday through Friday, March 20 to 31, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In Elwood, early voters can register at Elwood Village Hall, 401 E. Mississippi Ave., Monday through Friday, March 20-31, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com for locations, hours, resident restrictions, and directions.

The Will County Clerk's Office will have Grace Period Registration and Voting available. Grace Period Registration and Voting allows non-registered Will County residents the ability to register or update their address and then vote.

Two forms of identification are required to register.

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Ride

would be there to assist my family in their grief journey," Officer Matt Kiebles said.

Usually within 48 hours of an officer death a COPS liaison visits the family to assist with funeral arrangements. Later the organization can help them obtain local, state and federal benefits that are available to the survivors of officers killed in the line of duty; or get them into support programs. Kiebles said the ride will raise funds to send survivors to National Law Enforcement Memorial Week ceremonies in Washington, D.C., and to send the officer's children to grief support summer camp.

The 13th annual Cycle Across Illinois will take place Thursday, July 13 to Sunday, July 16. The route is expected to be about 350 miles, beginning with a back tire dip in the Mississippi River in Alton, and ending in Maywood. Each day's ride can be as long as 125 miles. Riders have to keep pace with the pack, maintaining an average speed of 12 to 17 mph, and they encourage one another as they pick off the miles.

"We ride in pairs, so you ride next to someone and you're talking to them the whole time ... as long as the weather's OK, not too hot or too windy, you can have a conversation, and you can get to know a lot of different people doing that," Kiebles said.

Kiebles began training in early February, with his bike on an indoor trainer, in order to be in condition for the mid-year trek. He'll be out on the road beginning this month, because the friction of tire on pavement makes a big difference in a 20- to 25-mile ride. When he can get a group up, they'll do 40 miles at a clip.

Kiebles is a member of the police department's bike patrol, which has



WILMINGTON POLICE OFFICER Matt Kiebles (center), his brother, Wheaton Officer Curt Kiebles (right) and family friend Officer Jerry Munoz (left) will participate in this year's Cycle Across Illinois charity event to benefit Concerns of Police Survivors.

nothing to do with the ride, but he has noticed some benefits — he doesn't get saddle sore, and can do about 25 mph on the bike for short distances, putting him on the scene in short order.

The charity ride is limited to about 60 riders, for logistics and safety reasons, each of whom must raise at least \$600. Team Kiebles, including Matt and Curt, Curt's wife Jennifer, who is part of the support team, and a family friend, Officer Jerry Munoz, have a donations page on Razoo.com. They'd like to raise at least \$2,500 as a team. Those who would like to support Officer Kiebles and the Cycle Across Illinois event can do so at razoo.com, just search for Team Kiebles.

This year's event will honor Correctional Officer Adam Conrad of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, whose End of Watch came on Jan. 20, 2016; Officer Scot Fitzgerald, South Jacksonville, IL, Police Department, EOW March 4, 2016; Officer Jason Gallero, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, EOW Sept. 15, 2016; Officer Blake C. Snyder, St. Louis County, MO, Police Department, EOW Oct. 6, 2016; Officer James Brockmeyer, Chester Police Department, IL, EOW Oct. 28, 2016; and Trooper Bernard D. Skeeters, Illinois State Police, EOW May 20, 1982.

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How to submit a FOIA request

Many public entities have a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) form that you can fill out, making the act of requesting public information very easy.

However, you don't have to fill out a form. According to the act, a FOIA is any request made in writing. If a public body accepts such requests electronically, you can e-mail them, or they can be delivered in person or by mail. FOIA requests can be handwritten or typed, but should be neat and legible so that the request can be easily read by the FOIA officer.

Here, some guidelines for how to create a FOIA request:

Name of the FOIA officer/Public Entity
Re: Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request
Date
Dear FOIA Officer,
Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140, I am requesting copies of the fol-

lowing public documents:

[Write a list of the documents you want, and be as specific as possible. The more specific you are, the easier it is for the FOIA officer to pull the records you are seeking, without pulling records you do not want or pulling more than you need.]

I understand that the Act permits a public body to

charge a reasonable copying fee not to exceed 15 cents per page after the first 50 pages (5 ILCS 140/6).

I am requesting these documents for the purpose of understanding the business of the public body, and not for commercial use.

I look forward to hearing from you in writing within five business days, as required by the Act (5 ILCS

140/3).

Sincerely,
Your name
Your contact information

The entire text of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act can be found online at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=85>.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Sons of patriots abounded in Braidwood

Of all the many social and political organizations that existed in Braidwood in 1886, one stood out as having the youngest most active members. This week we will look at the Sons of Veterans and their role in Braidwood society.

It must be remembered that during the Civil War, Braidwood was just a flat, open, boggy prairie with only a few hardy residents scratching their living out of the poor soil.

That means that Braidwood cannot point out the names of men she sent to war. Wilmington on the other hand had her first veteran reunion three months after the war, and was immediately active in veteran's affairs.

But that does not mean that no veterans lived in Braidwood. To the contrary, many of Braidwood's earliest citizens were civil war vets, but most of them kept their loyalties in the town's they were mustered out of.

We do know that there was a chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization limited to Civil War vets, in Braidwood.

In 1881 the GAR formed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America to carry on its



Sandy Vasko

traditions and memory long after the GAR had ceased to exist.

Membership was open to any man who could prove ancestry to a member of the GAR or to a veteran eligible for membership in the GAR.

In later years, men who did not have the ancestry to qualify for hereditary membership, but who demonstrated a genuine interest in the Civil War and could subscribe to the purpose and objectives were admitted as Associates.

In September of 1885 a reunion of the 100th Illinois Voluntary Infantry was held in Wilmington. Five of the attendees were from Braidwood.

We read, "It is quite likely that the Sons of Veterans from

Bloomington, 60 strong and in uniform, will attend the coming military reunion in this place. An effort is being made in this city and in Braidwood to organize a similar society and if the move is a success it will be "mustered in" on the above named occasion."

In October 1885 we read of the Wilmington chapter visiting Braidwood, "On Tuesday evening the Sons of Veterans in this and other towns attended an enjoyable skating party, dance, and oyster supper in Braceville. About 20 couples were there, and nearly all were non-residents. When intermission was had for supper the proprietor of the hall locked the door, putting a sudden stop to the festivities."

However, the Braidwood chapter was not organized until January of 1886. We read, "Braidwood is to have a camp of the Sons of Veterans, to be named after the late Major Wakefield of that place. Quite a goodly number of names are on the roster already, and there should be more."

This group was trained and educated, not just a social group. We read, "An advisory board, comprising Capt. Lines, R. Huston, Jacob Miller, and M. N. M. Stewart, has been appointed for Wakefield

camp, Sons of Veterans, of Braidwood. Rev. Allen will address the Sons of Veterans here on the 16th inst., upon the causes of the late war. The observation of Memorial Day here will be discussed immediately after the address."

It wasn't only book learning either. In 1886 we read, "The Sons of Veterans of this place have received twenty-five muskets this week, and are to have accoutrements, etc., in a few days. A parade on Memorial day will probably be made by the organization named."

In 1886 the group took over the Memorial Day celebrations in Braidwood. Up until then, the services were sort of spur of the moment.

That year May 30, the official Memorial Day, fell on a Sunday. Since celebrations or even parades were frowned upon on the Sabbath, the observance of Memorial Day fell on May 29.

We read the following, "Arrangements are going on nicely for the observance of Saturday, May 29th, as Memorial Day. Robert Huston will be president of the day; Wm. Mooney, orator; Rev.

Allen, chaplain, and Capt. Lines chief marshal, with Frank Munn and James Burrill as aids. A parade including old soldiers, Sons of Veterans, the city officials, fire department, civic societies, schools, etc., will be had in the afternoon, during which businessmen will be asked to suspend trade."

The reviews of the celebration all said what a great, patriotic day it was.

However, the immigrant population did not participate in this celebration so the crowds did not reach the 2,000 level as they did during the Italian picnics. About 500 people participated in the parade, during which, the businesses closed their doors, and after which, they all opened up for business again and the paraders went home to supper.

The Sons of Veterans would be called on every year from then on to run the celebrations.

It also must be mentioned that unlike the Grand Army, the Sons of Veterans is an active organization to this day, as an all male group.

One of their projects is locating and keeping track of the gravesite of every Civil War veteran.

Will County chooses new Director of Transportation

At the February meeting of the Will County Board, longtime employee and Wilmington resident Jeff Ronaldson was named Director of Transportation, replacing Bruce Gould who retired after 40 years of service to the county.

Ronaldson has spent his entire career with the Will County Division of Transportation, joining the county upon graduation from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in June 1997.

Ronaldson worked directly under Gould for more than 19 years where he learned firsthand how to manage the county's growing highway department.

"Jeff is an excellent choice to assume this position," said Will County Executive Larry Walsh.

"With nearly 20 years of on the job training, Jeff is well prepared to lead this department as we address our transportation needs now and into the future."

Currently, the Division of Transportation is completing work on Will Connects 2040 long range transportation plan which addresses all modes of transportation in the county including roads, all forms of public trans-



JEFF RONALDSON

portation, bicycle and pedestrian issues, aviation, and freight movement. Significant future projects include the future widening of Interstate 55 and Interstate 80, construction of the Houbolt Road Bridge, and numerous other county road improvements.

The county is also actively working with public and private stakeholders to complete a Community Friendly Freight Mobility Study that has the primary goal of mitigating the negative impacts of increased truck traffic on regional roadways while balancing future development progress and quality of life issues.

In January 2014, the highway department became the Will County Division of Transportation in accordance with Illinois state statutes. Bruce Gould, who had led the department for nine years as the County Engineer, then became the county's first Director of Transportation. He said he is proud Ronaldson was chosen as his successor.

"I interviewed and hired Jeff right out of college," Gould said. "He has had a front row seat learning how to lead this department and create a vision for the future."

Over the last 20 years, the county has increased its lane mileage from 567 to 620. And the amount of truck traffic has also increased exponentially during the last 10 years with the addition of two intermodal facilities.

Record population growth within the county during this time has also increased the burden on county roadways.

"I have witnessed numerous changes during my career with Will County," Ronaldson said. "It has been a challenge to ensure our roadways can keep up with this unprecedented growth. I am fortunate to have

learned a lot from Bruce and former County Engineer Sheldon Latz during my career."

Gould said of all the county transportation plans over the past 40 years, the Build Will program is one of which he is most proud.

"Build Will is the most comprehensive transportation plan in our county's history," he said. "Weber Road and Interstate 55 interchange will be the single, largest project the county has ever undertaken. When it is completed, it will have a lasting impact on the landscape of transportation in Will County."

"I am privileged to continue the work of Bruce and Sheldon as the next Transportation Director," Ronaldson said. "Will County is anticipated to exceed 1 million people in the next 10 years and it will be a privilege to work with our county, state, and local agency partners to manage the needs of the County's infrastructure."

Bounce Night Fun Fair coming to Wilmington High School

Wilmington High School's Interact Club, a service organization for high school students sponsored by Wilmington Rotary Club, and the Island City Park District will host a Bounce Night/Fun Fair for children of all ages.

The event will be held at Wilmington High School, 209 Wildcat Court on Friday, March 24, from 4 to 9:30 p.m.

There will be an array of inflatables, face painting, games for younger children,

snacks and more.

Wristbands are on pre-sale at the Island City Park District at 315 N. Water St., and will also be available at the door. The cost will be \$10 for unlimited bounce.

Game or face paint tickets are \$5 for 10 tickets or \$2 for five tickets.

All profits will be donated to Kuzma Cottage, Our Caring Closet and Rotary International's water projects. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Courtesy photo

INTERACT CLUB members planning the Bounce Night Fun Fair include (front, from left) Elizabeth Henderson, Mary Henderson, Megan Morgan, Claire Rink, Cori Wysocki, Vanessa Hall, Ella Swick and Kylie Holcomb. Back row: Jessica Ambrose, Mikayla Parsons, Morgan Parsons, Rachel Day, Casey Janik, Caleb Swick, Abby Morgan, Lexi Orr, Autumn Switzer, Alex Day and Gabe Momper.

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FOSSIL RIDGE LIBRARY NEWS

March 15-The Essential Houdini presentation by author and historian William Pack who explores master magician Harry Houdini's fascinating life, 6-7:30 p.m.

March 16-Teen movie, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, 5-7 p.m.

March 17, 24, 31- Small Fry Friday for toddlers, 10-10:30 a.m.

March 20-Board of trustees meeting, 6 p.m.

March 20, 27-Pooches and Pages, 4:30-5:30 p.m., pre-K through grade 5 read to a therapy dog.

Storytime, 5:45-6:15 p.m., age 3-5, Lap-sit, age birth-3.

March 21, 28-Krafty Kids, 10:30-11 a.m. and 3:30-4 p.m. Ages 9 and under must be

accompanied by an adult.

March 21-Scrapbooking Club, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

March 22-Adult movie, *Mad Max: Fur Road*, 5-7 p.m.

March 22, 29-Sr. Tax Help, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lap-sit, 11-11:30 a.m., age birth-3.

Lego Club, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

March 23-Teen Book Club, discussing *Eleven*, by Tom

Rogers, 4-5 p.m.

March 24-LIHEAP 1-3 p.m.

March 27-Adult Book Club, 6:30 p.m., discussing *The Divide*, by Nicholas Evans.

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COMET SPORTS

New season, new coach

Jake Evans takes over head coaching duties for Reed-Custer baseball program

BY BRENT SUMNER
STAFF WRITER

New coaches face new challenges, but for new Reed-Custer baseball coach Jake Evans, he steps up into a program that's well established.

Evans inherits a program that was groomed 43 years by Jerry Cougill, including a state championship last year.

While he won't face the trials of rebuilding a program from the ground up, Evans will still face the inevitable comparisons of him to Cougill, as well as the expectation to keep the program a powerhouse within the area.

However, there is probably no one better suited for the position. After all, Evans played for Cougill throughout middle school and high school and has come to learn what people expect out of the quality program.

Evans graduated from Reed-Custer in 2009, and was one of the starting pitchers during his varsity years.

After high school, he went on to St. Francis, where he majored in secondary education while also playing for the university's baseball team.

"Part of the reason I wanted to teach was to become a coach as well," he said. "It has always been something I wanted to do. I

wasn't sure when I was going to get that opportunity, and it may have come sooner than I was expecting, but it was something I wanted to do."

Evans spent two years as the pitching coach under Cougill. He worked with several great pitchers, including Brent Headrick, Jordan Walden, and current player Eddie Wilkins.

He definitely had a hand in the team reaching, and eventually winning, the 2A State Championship last year.

While he will be the head coach this year, he still plans on staying with the pitching duties as well.

"I wanted to make sure I still did pitching duties," he said. "Coming from a pitching background, and being a pitching coach, I still wanted to have a say in that."

However, probably the biggest question is how will Evans compare to Cougill.

Cougill finished his career with an overall record of 805-454, two state titles, and several other Sectional, Regional and conference titles. Evans will have big shoes to fill.

For Evans though, he is trying not to focus on that.

"As hard as it is going to be not to compare myself to Cougill, that is something that I will try not to do," he said with a laugh. "I was sitting here the other day, and I thought to myself, he fin-

ished with over 800 wins, 40+ years. I would have to average 20 something wins over the next 40 years or something like that. I am not going to try and think about that."

Whether Evans wants to think about comparisons alongside Cougill or not, the public will.

"They will definitely compare us," he said. "I ran into people in the grocery store, and people come up and ask how the team is going to be."

"That is one thing about the community though, they genuinely care about Reed-Custer sports, and they show up in big numbers," Evans added. "We saw that through playoffs. The people in the community get excited, and we have them behind us. Hopefully we put on a good show."

Evans is meeting his coaching duties head on.

He admits he will likely be unable to sleep the eve of the opener, but he will take the season one game at a time.

"The practices have been competitive and intense, and all of the guys come to work," he said. "It is kind of intimidating, but at the same time I feel very privileged to say I'm the next guy up after coach Cougill left. All of our varsity players coming back, along with the coaching staff, have made the transition a lot easier."



JAKE EVANS, who served as the pitching coach for Reed-Custer's state championship run, will be entering his first year as the head coach of the baseball program. Evans graduated from Reed-Custer in 2009, and will be taking over for long-time coach, Jerry Cougill.

Evans will have experience on his side to help, even with the added departure of long-time assistant coach Rich Walden.

Jeff Richey, Chris Vidmar, Alex King, Bill Asbridge and Paul Kuiper will all be there to lend a hand to the new head coach.

"We are two different people, but in the terms of the way we feel about baseball, and the way it should be played, we are the same," said Evans about his philosophy compared with Cougill. "I am not trying to flip things over. In terms of basic philosophy and every-

thing, I'm very similar to coach Cougill."

Evans is looking forward to getting out on the field, and with weather permitting, the season will start on Saturday.

Let the new legacy begin.

Hustlin' Comets returning with plenty of experience

BY BRENT SUMNER
STAFF WRITER

After a team secures a state title, a higher standard is often expected the following year.

While the Comet baseball team took first at the 2A State Finals a year ago, they will be undergoing a an identity change as the season begins. After all, they lost six seniors through graduation, including star pitchers Brent Headrick and Jordan Walden.

They will also be under the direction of first-year varsity coach Jake Evans, who was the pitching coach last year. He will be replacing long-time head coach Jerry Cougill.

Evans will be assisted by Jeff Richey and Chris Vidmar on the varsity level, along with JV coaches, Alex King, Bill Asbridge and Paul Kuiper.

"Our goal year in and year out is to win our side of the conference and to win a Regional Championship," said Evans. "While we have players on this team that won a state title last year, we are not that same team as whole. That's not to say our goals stop at a Regional title this year, but we know that nothing else is possible unless we can win our Regional."

The Comets finished last season 29-5 (13-3 conference), along with the title of not only 1-8 South Conference champs, but also state champs.

With the loss of those valuable seniors, Evans will be looking to his new batch of upper classmen to lead the way.

That includes two more stud pitchers eager to fill the ranks, seniors Eddie Wilkins and Hunter Murawski.

Wilkins has already committed to the University of Illinois-Springfield, and played a pivotal roll in the post-season stretch, giving the Comets enough talent on the mound to reach the state finals.

He finished last year with an undefeated pitching record (7-0), and an ERA of only 1.35.

He was also a threat at



DAN FIERRO will be one of Reed-Custer's veterans returning to the roster this year. His veteran experience will be relied on in the infield this season.

the plate, winding up with a .300 batting average, 24 RBIs and three home runs.

He will be joined by Murawski, who will see more time on the mound with the departures of Headrick and Walden.

Murawski was 2-0 with an ERA of 1.79.

He will also be a quality hitter, finishing last season with a .402 batting average, 24 RBIs and 23 stolen bases.

Along with those two, the Comets will return six more veteran players, including catcher Sam Lepper, and infielders Mason Roach, Carson Anderson and Danny Fierro.

They will be joined by veteran outfielders, Tyler Richey, Adam Wright and Parker Dransfeldt, along with sophomore Josh Loomis.

Loomis, who played varsity as a freshman last year, could also see time on the mound, as he went 1-0 last spring with an ERA of 1.37.

"While we graduated six seniors last year, we return enough pieces to be considered an experienced team in my opinion," said Evans. "Although we lost two power arms, I expect our pitching staff to be one of our strengths again this season."

"We will be working very hard in practice to make improvements in our offensive game to fill some holes in our line-up."

Along with the returning cast, the Comets will also bring up several players who are expected to make an impact.

Reed-Custer will have five juniors joining the roster, including pitchers Gavin Grace and Cody LaGrange.

They will be joined by catcher Jacob Beyer and outfielders Tyler Duha and Adrian Fierro.

The Comets will also bring up a freshman, Trevor McLaughlin, who Evans is excited to see make an impact on the varsity line-up.

McLaughlin will proba-

bly see some time on the mound, along with playing the infield.

"We return some players from last year's team, but we are a different team with a different identity," Evans added. "We will be fairly young in some areas, and will look to the returning players for leadership."

With the Comets returning a star-studded cast, their goals may not be so far out of reach.

However, they will have plenty of teams in the conference looking to dethrone the champions.

Manteno, Herscher and Coal City continuously have strong programs, plus it doesn't help that the Tigers will be back down in 2A this year. That could put a damper on the post season.

"Herscher returns quite a bit of talent, and their head coach does a great job getting the most out of his teams," Evans said. "Coal City graduated some key players last year, but Jerry will have his guys ready to play, and they will be solid as always."

Other teams that could make an impact on the conference include Wilmington and Peotone.



EDDIE WILKINS, who committed to the University of Illinois-Springfield, will return to the mound this spring. Wilkins held a 7-0 record last year, and will be a leader on the pitching staff this season.

The Comets are set to begin their season on Saturday, when they host Grant Park. That is, if the snow clears up.

Reed-Custer will then have a week-long break

before hosting another double-header the following Saturday with Dwight and El Paso.

PERSONAL INJURY

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HEADS UP

COMET SPORTS

Reed-Custer track gets season off to a fast start

Reed-Custer's track teams hosted their second meet of the season Saturday, with the boys coming away with a second place finish.

The girls team wound up in ninth place out of the nine-team field, earning 11 team points.

"We have had a lot of girls who were unable to compete due to conflict with the school musical, and a few are hurt as well, so we are better than what our showing from Saturday might suggest," said head coach Trenton Roth.

They finished six points behind Wilmington (17), while Seneca placed first (162), followed by Sandwich (79) and Prairie Central (56).

The boys team finished with 74 points, taking second behind Prairie Central (104), while Streator rounded out the top three (72).

"We still have a few guys that we are waiting to get back, so we are excited about how good we can be when everyone is back and healthy," added Roth.

Macy Pfeifer wound up placing in two events for the girls, securing fourth in the 400 with a time of 1:09.60, and fifth in high jump (4' 4").

Maddy Helsing was the only other individual to place, taking fifth in pole vault with a height of 5' 6".

The Lady Comets' 4x400 and 4x200 wound up with fifth and sixth place finishes, respectively.

The 4x400 team (Pfeifer, Brodie Thompson, Izzy Bippus and Jenn Tedeschi) earned a time of 5:25.47.

The 4x200 consisting of Thompson, Vailyn Porterfield, Helsing and Tedeschi finished with a time of 2:15.65.

On the boys side, Zach Weaver led the way by placing in three events.

He claimed first in the 400 meter with a time of 55.15, and followed that up with a second place in high jump (6' 2") and a second in long jump (20' 6.75").

Vinny Vercelote also had a solid outing, taking third in two events, the 60 meter hurdles (9.67), and the long jump (20' .75").

Shane Milburn claimed a first place in the 800 meter, earning a time of 2:12.61, while Gabe Nagel picked up a third in the 1600 (5:01.31).

Tyler Hood rounded out the individual placements, securing third in pole vault



BRODIE THOMPSON finishes up her run in the 60 meter prelims on Saturday. Thompson didn't place in that event, but wound up competing with the 4x400 team, earning fifth.

with a height of 13'.

In the relays, Reed-Custer claimed first in the 4x400, while the 4x800 team secured fourth.

The 4x400 team (Vercelote, Rick Siegers, Milburn and Weaver) finished with a time of 3:48.34.

The 4x800 team (Nagel, Josh Neu, Matt Terry and Milburn) earned a time of 9:48.64.

Roth commented on how each of his track participants are getting better, and have shown improvements from the previous year.

He comment how good it is to have Vercelote, who was out the past two years, back as he has made an immediate impact on the

competition.

R-C Quad

The Reed-Custer track teams opened the season last Tuesday night when they hosted a quad against Wilmington, Dwight and Streator in the fieldhouse.

The girls team wound up in third place out of the four-team field, finishing with 37 points, four points ahead of fourth place Wilmington.

Streator picked up first (63 points) and Dwight recorded second with 47.

The Comets wound up in second place with 75 team points, just nine behind first place Streator (84).

Dwight earned third with 31, and Wilmington



Photos by Brent Sumner

VINNY VERCELOTE takes a jump during his competition in long jump on Saturday. He wound up placing third in the event with a distance of 20' .75".

rounded out the bottom with 16 points.

The Lady Comets finished the meet with four first-place finishes.

Bippus earned a win in pole vault (7'0"), while Jaden Christian finished way ahead of the field in triple jump with 16' 6". She was almost two feet ahead of the second place athlete.

Pfeifer also picked up a first in high jump with a height of 4' 4", while the last first place finish went to the Lady Comets' 4x200 relay team.

The team consisted of Pfeifer, Thompson, Bippus and Tedeschi. In the 60 meter dash finals, Thompson and Pfeifer followed each other, earning fifth and sixth place, respectively. Thompson finished with a time of 9.24, while Pfeifer earned a 9.42.

Pfeifer also picked up a second place in the 400 meter dash, finishing with a time of 1:11.06.

Katie McPherson came in fifth in the 800 meter run (4:06.22), and the 4x400 relay team consisting of

Thompson, Christian, Bippus and Tedeschi was second (5:17.96).

The final event earning placements was shot put, where Taylor Toler earned third (27'5"), and Vanessa Pacholski picked up sixth (23' 10.75").

On the boys side, Weaver led the placements, earning three firsts and one second.

Weaver placed second in the 60 meter dash with a time of 7.65, and first in the 400 (56.20). In the field events, Weaver earned first in high jump (5' 10") and long jump (20' 5").

Vercelote wound up placing in three events, taking third in the 400 (57.37), fifth in the 60 (7.77) and fourth in high jump (5' 2").

Nagel won the 1600 with a time of 5:01.37, while Milburn picked up fifth in the same event (5:15.90).

Cory McGregor earned third in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 11.13. He also earned sixth in the high jump with a height of 5'.

Rounding out the running events were the relays,

with Reed-Custer's 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 earning second. The Comets had a second team in the 4x400 that earned fifth.

The 4x200 team (Luke Smith, Hood, Kaleb Knust and McGregor) earned a time of 1:47.08.

The 4x400 team that took second consisted of Rick Siegers, Nathan Cornelio, McGregor and Milburn, and finished with a time of 3:57.76.

The other 4x400 team included Brodi Frieders, Josh Neu, Thomas Deardorff and Will Egly. They finished with a time of 4:27.89.

Nathan Cornelio, Neu, Frieders and Egly ran the 4x800, finishing with a time of 10:19.38.

In the field events, the Comets swept the field in pole vault, with Hood taking first (12'). He was followed by Matt Terry (8') and Nathan Minuth (7').

In shot put, Logan Zacharias earned second with a distance of 37'. Connor Harding earned fourth (32' 6.75") and Minuth took sixth (30' 1.75").



MACY PFEIFER goes for a higher attempt during Saturday's meet. She secured fifth in high jump with a height of 4' 4". She also picked up a first with the same height during last Tuesday's event.

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Lady Comet kickers ready for season

The Reed-Custer girls soccer program is ready to put forward a strong run this season, and it will come with the help of coach Kim Askew.

While the Lady Comets have struggled in the past, it was with no help from a long line of coaching changes.

This year however, Askew will be entering her second year, and is looking forward to directing her team further. She will be assisted by Kylee Copeland.

Reed-Custer finished last year with a record of 5-11, but will return several seniors, along with their leading scorer, as they hope to finish above .500.

Sophomore Abby Cash will return to the varsity line-up as the leading scorer last year, and will be a strong threat in the midfield.

She will be joined by another top scorer, Jessica Kirkland, who will also find time in the midfield.

Another top returning player will be Karina Marrs, who brings a lot of speed to the defense.

While the program won't boast a ton of upperclassmen, they will still have a lot of numbers as the Lady Comets will have 11 freshmen joining the ranks.

"We are excited to continue to expand our program," Askew said. "With many key returners from last

year, we look forward to having great upperclassmen leadership on the team."

The Lady Comets are excited to get their season started, and they will open up on the road in a non-conference match-up with Wilmington on Monday, weather permitting.

They will then return home to face Coal City on Tuesday in another non-conference game.

The Lady Comets will have a tough road ahead looking at the schedule, as they have a couple power-

houses along the way, including Herscher (4/6), Manteno (4/20) and Morris (4/24).

With that said, Askew is ready for the season to get underway, and is already taking a more aggressive approach with her team.

"To be successful this year, we are working on being more aggressive with the ball, and limiting the number of goals we allow," she said.

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Two decades in the making

Essex Fire opens new station

BY BRENT SUMNER
STAFF WRITER

It seems so long ago that the Essex Fire Protection District held a groundbreaking for a new station just north of the old one.

In fact, it was 16 months ago when the board of trustees, along with Fire Chief Austin Vining, put their shovels in the ground, marking the start of a new station.

The fire district held an open house on Sunday to celebrate the new station with the public.

“It has been about a year and a half to get into the fire station,” said Vining. “This has actually been in the making for 20 years.”

The new station has been a dream for the fire department for almost two decades, as they slowly started to save money, hoping that one day it would come to fruition.

“The trustees socked away money, and we eventually used that for a down payment, borrowing the remainder,” Vining added. “The amount of years it took to get this going, that is why we didn’t have to ask for a tax increase or anything. The board was able to get it done.”

The new building was assembled by Morton Buildings, and is 7,320 square feet.

The building contains a bigger media room, several offices for fire department officers, a full kitchen, bathrooms, and a much needed bigger bay area.

“We needed a bigger meeting room for occasions when we have classes and everything,” said Trustee President Butch Aten. “Mostly, we needed the floor space for all the trucks, because we were running out of room.”

The equipment space was the driving force behind constructing the new building, as they simply didn’t have enough room for all of it.

The district had an ATV sitting in a storage shed, along with a pumper sitting out at the assistant chief’s house.

Now, each truck has their own bay, and the new building even lets the older station have a little breathing room in the interior.

“It is a relief to finally have what we need, what the community needs,” said Aten. “I am glad it is done with.”

“It was a long four years



Photos by Brent Sumner

AFTER TWENTY YEARS of saving up and planning for a new fire station, the dream became a reality on Sunday when the Essex Fire Protection District held an open house. The district opened the doors to the public, taking them on a tour of the new 7,320 square foot building.

once we finally got the word we owned the property,” added Trustee Patrick O’Brien.

The building also contains a radio room dedicated to past trustee George Dvorak, along with heated floors and much more energy efficient utilities.

“All the firemen wanted to dedicate the radio room to George Dvorak,” added Aten. “He was a trustee when we started this project, and he was one of the main driving forces behind it. He didn’t live to see it come to fruition. He was our radio operator, so we dedicated the radio room to him.”

“The radio room was his vision, how he wanted it to be,” said O’Brien. “With the window looking out, automatic door openers inside and everything.”

The building’s three bays exit to the alley that runs parallel with Main Street, while the front of the fire department faces Linden Street.

While the inside of the department is finished, there are still a couple questions on the outside, such as whether or not the alley will wind up getting black-topped.

At the time of the groundbreaking, the district had money for the building and a resurfacing of Linden Street. The plan is to black-top the rest as the district gets money for it.

Either way, the open house on Sunday was a big hit, with people from the



MARTY KIRCHNER takes time during the open house to show around a future firefighter. The community enjoyed the open house, as they got to see not only the new building, but all of the equipment the district uses.



ONE OF THE top items that the district wanted with the new station was a bigger meeting room. The room will also hold classes, with all of the tables and chairs being donated.



RADIO ROOM – The Essex Fire Protection District dedicated their new radio room to former trustee, George Dvorak. Dvorak played a pivotal roll in pushing along the project, and with him passing before the seeing the final product, all of the volunteer firefighters agreed to dedicate his radio room to him.

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Community calendar of events

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Wednesday, March 15

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., AARP sponsored free tax aid, Fossil Ridge Public Library, 386 W. Kennedy Rd., Braidwood
- 10:30 a.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Wednesday
- 1 p.m., Wilmington Garden Club meeting, US Bank, 417 S. Water St.
- 6 to 7:40 p.m., Awana Club, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, each Wednesday
- 7 p.m., Learn to Quilt, Wilmington Lions Hall, 708 E. River St., each Wednesday
- 7 p.m., Coal City Village Board meeting, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, first and third Wednesday of each month

Thursday, March 16

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, each Tuesday and Thursday
- 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 1:30 p.m., Mobile Workshop Center, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Thursday
- 10 to 11:30 a.m., Braidwood senior citizens' coffee, Fossil Ridge Public Library, 386 W. Kennedy Rd.
- 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ham and bean luncheon, Wilmington Park District, 315 N. Water St.
- 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township office, 1095 S. Water St.

Friday, March 17

- Lenten fish fry, Immaculate Conception Church's Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School St., each Friday of Lenten

Saturday, March 18

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rescue ME crafters resale, United Methodist Church, Manhattan
- 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers, Grace Lutheran Church,

907 Luther Dr., Wilmington, each Saturday

- Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Area Historical Society museum open, 111 N. Center St., each Saturday through April

- 4 to 7 p.m., Pot roast dinner, Elwood Community Church, 101 N. Chicago St.

- 4 p.m., Soup supper and talent show, Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 W. Gould St.

- 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Saturday

- 7:30 p.m., Movie night featuring "Darby O'Gill and the Little People", New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City

Sunday, March 19

- 8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Sunday

Monday, March 20

- Early kindergarten registration, Bruning Elementary School, Wilmington, call 815-926-1706 for an appointment

- 6:15 p.m., Women's Alcoholics Anonymous, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Monday

- 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington, each Monday

- 7 to 8:30 p.m., Wilmington Boy Scout Troop 440, Wilmington Lions Club, 805 River St., each Monday

- 7 p.m., Coal City Planning and Zoning Board meeting, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, first and third Monday of each month

- 7 p.m., Ladies Auxiliary VFW meeting, Wilmington Moose Lodge, 32050 W. River Rd.

Tuesday, March 21

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, each Tuesday and Thursday

- 10:30 a.m. to noon, Coffee at the library, Coal City Public Library, 85 N. Garfield St.

- Noon, Wilmington Rotary Club meeting, Mikki's Diner, Winchester Green Shopping Center, each Tuesday

- 12:15 to 3:30 p.m., Bridge Buddies, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Tuesday

- 5:15 p.m., TOPS 2264, Main Street Baptist Church,

Main and Division streets, Braidwood, each Tuesday

- 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Immaculate Conception Church, Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School St., Braidwood, every Tuesday

- 6:30 p.m., Coal City Park Board meeting, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, third Tuesday of each month

- 7 p.m., Al-Anon, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Tuesday

- 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., first and third Tuesday of each month

Wednesday, March 22

- 7:30 a.m., TOPS IL 1024, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington, weigh-in followed by meeting each Wednesday

Sunday, March 26

Friday, March 24

- 4 to 9:30 p.m., Bounce Night Fun Fair, Wilmington High School, 209 Wildcat Court

Saturday, March 25

- 11:30 a.m., Easter egg hunt, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood

- 1:30 p.m., Annual tea, First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington

Sunday, March 26

- 7 a.m. to noon, Essex Lions Club breakfast, 217 Parls St.

- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Essex museum open, 218 Parls St., guest speakers to discuss mining

Monday, March 27

- 10:30 a.m., Island City Homemakers meeting, Island City Park District, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington, fourth Monday of each month


- 1 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway

Tuesday, March 28

- 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St., second and fourth Tuesday of each month

- 7 to 8:30 p.m., Art Hornsby Remembers Morris Businesses, Grundy County Historical Society museum, Canal Port Community Center, 510 W. Illinois Ave., Morris

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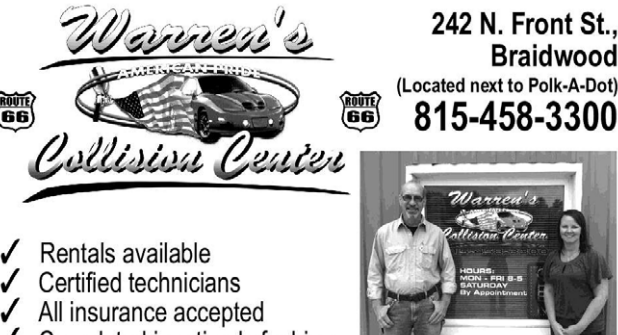
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Zombies spotted in tiki bars

Zombies are coming! Well, zombies are coming back for an eighth season of The Walking Dead in 2017.

The upcoming season will mark 100 episodes for the most watched television series of all time. Face it folks, zombies are hot.

Seventy years before they appeared in hit television shows, zombies were frequently spotted at tiki bars as early as the 1930's. Of course the zombies at the bar were cocktails, and this week we are going to serve up the original 1934 recipe from the creator of the Zombie, Donn Beach.

There are two names that must be included in every tiki history lesson: Donn Beach aka Don The Beachcomber, and Vic Bergeron aka "Trader Vic."

Both were an integral part of launching the post-war tiki craze and are responsible for creating many of the iconic tiki drinks that are popular today.

Don and Trader Vic were amicable rivals throughout their careers as restaurateurs. The only source of great contention between the two is the Mai Tai, as both have claimed to have invented the cocktail.

Other than that, each ran successful Polynesian-themed restaurants that shaped the image in our mind that appears when we think "tiki bar."

We can't be 100 percent sure who first made the Mai Tai, but we know that Donn Beach created the Zombie. There are easily 100 different ways to make a Zombie - shaken, stirred, frozen, rocks and flaming (yes, you can light it on fire).

The only common thread in the many zombie recipes found both online and in bartending books is that they all contain a boatload of rum. Seriously, these are a bit heavy.

The Zombie is so potent that Donn limited his customers to two Zombies per visit. Legend has it that the Zombie was first served to a hungover business traveler to help him get through a business meeting. The businessman returned to the bar a few days later and informed Donn that the drink had turned him into a zombie for the entire trip. Fair enough, Donn called his creation the "Zombie."

The recipe featured below is the undisputed, original recipe. How can we be sure?

We can be sure because this recipe was discovered in Dick Santiago's notebook from 1937. Santiago was a Beachcomber's waiter who had written down the recipe and marked it "old" in or around 1937.

Donn changed the recipe many, many times until his death in 1989 at the age of 82. There is more than one correct way to make the Zombie, but there is only one original. If you are a fan of tiki, you owe it to yourself to try the original.

A quick glance at the ingredients below may intimidate those not wearing a Hawaiian shirt and/or a shark tooth necklace. Yes, there are 10 ingredients in



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL

Brian Rung

the original Zombie, but three of them are rum.

There are two ingredients used in the original Zombie that are not commonly used ingredients, one is Don's Mix, the other is Pernod.

Don's Mix is a simple sugar syrup made from two parts grape-

fruit juice and one part cinnamon-infused sugar syrup.

It can be made from scratch, or purchased online as "Paradise Blend" by BG Reynolds. I prefer to purchase the commercially available syrup. It is inexpensive and cuts down on valuable prep time.

Pernod is an anise-flavored liqueur created in 1932 in response to the ban on the sale of absinthe. Its use in tiki drinks is literally limited to drops as opposed to ounces.

Pernod has the ability to overpower a drink, so use caution. One bottle should last a full season of tiki cocktails in your home bar.

Falernum is a tiki staple and an ingredient that must be in your arsenal if you plan on jumping into tropical mixology. Falernum syrup is the secret weapon in many Caribbean cocktails and contains notes of almonds, lime, clove, vanilla and ginger. Fee Brothers falernum is widely available and is the best one that I have used.

Lastly, note that the Zombie calls for 151 rum, specifically a Demerara rum. The two most widely available Demerara rums are



Lemon Hart and El Dorado.

If you plan on lighting your Zombie on fire, the 151 should be the last ingredient added prior to serving. Simply float the shot of 151 on top of the drink, and light.

Always exercise caution around open flames folks, practice before you light the drink in front of someone at the bar. Seriously, practice or your guests will leave without eyebrows.

Combine in blender:
3/4 oz fresh lime juice
1/2 oz Don's Mix
1/2 oz falernum
1 1/2 oz gold rum
(Cruzan or Appleton Special Gold)

1 1/2 oz aged Jamaican rum (Appleton Estate Extra)
1 oz 151 Demerara rum (Lemon Hart or El Dorado)
Dash Angostura bitters
1/8 teaspoon (5-6 drops) Pernod

Teaspoon grenadine
3/4 cup crushed ice
Blend for 4 to 5 seconds, then pour contents into chimney (tall) glass, add ice cubes to fill.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Braidwood TOPS back on track with meetings

During the past few weeks the normal routine for Braidwood TOPS IL 2264 meetings was disrupted by illness and weather. The Feb. 28 meeting was a weigh-in only because of the tornado alert. Jennifer Wisniewski was the best loser for that week.

Jane Hill was best loser of the week at the March 8 meeting. The fruits and vegetables went to Sandy Huntley for TOPS and Lucy Ellis for KOPS. These two were best monthly losers for

February. Attendance charms were earned by Lynne Hatten, Lucy Ellis and Lori Jackson. Verna Clark won the menu gift. Joan Benson is celebrating her sixth year anniversary as a KOPS member.

A new contest, Hopping to a New Year, begins March 14 and being an Easter theme will conclude April 11.

Information packets were given to members who will be attending Area Recognition Days (ARD) in

Lisle April 7-8, 2017. Enchantment Under The Sea is the theme and there will be a theme dress parade on Friday. ARD is a yearly event to recognize individuals and chapter progress.

Three members displayed their decorated album playlist covers in keeping with the theme Tune Up with TOPS. This is part of the 2017 area captains program.

The cry can cash hasn't been awarded for the past four weeks. The no-no item

for the week was brownies.

TOPS IL 2264 Braidwood chapter holds meetings on Tuesday evenings at the Baptist Auxiliary building, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood. Visitors are welcome. The chapter membership can begin at eight years of age and is for both male and females. Weigh-ins take place from 5:15-5:45 p.m. followed by a short meeting.

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Learn about the recovery of the falcon

Illinois Peregrines From Decline to Recovery will be presented by Mary Hennen, Director-Chicago Peregrine Program, Bird Division, The Field Museum at the next Midewin lecture series on Thursday, April 6.

The one-hour lecture will be at 7 p.m. in the auditorium on the main floor of

ASIP Local 150 Training Building, 19800 W. South Arsenal Rd., Wilmington.

The public is invited. The doors will open to the public at 6:30 p.m. with light refreshments provided by The Midewin Alliance.

Seating for the lectures is limited and seats cannot be guaranteed without an RSVP. To reserve a seat, call

815-423-6370 or email Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed.us.

The Midewin Welcome Center is located at 30239 S. State Route 53, Wilmington.

Trails are open daily from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. The link to trail maps is www.fs.usda.gov/main/midewin/maps-pubs.

Lifting the lid on a wooden hat box

BY TONYA MICHALEC
SPECIAL TO THE
FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS

It was the bygone era when men and women dressed to the nines. From head to toe, wherever they went, people during the 19th century wore intricate ensembles donned with elaborate layers and multitudes of accessories.

Of all the frivolities, it was the hat that carried with it the need for proper storage when not in use. Hence the dawning of the hat box or hat tin came about.

The White Glove lifted the lid on one of these vintage storage devices last week while at Gallery 1700, located at 1700 Plainfield Rd., Crest Hill.

Hat boxes were made from a wide range of materials including cardboard, wood, leather or metal. The boxes were meant to keep some of the fancier hats dust free and undamaged on a shelf in the closet or while traveling.

Conventional ones were typically strap-free and made deep and round, or box-like in shape. More luxurious versions often included straps, a carrying handle and even had interiors lined with satin or silk padding.

The large wooden box featured in the photo above is priced at \$40 and was designed to protect wide-brimmed hats. It is circular and made from thin, random width planks. The vertical overlapping seams along the side of the box and coordinating lid are secured with round head nails.

Since there is no date on the box it's difficult to determine its age.

Hat boxes rose in popularity, along with that of the hat, by the early 1800s.

Cave drawings show people wore head pieces over 5,200 years ago. But it was not until the turn of the 19th century that hats became an acceptable item for everyday fashion.

Therefore, it is possible that the window for when this antique box may have been made could be over 200 years ago. Because of this, and according to advice analyst Martin Swinton, this box could be one of the oldest relics found by The White Glove so far.

In his article titled "Antiques and Reproductions: Can You Tell the Difference?", Swinton delves into antique furniture and how it was crafted during different points in time. His findings and explanations can be used to see when the window of construction would most likely have closed.

According to the analyst, telltale signs of it being a reproduction, made after the fact, would be if it were built with narrow, even width wood boards and fastened with Phillips screws or staples.

Real antique armoires, tables and trunks were in most cases built with wide boards of uneven width - just lie this hat box. This method of construction would have been used for large surfaces, such as the backs of bureaus and drawer bottoms, or for circular shapes like tops and bottoms of hat boxes.

Another point of construction dating can be done by inspecting the hardware. According to Steve Staples, master craftsman and owner of Creative Art Furniture by Staple Cabinet Makers, prior to 1791, nails were forged by hand and had four tapered sides. They were often



Courtesy photo
THE WHITE GLOVE lifts the lid of a vintage hat box constructed of wood last week while perusing the aisles of a Crest Hill antique mall.

dubbed as "rose head nails", since the heads were pinned with four to five hammer blows that caused the surface to bulge out in a flower-like shape.

Afterwards, nails were sheared or cut from thin plates of metal up until the beginning of the 1900s when they began being made of wire as they are today. According to Swinton, a good way to distinguish a 19th century nail from a 20th century nail is by patina.

Prior to the 20th century, hardware was not coated with a lacquer finish to keep it from tarnishing. Keeping that in mind, the hat box in question looks like it's from the same period when nails had a heavy presence of oxidation.

Recognizing that the first patent for a stapler was not granted until Aug. 7, 1866, it can be gathered that this hat tin pre-dates the invention of the staple that most likely would have been used if it were available. Anyone who has ever tried to nail one end of thin board to the other would surely agree

that the right tool for the job would be a staple gun.

With all things considered, the handmade hat box discovered by The White Glove was most likely constructed between 1800 and 1866, making it roughly anywhere from 151 to 217-years-old.

Hat boxes have made a comeback as a form of interior design. Instead of using them to store hats, people are using them for home decor. Along with positioning them on top of their bureaus and armoires for an added touch of yesteryear, hat tins are also being used in stacks for mundane storage bins that double as side tables. As they did with hats, the boxes are just the trick to safely tuck away personal treasures such as photographs and greeting cards.

According to a popular on-line auction site, hat buckets are priced from \$25 to \$65, depending on size, age and condition.

Contact writer *Tonya Michalec* tmichalec@fpnusa.com.

Circle jam set for April 8

There will be a circle jam on Saturday, April 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

The event is open to everyone including musicians and listeners.

Circle jams are social

hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more.

The free music in the park event will continue to be held on the second Saturday of each month.

For more information call Randy at 815-237-8139.

Easter egg hunt on March 25

Main Street Baptist Church at 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, will hold its fourth annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 25.

Registration will be held from 11:30 a.m. to noon and activities will follow. There

will be face painting, a puppet play, crafts, coloring and games.

Age categories will be two and under; 3- to 5-year-olds; six- to 8-year-olds; 9- and 10-year-olds; and 11- and 12-year-olds.



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Single stall suggestion

COAL CITY—The transgender quandary has the world up in arms so to speak, over whether an individual is actually a male or female. They were born physically one sex, but in their mind they feel that they are a member of the opposite sex. So we label them in unkind ways, such as gays and more derogatory words and we know them all, just to isolate them from what most people call normal. That kind of bigotry must be dropped from a civilized society if we ever expect to advance to a more intelligent civilization. If we don't, then we will only prove that we are no better than the Romans throwing Christians into the arenas to be killed. The whole quandary is which bathroom are they allowed to use as we all need a facility to do our business and we like to be among our own sex when we do it. And most people I believe are bashful when it comes to doing our business in front of or next to the opposite sex. This becomes a problem when you don't know if the person next to you is physically the same sex as you are or if that person is actually a pervert, or worse yet a pedophile in disguise. The simple solution is to have an extra washroom marked single use. It's a simple construction problem. Most women's washrooms have more commodes in them. Isolate one stall, build a wall or two and add a door. Most carpenters can easily figure it out. So let people be themselves and let's get on with the business of life. Go Coalers.

Spend within means

COAL CITY—The city wants us to be under home rule. We might as well just hand over our check books. How about working within a budget? We don't need higher taxes. Do we really need a grassy island down the middle of South Broadway? How about just fixing the road. Is anyone trying to bring more business to town? That would help our taxes.

Love my newspaper

WILMINGTON—I like the Free Press. It has a lot of local news and shows what is going on in the town that you don't hear about. Thank you

Temptation to tax

COAL CITY—Home rule? You've got to be kidding. Do not vote for this. No matter who is on the town board today or in a few years they will be able to tax us on whatever they want whenever they want. We will have no vote on it. We might not even know about it.

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, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the newspaper makes

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to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-4256. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

The freebie party

SHADOW LAKES—As of the summer of 2012 Iran had \$8.8 billion in judgments levied against it for the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing of the marine barracks that killed 241 U.S. servicemen. The July 25, 2012 verdict amounted to \$813.77 million and was the eighth against Iran. In 2007, Iran was order to pay \$2.65 billion to the victim's families. After all the federal court in Washington concluded that the defendant, Iran, must be punished to the fullest extent legally possible for the bombing in Beirut on Oct. 23, 1983. But of course Barack Hussein Obama gave them \$150 billion. I hope all you people who voted for him are very, very proud. Number two, Chuck Schumer brought up that the Republicans in the process of repealing and replacing Obama care are keeping everything from congress until it's ready to go to the floor and be passed which contains about 650 pages. Let's not forget that Nancy Pelosi told the house that we just have to pass it and read it later which was 2,000 pages. Remember this people, my father was a union pipe fitter Local 597 and he always voted for Democrats except for Nixon and Reagan. The Democratic Party is not what it used to be. Let's stand up and acknowledge this all you people who love freebies.

Dan Hill

Election signs

WILMINGTON—I have been informed by some citizens that one of the candidates who is running against me has been removing my campaign signs and replacing them with their signs. I always strive to believe the good in everyone and always give everyone the benefit of the doubt, so I truly want to believe, with all of my heart, that this person is not doing this. I would like to believe they have higher moral standards and that they have Christian values and would never do something like this. If you are really doing this I ask that you please leave my signs alone as I respect your signs as well. Everyone pays a lot of money for their signs and I do not have any kind of financial backing from wealthy friends, family, businesses, unions or whatever. I am paying for my signs with my own money as I'm sure most of the candidates are. Also, to the people who put comments in soundoff complaining about the signs and not signing their names, if my signs offended you in any way or they were in a wrong location I truly apologize. I'm sorry that the police have to be involved every time there are elections because people complain about where signs are located. As an example, I had a sign located on a friend's property. The sign blew down and the person went outside to move it. They didn't want to be stepping in mud to put it back up so they moved it a few inches on the property. A complaint came into the police that my sign was in violation so instead of calling my friend and asking them to put the sign somewhere else I just went over there and picked the sign up to avoid having any problems. I wish everyone the best in the elections in April and I hope everyone comes out to vote and listens to all the candidates and what they have to say.

Sherri Michaels

move it. They didn't want to be stepping in mud to put it back up so they moved it a few inches on the property. A complaint came into the police that my sign was in violation so instead of calling my friend and asking them to put the sign somewhere else I just went over there and picked the sign up to avoid having any problems. I wish everyone the best in the elections in April and I hope everyone comes out to vote and listens to all the candidates and what they have to say.

Happier every day

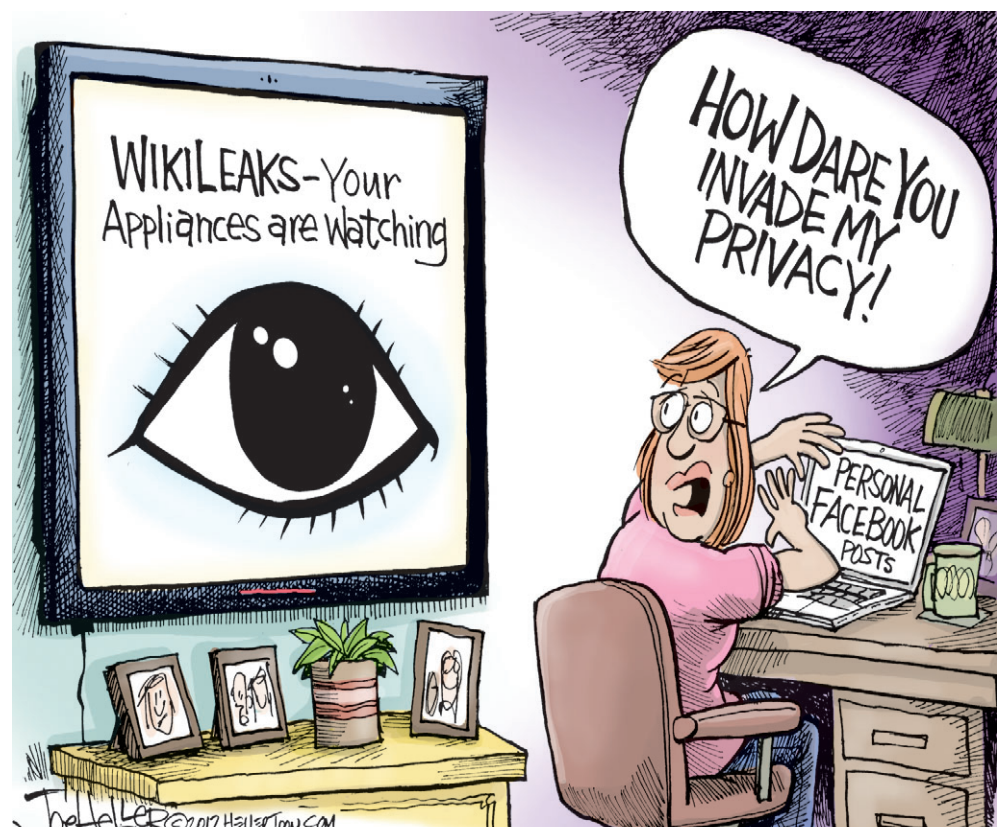
COAL CITY—In response to 'Happy now'. Yes, and getting happier every day.

Just a shame

COAL CITY—Regarding 'Sportsmanship lacking' in last week's soundoff column with the family attending the state wrestling match only to be rude and obnoxious cheering against the Wilmington team. I didn't realize Coal City had such disrespectful parents involved in our sports programs. Shame on them.

A better answer

COAL CITY—Do we really need to make



Broadway wider and picturesque? For a business district that barely exists anymore. How about we make a fund towards business owners to give them incentives to stay in town. We don't need any extra tax on our gas, it's already higher than surrounding cities and you would still expect us to shop in town. Or is this one of those tax plans that goes in the general fund and in two months more is needed and no one knows where it went? When home rule is brought in, who sets the term limits and or wages for the village board? We need an answer but home rule is not it.

In the dark

BRAIDWOOD—I would like to know when the light pole at the corner of Vita Lane and Janet Drive will be replaced. It has been over a year since a car knocked it over.

System is corrupt

JOLIET—Former U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr., now a convicted felon, has a reduction in child support payments from \$1,529 for two children to \$329 a month. He receives \$100,000 from worker's comp, tax free, and \$38,400 from social security disability due to his bi-polar and depression. This is more than he made as a freshman congressman in 1995. How ridiculous is all of this? I know many fathers have paid more than \$300 a week child support for one child, not per month. Shows how corrupt the system is. Your tax dollars hard work?

Ask the candidates

WILMINGTON—Nearly every week I see an anti-abortion soundoff. If this issue is that important to you, you should ask all the candidates what their position on this very important matter is.

Mayor's election

WILMINGTON—Of all the candidates who want to run for mayor of Wilmington, how many have been attending council meeting over the past eight years? How can anyone become mayor if they haven't been attending the meetings? People of Wilmington please think before voting.

Setting up for hire

COAL CITY—I can't agree more with the good old boys' network running the show when it comes to Coal City High School sports. Is the school district setting itself up to hire another assistant? They'll probably have to create another job, someone to do someone else's job. Isn't that always the answer?

Is it a plus?

WILMINGTON—After reading the article "Who's the best for the job?" I have a few questions. Of the over 1,000 construction jobs created for the intermodal how long term were these jobs? Of the 500-600 permanent jobs created by the intermodal facility how many are for in-house truck drivers versus in-house permanent workers? Where are these numbers coming from? The \$100 million in investments in the community how much of this money has actually been seen by Wilmington? Is any of this money going into our schools, parks, libraries, water department? It doesn't seem like the city has profited by the intermodal, its only hurt the town. We have trucks everywhere, roads falling apart and still no real jobs. I personally feel that the growth of the industrial area has had a negative impact on our community.

Not

Disney's dream

ROCKVILLE TOWNSHIP—It's a shame they have to distort a wholesome good story such as Beauty and the Beast by incorporating homosexuality so I will not be seeing it. They sure are butchering Walt Disney's name holding gay pride parades at Disneyland. What a wicked generation we are.

Protect our borders

ROCKVILLE TOWNSHIP—Sixty-five nations in the world have erected fences and closed off their borders so maybe what they have is a good thing. Maybe people need to sit down and shut up and let our country protect itself against terrorism and illegals that come in. We aren't the only country that wants to do it. Think about it, 65 other nations are already doing it.

Burden to seniors

BRAIDWOOD—As a lifetime resident and senior of Braidwood I see that the city wants to raise our water bill to do away with the city stickers. This is ridiculous. Most seniors do not use the minimum rate of the water bill now. We're lucky to have one bag of garbage a week and the sewer is outrageously high. Maybe we should take a look at this police department that pays police officers to be off on administrative leave. If an officer is on administrative leave they should not receive any pay until they are cleared of the matter. Over my years of growing up in this town this police department has cost taxpayers millions for misconduct by past police officers. We all remember the African American woman from Nicor that was accosted that cost us taxpayers millions of dollars for the lawsuit. And we all know who was behind that incident. There were legal expenses defending against other incidents. Let's get things in order and try to help the seniors.

Book basics first

WILMINGTON—Students have Bring your device to school day? Really? Because kids aren't on their devices enough? How about bring a book to school day? Also, teachers should quit giving children so much homework and when the class doesn't get something don't send it home for the parents to teach them, teach it yourselves to the kids. Nobody does my job for me.

Best show ever

BRAIDWOOD—The Reed-Custer musical this week end was excellent. Every single performer was magnificent. This was the best show ever. Kudos to Mr. Brand, Ms. Brittingham, Ms. Dennis, Ms. Scott, Ms. Roseberg and Mr. Macha and all who helped.

Protecting unwanted babies

WILMINGTON—The law called the "Born Alive Infants Protection Act" states that babies born alive at any time of gestation, even as a result of a failed abortion, are to be treated as persons under the law. Protecting unwanted babies after a failed abortion brings us one step closer to protecting them before an abortion.

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BRAIDWOOD—We highly supported executive orders on immigration by President Trump. We're not racists. We see how often immigrants commit terrorist attacks in Europe and we want to prevent that from happening here. We are a democratic country of laws. President Obama deported 2.7 million illegal immigrants throughout his eight years in office - more than any other previous president. Where was the press outcry then?

Overdose high

BRAIDWOOD—Read more than 52,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2015, the first time in history the grim total exceeded 50,000. About 73 percent of all overdose cases in 2015 were from prescription opioids and heroin. We definitely have a United States epidemic of drug abuse to deal with. Heroin is not only coming here from Mexico. The Middle East countries are shipping in their share.

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OBITUARIES

Phyllis D. Green

KENTUCKY—Phyllis D. Green of New Haven, KY, formally of Lisle, IL, passed away March 3, 2017 after a long, hard-fought battle with Scleroderma.

She is survived by her husband, Mark Kluge; son, Jason Kluge of Alabama; sisters, Debbie (Leroy) Giltner of Coal City and Gail (Bill) Taylor of South Dakota; nephews: Rick Taylor of South Dakota and Jim (Denise) Lee of Ottawa, IL; nieces: Laurie (William) Slack, Angela (Eric) Adolph and Patricia Taylor, all of South Dakota; Bre'Ann Giltner of Coal City and



Shandra Phillips of Mazon and several great-nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Willa Dean and her father, James H. Smith; brother, Raymond H. Smith and niece, Jennifer Erin Taylor.

Phyllis's final wish was that her body be donated to the Scleroderma Foundation, 300 Rosewood Drive, Suite 105, Danvers, MA 01923 as well as any donations in her name to help find a cure for the disease that she fought hard for many years.

A memorial will be held at a later date.

Jeffery Lardi Jr.

WILMINGTON—Jeffery Lynn Lardi Jr., 37, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, March 11, 2017.

Born March 14, 1979 in Joliet, Jeffery Lynn was a son of Jeffery Lynn Sr. and Barbara Ann (Ragain) Lardi of Wilmington. He was raised in Wilmington, was a 1993 graduate of St. Rose School and a 1997 graduate of Wilmington High School. Jeff went through the Electrical Engineers Apprentice program, and was a former member of IBEW Local #176, Operating Engineers Local #150 and the Labors Local #75. He worked as an independent electrician.

Jeff was a diehard Chicago Blackhawks fan, as well as a Green Bay Packers fan. He loved the outdoors and all creatures large and small. Jeff will be remembered for his love of spending time on Lardi Lake, where he played pond hockey, spent time with friends and family, and fished with his daughter.

Survivors include his parents, one daughter, Kayla Bomba Lardi of Wilmington; his fiancé, Kelly Sievert; brother, Anthony Lardi (fiancé—Alexa Krueger) of Shorewood; niece, Bella Lardi; maternal grandmother, Margaret "Peggy" Ragain of Coal City; paternal grandparents, James and Bernice Lardi



of Wilmington; his future mother-in-law, Gale (Bob) Brady of Minnesota and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends, as well as his beloved pets: Hazel, Chief, Ferby and Kaner.

Jeff was preceded in death by his grandfather, Gerald Ragain; father-in-law, Robert J. DePratt and the grandmother of his fiancé Kelly, Ima Jean Sayers.

Visitation and video tribute will be held Thursday, March 16, 2017 between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington. Services will follow Friday, March 17 at 10 a.m. in the funeral home. Reverend Dr. Roy Backus will officiate, and interment will be in Wesley Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jeff's memory to his family for the benefit of his daughter, Kayla's future education.

Family and friends may sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Jeff's memorial page on social media by logging onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com.

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

Mervin Strong

WILMINGTON—Mervin Paul Strong, 63, of Wilmington, passed away at his home Monday, March 6, 2017.

Born Oct. 19, 1953 in Joliet, he was the son of James and Anna (Sheets) Strong. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1972. He was a farmer as well as a carpenter until retirement. In his free time he enjoyed beekeeping, woodwork and building bird houses, but treasured his time spent with family.

Mervin is survived by his son, Jason Edwards, of Carterville; grandson, Mason Edwards; brothers and sisters: Sherlene Martin of Virginia; James M. (Vickie) Strong, Delores Boyd, Mark Strong, Mary Brock and Rita VanDuyn, all of Wilmington; Betty (Larry) Salzburg, of Dwight and Billie (Bill)



Wofford, of Casey and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters: Shirley Thorton, Beverly Clawson and Patricia "Patti" Strong; brother, Donald Lee Strong and nephew, Kenneth Brock.

Services were held Saturday, March 11, at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. Per Mervin's wishes cremation rites were accorded following the service.

Family and friends may sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Mervin's memorial page on social media by logging onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com.

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

Daniel D. Willis

BRAIDWOOD—Daniel D. Willis, 65, of Braidwood, IL, formerly of Wilmington, IL, passed away Friday, March 10, 2017 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home in Joliet, IL.

Born Jan. 27, 1952 in Saint Louis, MO, he was the son of Frank and Lola Mae (nee Luchini) Willis. Daniel retired from BP Chemicals in Channahon, IL in 2004 and continued his career with Flint Hills Resources, retiring from there in 2012. He had previously been employed at Olin Chemical. Daniel had many interests including painting, music, gardening and fishing. He was an avid collector of music albums, baseball cards and other unique collectibles. His yearly vacations to Florida and walking the beach picking up shells with his wife were amongst his most cherished moments. He derived much joy in the activities he did with his grandchildren and in watching them participate in their various activities and events.

Surviving are his wife, Cathie R. (nee Johnson) Willis, who he married Sept. 29, 1973 in Joliet; four children: Shelle Willis of Braidwood, Danielle (Brian) Sanders, Jason (Shannon) Willis and Sarah Willis all of



Wilmington; 12 grandchildren: Ava Willis, Danny and Gracie Sanders, Tyler, Zachary and Cameron Willis, Trent and Julia McCully and Kaylee, Gabbi, Joey and McKenna Morris; one brother, Rick (Pat) Willis of Channahon, three sisters: Kay (Butch) Thompson of Channahon, Robin (Keith) Haynes of Paducah, KY and Cindy Schumacher of Joliet and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and a sister, Carol Nancy Willis.

Funeral services will be at the R. W. Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd., Braidwood Chapel, Thursday, March 16, at 10 a.m. with Pastor Greg Linkous officiating. Interment will follow at the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington, IL.

Visitation will be Wednesday, March 15, from 4-7 p.m.

For more information, log onto rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find their Facebook page at R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd & Crematory.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd., 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Fire district referendum? No comments

BY PAM MONSON
EDITOR

Fire Chief Tim Zlomie was ready for it. He expected he'd hear all kinds of comments about the fire district's proposal to increase property taxes. But the outcry hasn't come, and now he's wondering if residents value what the fire district does enough to be generally in favor of the increase, or if its referendum failed the minute residents heard about it.

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is asking residents to vote yes on a referendum on April 4 to raise its tax rate from .7709 to 1.1000. The increase would cost the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 about \$7.50 a month. The owner of a home worth \$150,000 could expect to pay a little over \$12 more per month. The increase on a \$200,000 home would be about \$16.64 per month.

The referendum would generate a little over \$600,000 annually, and would be eliminated after four years.

If the voters approve the referendum, the new dollars will permit the district to increase staffing at the fire station and reduce its reliance on neighboring departments. Currently, six people man the fire station at all times, working 24-hour shifts on a part-time basis. The additional funds from the referendum would add two positions to each shift, and require that six more part-time firefighter paramedics be hired and equipped. Without the staff increase, Wilmington has to rely on neighboring departments to cover some of its calls, which can mean it takes longer for the fire truck or ambulance to respond.

Zlomie can't fight a fire if he can't see the smoke. Good or bad, he wants taxpayers' input, so the information being provided to the community can be improved or so he knows if voters have what they need to make an informed decision one way or the other.

"We were hoping that there would be a couple of questions that were always festering that we could address, but that isn't the case," said Zlomie. Since the referendum was announced last month, the chief has had only had a handful of phone calls or emails, and those

were mostly just for minor clarifications.

"The phone's not ringing. The people I see out in the community that are for it and who are going to support it come up to me and say, 'yeah, chief, you have our support; good job, we appreciate everything you do.' That's where we're at," Zlomie commented.

The fire district has already responded to 19 calls more than this time last year, and that reflects an upward trend in call volume that started more than five years ago. Just last Thursday, the fire district ran 11 fire and ambulance calls, and Elwood had to come in three times to cover calls Wilmington didn't have the staff to answer. That's where the danger of a delay lies — the Wilmington fire district units have to assess the situation before calling a neighboring department for help, and that department has to have time to travel to Wilmington. Meanwhile, the emergency calls keep coming in — and if the call is a cardiac arrest, it's a life-and-death, seconds count situation; everybody at the station goes.

In the last two months, 55 of the calls the emergency responders left the station for were second calls in progress, meaning the ambulance or fire trucks had already responded to someone's call for assistance when another emergency was called in. Five times in the last two months the district was asked to respond to a third call in progress. It's not unusual for units from East Joliet or New Lenox to be sent here for standby, and it can be a challenge for those personnel to find locations out in the country, or even a hospital in Kankakee.

The district is trying to be proactive. Zlomie doesn't want to wait until the bad experiences add up to seek help from the taxpayers.

"I want to look down the road to the future, and what we need, it's a need, not a want. This is an actual need for our community," he said. The chief says the need is critical — that if it wasn't the district would not be asking the taxpayers to approve a referendum.

And he's sure there are residents who say "absolutely not" as soon as they hear that word. The fire district understands the residents' concerns, a property tax

increase affects the board, administrators, firefighters and paramedics as well, because most of them live in the district that includes all of Florence, Wesley and Wilmington townships.

"It wasn't a very popular thing. We've been looking at this for a few years now, and it just came to the point where, 'hey guys, it's not going to be the most popular thing on the ballot for sure, but we've at least got to try, and give the facts to our community, and see and respond, see if they would support us in this effort,'" Zlomie said. "It was not a knee-jerk reaction. It was a lot of planning, meetings, searching for other avenues; this was the last avenue."

The fire district has never given property tax incentives, when it had a choice.

"We feel the minute they set foot on that property it impacts us. The minute they start construction, it impacts us. The fire district has never felt that a tax abatement has been appropriate for us to give to any corporation." The district had no say in the municipality's tax increment financing district for RidgePort, but the city did allow the district to negotiate an initial and separate recurring impact fee to help cover some costs. In addition, the district would have been in a better financial position if all of the proposed but now defunct residential subdivisions and the ProLogis Park logistics center had developed.

The proposed tax increase is strictly to cover the cost of increasing its around-the-clock staffing at the fire station. It will not be used for the purchase of fire trucks or ambulances. The district would add two people to every 24-hour work shift to ensure someone is always available, at the station. Emergency responders try to be on the road within one minute of receiving a call during the day, two minutes at night.

Chief Zlomie welcomes a phone call from anyone who has questions or concerns. He can be reached at 815-476-6675, or questions can be emailed to referendum@wilmingtonfire.org.

Editor's note: All expenditures related to the fire district referendum are being paid for through donations from supporters and district personnel, not tax dollars.

Handmade quilt up for raffle



THE VFW 5422 AUXILIARY is raffling off a quilt to raise funds for charitable giving. There are 100 squares being sold at \$3 each and after all the squares are sold a winner will be drawn. Chances can be purchased at the Water Street Fitness Center, 315 N. Water St. Displaying the quilt are Auxiliary members (from left) Bard Howard, Virginia Fleming, Diane Egan and Judy Wunderlich.

Music students to join ensemble for special concert

BY BRI BOYNTON
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

On Tuesday, March 21, Wilmington High School will host the River Valley Wind Ensemble for a combined concert with students.

River Valley Wind Ensemble is composed of members who are nurses, lawyers, teachers, administrators, from all different walks of life.

Some of the members of the ensemble work locally including Wes Smith, husband to Tracey Smith, music teacher at Stevens Intermediate School. Wes works at Oak Knoll Financial Strategies in Wilmington. He and Tracey are both part of the ensemble.

Most people do not know that outside of his normal day job, Smith is also very involved musically with the River Valley Wind Ensemble.

The River Valley Wind

Ensemble is a group based in the Kankakee area. The group practices and performs during the school year in order to reach out and encourage younger musicians. Many are teachers and professional musicians, but many have other occupations - lawyer, engineer, mechanic, finance, medical, retirees, and a few college students.

"Musicians are always looking for challenging literature to perform with fun people and River Valley Wind Ensemble gives us the chance to do that," Smith said.

There is a wide range of occupations and ages in the ensemble, showing others that there is no 'one type of person' that should be a musician.

Another member of the River Valley Wind Ensemble that is a part of the Wilmington community is Ellen Georgeff, music

teacher at Wilmington High School, Stevens Middle School, and Bruning Elementary School.

Georgeff believes that the concert will be a great opportunity for each of the bands.

"I hope this opens my students' eyes to the simple fact that music is life long and it doesn't have to be your career to be able to still play and play with high caliber musicians. I hope they have a greater appreciation as to what we are working toward," Georgeff commented.

All of the Wilmington band students are excited to get the chance to perform with such an experienced group of musicians.

The 5th, 6th, 7/8th grade and high school bands will perform with the River Valley Wind Ensemble at a free 7 p.m. concert in the gym at Wilmington High School.

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newhopepresbychurch@gmail.com
The Rev. Mark Hughey
Wed.: 7 p.m., Session
Fri.: 9 a.m., Newsletter articles are due
Sat.: 7:30 p.m., Movie night featuring "Darby O'Gill and the Little People"
Sun.: 9 to 10:15 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship service, child care available
Mon.: 10:45 a.m., Meals on Wheels; 5 to 6 p.m., St. Vincent's Table hosted by New Hope Presbyterian Church
Tue.: 1 p.m., Bible study
• Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• The church will host St. Vincent's Table in March. To volunteer to cook, set-up, do dishes or clean-up, sign-up on the sheet on the tri-fold. Desserts can be dropped off by 4 p.m. at the New Hope kitchen each Monday. Use disposable containers or wrap in plastic individually. For more information call 815-370-7817 or email Cathy Milne at cathymlne@yahoo.com.
• Sign-up for the food pantry and Meals on Wheels at least a week in advance on the tri-fold.
• A ham and bean dinner and basket raffle will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
• Committee Night will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5.
• The next Session meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19.
• An open prayer gathering will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, from 4 to 7 p.m. Group prayer will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by refreshments. Everyone is invited.

Easter schedule: April 9 - 10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday; April 13 - 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday foot washing; April 14 - 7 p.m., Good Friday; April 16 - 10:30 a.m., Easter

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Pastor Dennis Brooks
Sunday worship - 8:30 a.m.
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**FAITH BAPTIST
CHURCH**
3950 N. Goose Lake Rd.
Morris, IL
(Corner of Pine Bluff, Lorenzo and Goose Lake roads)
942-0675
Pastor Caleb Counterman
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship service, children's service; 6 p.m., worship
Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting

**ST. LAWRENCE
CHURCH**
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So. Wilmington, IL
815-237-2230
Masses: 4 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m., Sunday; 7:30 a.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
Reconciliation: 3 to 3:45 p.m., Saturday or by appointment
• CCD classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:40 a.m., at the South Wilmington Grade School. Call the rectory for more information.

**CHRISTIAN FAITH
CENTER**
1800 S. Water St.
Wilmington, IL
815-388-8628
Pastor Jeff A. Urban
Sun.: 10 a.m., Family worship with classes for children ages newborn to 11-years-old
Wed.: 7 to 8 p.m., Family worship with classes for all ages

**PHELAN ACRES
BIBLE CHURCH**
26009 Willow Lane
Phelan Acres
Wilmington, IL
476-7818
Pastor Rodney L. Chappell
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m. morning worship; 6 p.m., evening service
Wed.: 7 p.m., adult Bible study and prayer; children's Bible clubs

CHURCH OF HOPE
Monroe & Jefferson
Streets; Gardner, IL
Pastor Jan Chandler;
237-8312
Sun.: 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., worship
Wed.: 8:30 a.m., Pastor's prayer and lectionary study group
Thu.: 8:30 a.m., church prayer group

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
106 S. Lincoln Street
Braidwood, IL
Pastor Dale Tolly
Church: 815-458-6317
Pastor: 815-922-2212
www.firstpresbraidwood.org
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship

**Living Stones
Community Church**
25124 S. Fryer St. •
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815-325-8476
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• Christian Singles meets at 6 p.m. on the third Friday of each month.
• A healing service is held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m.

**ABUNDANT LIFE
FELLOWSHIP**
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815-458-6530
Pastor Greg Linkous
alfwilmington.com
• **Sun.:** 10:30 a.m., worship, children's church and nursery available
• **Tue.:** Home church (Bible study)
• **Wed.:** 6 to 7 p.m., prayer meeting at the church; 7 to 8:30 p.m., men's Bible study at the church
• **Fri.:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ladies' Bible study every other Friday at the church
• **Sat.:** 8 to 10 a.m., men's prayer breakfast on the second Saturday of each month
• Potluck fellowship dinner is held on the first Sunday of each month following worship.

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APOSTOLIC
CENTRE**
85 S. Broadway;
Suite C • Coal City, IL
Pastor Ida M. Nelson
815-342-0652
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Tue.: 7 p.m., worship

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LATTER-DAY
SAINTS**
1414 W. Dupont Ave.
Morris, IL
815-579-8308
Sun.: 10 a.m., service

**ESSEX UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
114 W. Waverly Street
Sun.: 9 a.m., children's Sunday school; 9:30 a.m., adult Bible study; 10:30 a.m., worship
• Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

**WILMINGTON
CHURCH OF GOD**
1200 Sunset Dr. •
Wilmington, IL
60481
Pastor
Raymond H. Jones
Home: 815-237-2158
Sun.: 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m., worship service
Wed.: 6:30 p.m., Bible study

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CHURCH**
14936 W. Peotone Rd.
Wilton Center, IL
478-3440
Father Roger Kutzner
Pastor
Rev. Mr. Milt Leppert
Permanent Deacon
Mass schedule: 9 a.m., Monday through Friday; 5:30 p.m., Saturday; 9 a.m., Sunday
• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Fridays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

**KINGDOM HALL OF
JEHOVAH'S
WITNESSES**
West River Road
Wilmington, IL
815-476-4060
Tue.: 7:30 p.m., Midweek meeting, Christian Life and Ministry
Sun.: 10 a.m., Bible topic; Discourse on Bible Topic
All interested persons welcome, no collections taken.

**ISLAND CITY
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120 Vine Street
Wilmington, IL
Pastor Jeff Logsdon
476-9750
Sun.: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon, worship service, nursery provided; 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., Sunday school classes for all ages
Wed.: 6 to 7:30 p.m., Adult Bible study and prayer meeting year-round;
• Kindergarten through twelfth grade students meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for Bible study during the school year.



**CHURCH OF
THE NAZARENE**
303 S. Kankakee
Wilmington, IL
476-HOPE
Rev. Bill Luttrell
wfcnaz@aol.com
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship; 3 p.m., Hands of Praise puppet team practice; 6 p.m., service
Mon.: 7 p.m., video exercise class in fellowship hall
Wed.: 7 p.m., fellowship, outreach ministry teams, teen Bible studies
Thu.: 7 p.m., video exercise class in fellowship hall
Sat.: 8 a.m., Men's prayer at the church and breakfast at Chick-A-Dee.
• Call 476-HOPE for prayer if you or someone you know is hospitalized.
• Those who need a ride to Sunday school and church should call or e-mail the church.

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**
4470 E. Rt. 113
P.O. Box 39
Coal City, IL
Pastor
David Gilleland
815-634-2654
www.fbccoalcity.com
Wed.: 7 p.m., adult Bible study and activities for children and youth
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 11 a.m., Sunday worship

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
301 N. Kankakee St.
Wilmington, IL
Office: 815-476-9025
The Rev. Winn Alley
http://1st-presbyterian-church.net
Sun.: No adult Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship service, hymn singing; 11:30 a.m., fellowship
Mon.: No Bible study - the Book of Matthew

**PARK STREET
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**
United Church of Christ
806 Park Street
Mazon, IL
815-448-5514
Pastor Tyler Carrell
★★★
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Wed.: 6 p.m., Bible study

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PASTOR DOROTHY WALDRON
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Britton Roth
815-476-7659
Steve Gibson
815-634-4396
www.wilmingtoncocc.com
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Bible classes; 10:35 a.m., worship; 5 p.m., afternoon worship
Wed.: 7 p.m., Bible study

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CHURCH**
705 E. Washington St
Morris, IL
Pastor Kevin Yandell
Children's Director
Patsy Phillips
815-942-4255
Sunday worship: 9 and 10:45 a.m.
• Nursery and children's programs offered

Annual tea set for March 25

The First United Methodist Church will host its fifth annual tea time on Saturday, March 25, from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

There will be tea, treats, talent, and a silent and live auction.

Tickets are \$7. Children under 10 years old will be \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Henderson Settlement trip.

The church is located at 401 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
110 S. Division St. • Braidwood, IL
Pastor Justin Kinder
msbbraidwood.com
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., worship
Wed.: 6 p.m., prayer meeting
• Office hours are Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.
• Awana and youth will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 E. Jefferson St.
Gardner, IL
Pastor Jana Howson
815-237-2227
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship, word and sacrament
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m.
• Join in on the third Thursday of each month for bingo and a bake sale from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Gardner American Legion Hall.

RITCHEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Route 102 • Wilmington, IL
815-476-6166
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship service
• Communion with Pastor Brent Phillips is on the first Sunday of each month.
• A fellowship dinner is held on the first Sunday of each month following the service.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 E. Kahler Rd. • Wilmington, IL
Pastor Tom Kingery
815-476-5474
web page: www.fumcwill.com
Wed.: 9 a.m. to noon, preschool; 6 p.m., Genesis 1-6; 7 p.m., choir practice, Trustees meeting, Alcoholics Anonymous
Fri.: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., preschool
Sat.: 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Sun.: 8:30 a.m., Sunday school for 6th through 12th grades, and adults; 9:30 a.m., worship service, Sunday school for preschool through 5th grade; 6 p.m., Nicene Creed
Mon.: 9 a.m. to noon, preschool; 6 p.m., Sermon on the Mount; 6:30 p.m., 4-H
Tue.: 6 p.m., Philippinians
• Preschool information can be found in the church office or website.
• Our Caring Closet, at 205 N. First St. in Wilmington, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.
• The church offers youth group, Men's Club, women's groups, Christian fellowship dinners, and mission and community outreach opportunities.

**BRACEVILLE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
106 W. Gould Street • P.O. Box 46
Braceville, IL
Pastor Bennett A. Woods
815-237-8512
bumclighthouse@yahoo.com
Wed.: 6 p.m., Ash Wednesday service
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., worship, first Sunday with Holy Communion
• A soup supper will be held on Saturday, March 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by a talent show at 6 p.m. Call the church to register to be in the talent show.
• A rummage show will be held on Friday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to noon.
• United Methodist People meet on the second Tuesday of each month, time and location to be determined
• Women's Bible study is held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
• Exercise with Patty, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are on Friday at 8 p.m.
• Children's after school programs JAM Junction, and Jesus and Me, for kindergarten through fourth graders; and EDGE for preteens, are held on Wednesday from after school until 4:30 p.m. STATIC youth group Standing Together As Teens in Christ, for seventh through twelfth grades, is held on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Snacks are provided. There will be no JAM, EDGE or STATIC on March 29.

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**
195 S. Kankakee St. • Coal City, IL
815-634-4171
Reverend Robert Noesen
stmaryassumptionparish.org
Monday and Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. communion service

Due to church renovation, Sunday Mass will be celebrated in Berst Hall. Weekday rosary, Mass and communion services will be celebrated in a temporary chapel at the south end of the religious education building. Mass on the first Tuesday of the month, Saint Peregrine Devotions and first Saturday 8:30 a.m. Mass and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be held in Berst Hall.
• Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. Mass; Wednesday through Friday - 8:30 a.m. Mass; Saturday - 4 p.m. Mass; Sunday - 8 and 10:30 a.m. Mass; first Saturday of the month - 8:30 a.m. Mass and the sacrament of anointing of the sick
• Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturday from 3:20 to 3:45 p.m.; Sunday before the 10:30 a.m. Mass; and Wednesday before the 8:30 a.m. Mass
• Daily rosary - 8 a.m. in the church
• Devotional prayers Novena to Our Lord and His mother, Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wednesday, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass
• Devotional prayers Novena to Our Lord and His servant, Saint Peregrine, patron saint of those who suffer with cancer or any incurable disease or condition, Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - first Tuesday of the month following the 6:30 p.m. Mass
• St. Vincent DePaul Monday evening dinners for the needy are held in Berst Hall. For the parish food and household pantry call 815-634-4171.
• Mother of the Eucharist Perpetual Adoration Chapel is located across from the church at 195 S. Kankakee St. The chapel is a place of silent prayer in the presence of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is solemnly exposed for adoration 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a place of silent and reverent prayer. Everyone is encouraged to stop in anytime, make regular visits, and sign-up for a specific hour of adoration each week.
Holy Week
• April 8, Vigil of Palm Sunday: confessions after 4 p.m. Mass
• April 9, Palm Sunday: confessions after 10:30 a.m. Mass
• April 12, Wednesday of Holy Week: confessions after 8:30 a.m. Mass and the last until Divine Mercy Sunday
• April 13, Thursday of Holy Week: 2 p.m., offices close; 7 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper
• April 14, Good Friday: 3 p.m., Passion of the Lord with Veneration and Holy Communion; 7 p.m., Stations of the Cross and Veneration of the Cross
• April 15, Holy Saturday: noon, Blessing of Easter foods and baskets outside Berst Hall; 8 p.m., Mass of the Resurrection
• April 16, Easter Sunday: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Masses

Roast dinner in Elwood

Elwood Community Church will host a pot roast fundraiser dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 18.

Tickets will be sold at the door. Adults will be \$10 and children ages 12 and under will be \$5. Carry-outs will be available.

The church is located at 101 N. Chicago St. in Elwood.

Soup supper, show

Braceville United Methodist Church will host its 11th annual soup supper on Saturday, March 18.

Soups and sandwiches, along with all the trimmings, desserts and beverages will be served from 4 to 6 p.m..

The meal will be free, but donations will be accepted. Carry-outs will be available. All proceeds will go to Vacation Bible School 2017.

A talent show will begin at 6 p.m. Anyone with a hidden talent is invited to perform before a friendly and welcoming audience. To book an act call the church at 815-237-8512.

The church is located at 106 W. Gould in Braceville.

Braidwood fish fry

Immaculate Conception Parish at 110 S. School St., Braidwood, will host a Lenten fish fry each Friday during Lent, until April 15, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Fr. White Hall.

The menu will include Icelandic cod, shrimp, frog legs, french fries or a baked potato, cole slaw, bread and butter, lemonade and coffee.

Everyone is invited to attend.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
& Grace Lutheran Preschool**
907 Luther Dr. • Wilmington, IL
Office: 815-476-9480
Reverend Zak Wagner
Preschool Director Mary Kay Hays
office@gracewilm.org
pastor@gracewilm.org
Wed.: 6:15 to 7 p.m., Simple Supper hosted by the confirmation group; 7 p.m., Lenten worship service followed by choir practice
Thu.: 7 p.m., Rainbow Council Boy Scout meeting

Fri.: 9 a.m., Friday Crew
Sat.: 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers
Sun.: 9 a.m., worship with communion; 10 a.m., coffee time, Godly Play, church council meeting; 7 p.m., senior high group meets
Mon.: Lamp articles are due; 11 a.m., Bible study; 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
• Grace Lutheran Preschool is accepting 2017-2018 registrations. For more information visit www.gracewilm.org, or call the church office.
• A Simple Supper will be held each Wednesday in March from 6:15 to 7 p.m. followed by Lenten worship at 7 p.m.
• The eighth annual egg hunt and Easter event will be held on Sunday, April 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission will be free and include an egg hunt with prizes for children ages birth to 10. Advance registration is recommended and due before Friday, March 31.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
110 S. School St. • Braidwood, IL
Rev. Show Reddy Allam
Rectory: 458-2125
Reconciliation: 4:45 to 5:15 p.m., Saturday
Weekend Mass: 5:30 p.m., Saturday; 7:30 and 11 a.m., Sunday; 9:15 a.m., Sunday at St. Lawrence O'Toole in Essex
• The Adoration Chapel in Fr. White Hall is open 24/7, but unlocked daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. A code is available for those visiting the chapel before or after hours. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to make a commitment, or access the code, call Bill Scheer at 815-458-6800.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Wilmington, IL
Rev. Steve Bondi
School Principal: Linda Bland
Rectory 476-7491; School 476-6220; Religious Education 476-6220; Kuzma Cottage 476-2030, Hours: 9-11 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
Schedule
Daily Mass 8 a.m. on Mon., Wed. and Fri.; Saturday Vigil at 4:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 7 and 11 a.m.
Wed.: 5:45 to 7 p.m., REP/Mass
Thu.: 10 a.m., Legion of Mary in the St. Rose Church meeting room; 7 p.m., parish council meeting in the St. Rose Church meeting room
Fri.: 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., parish confessions at St. Rose Church; 2 p.m., Stations of the Cross
Sat.: 10 a.m., widows/widowers meeting at McDonald's in Wilmington; 6 to 11 p.m., annual parish auction at St. Rose School
Sun.: Kuzma Cottage collection; 2 p.m., confirmation at St. Rose Church
• Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening at 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass is at 7 and 11 a.m. Weekday Masses are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m. During school months the Wednesday morning Mass begins at 8:10 a.m. Communion services, pending volunteers, are on Tuesday and Thursdays at 8 a.m. Any prearranged Mass intentions for Tuesdays and Thursdays have been rescheduled for either the Monday, Wednesday or Friday Mass as close to the original date as possible.
• Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent at 2 p.m. with the exception of Living Stations which will be on Friday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m.
• The 11th annual parish auction will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, in the St. Rose School gymnasium. Tickets are sold out. There will be free entrance for the live auction at 7:45 p.m. Donations are needed for the silent auction. Visit the St. Rose Amazon Wish List at amazon.com for items to be directly shipped to the school, or bring donations to the school during school hours.
• The St. Rose Athletics will prepare Easter baskets for Kuzma Cottage. Sponsor one or more baskets with a \$5 donation for each. Envelopes are available at the church entrances and may be returned to the school office, with a St. Rose student or dropped in the collection basket.
• Mass with prayers for healing is on the first Friday of each month at 7 p.m. Call the parish to verify the Mass will be celebrated. Everyone is invited.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1824 Church St., Wilmington, IL
Dallas Henry, Lead Minister
Zach Griepentrost, Student & Arts Minister
815-476-6734
www.fccwilmington.org
Sun.: 8:30 and 10 a.m., worship service and children's worship; 10 a.m., Bible classes for adults; preschool through fifth grade children are invited to join Kid's Cove to discover God's word with singing and Bible stories during each worship service; a nursery is provided for all Sunday morning activities
• Collision for sixth through twelfth grades meet each Sunday from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
• Men's and women's Bible study meet on every Monday at 7 p.m.
• Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meetings are on the first and third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. at the church.
• Celebrate Recovery meets at the church each Thursday at 7 p.m.
• Family groups meet each week in Wilmington and Coal City. Call the church for times and locations.

• The Deep Roots after-school program provides care for kindergarten through sixth grade students on school days from 2:30 to 6 p.m. There are still openings for the 2016-2017 school year. Call the church office for information.

How to stop the snoring

Dear Savvy Senior: Over the past few years my 57-year-old husband's snoring has gotten much worse. It's to the point that I have to either wear earplugs or move to a different room. Any suggestions?
Sleep Deprived Susan

Dear Susan,
Snoring is a very common problem that often gets worse with age. Around 37 million Americans snore on a regular basis according to the National Sleep Center.

Snoring occurs when the airway narrows or is partially blocked during sleep usually due to nasal congestion, floppy tissue, alcohol, or enlarged tonsils. But you and your husband also need to know that snoring can be much more than just an annoyance.

It can also be a red flag for obstructive sleep apnea, a serious condition in which the snorer stops and starts breathing during sleep, increasing the risks of cardiovascular disease, stroke, cardiac arrhythmia and hypertension.

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, 34 percent of men and 19 percent of women who snore routinely have sleep apnea or are at risk for it.

Self-help remedies
Even if you are unsure whether your husband has a primary snoring problem or sleep apnea, sleep experts

suggest you start with these steps.

Open a stuffy nose: If nasal congestion is causing your husband to snore, over-the-counter nasal strips such as Breathe Right may help. Or, if allergies are the cause, try saline nasal sprays.

Elevate his head:

Buying a foam wedge to elevate his head a few inches can help reduce snoring, or buy him a contoured pillow to lift his chin and keep the tongue from blocking the back of his throat as he sleeps. Also check out Nora (smartenora.com), a wireless snoring device that slides under the pillow and gently moves the head to a different position when snoring is detected. This, they say, stimulates the relaxed throat muscles and opens the airway.

Sleep on side: To prevent back sleeping, which triggers snoring, place a pillow against your husbands back to keep him from rolling over or sew a tennis ball in the back of his pajama shirt. Or check out the Night Shift Sleep Positioner (nightshifttherapy.com), a



SAVVY SENIOR

Jim Miller

device that's worn around the neck that vibrates when you roll on your back.

Avoid alcohol before bed: Alcoholic beverages can relax the muscles in the throat, and constrict airflow. He should not consume alcohol three to four hours before bed-

time.

Lose excess weight: Fat around the neck can compress the upper airway and impede airflow and is often associated with sleep apnea.

Quit smoking: Smoking causes inflammation in the upper airways that can make snoring worse.

Need more help

If these lifestyle strategies don't make a big difference, your husband should see his doctor, a sleep specialist, or an otolaryngologist who may recommend an overnight study to test him for apnea.

For primary snoring or mild to moderate sleep apnea, an oral appliance that fits into the mouth like a retainer may be prescribed. This shifts the lower jaw and tongue forward, keeping the airway open.

Some other options are Theravent snore therapy (theraventsnoring.com) and Provent sleep apnea therapy (proventtherapy.com), which are small nasal devices that attach over the nostrils to improve airflow.

But the gold standard for moderate to severe sleep apnea is a continuous positive airway pressure, or CPAP, device. This involves sleeping with a mask and is hooked up to a machine that gently blows air up your nose to keep the passages open.

If these don't work or are intolerable, surgery is an option too. There are procedures available today that remove excess tissue in the nose, mouth, or throat. And a newer procedure called hypoglossal nerve stimulation that uses a small device implanted in the chest to help control the movement of the tongue when it blocks the airway.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



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Garden Club welcomes recipes for 80th anniversary cookbook

This year the Wilmington Garden Club will celebrate its 80th year as a club. To commemorate the occasion, it will update its cookbook.

The Garden Club needs approximately 150 new recipes, hoping to add at least 10 recipes to each section.

The deadline to submit recipes is Wednesday, April 12. The Garden Club plans to have the cookbook available to sell at its plant exchange

on Saturday, May 13.

Pull out your favorite recipe and share it with the public.

It is also a nice remembrance for our friends and family recipes. Dedicate a recipe or two in honor of someone and include a few words to go with that recipe.

Recipes are needed for appetizers and beverages; soups, salads and sauces; vegetables and side dishes; breads, rolls and muffins; cookies, bars, treats and

candies; and desserts.

Also, main dishes and casseroles; meat, poultry and seafood; wild game, camping and grilling; ethnic heritage kitchen favorites; kids' cooking; canning, pickling, jams and jellies; animal/ pet treats; kitchen/life poems; and this and that.

Submit recipes to Mary Belter at wags2swishs@aol.com or mail to 20268 W. County Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Free screening of new PBS episode at the Mar Theatre

There will be a free screening of the new Public Broadcast Service (PBS) episode of Travels with Darley from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Mar Theatre, 121 S. Main St., Wilmington.

The episode, Route 66 & Midewin, will feature Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and other

sights and landmarks along this stretch of old historic Route 66.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of local people involved in the production. The moderator will be Midewin archaeologist Joe Wheeler.

Respond to Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed to attend.

Students on Olivet Univ. dean's list

Olivet Nazarene University has announced the students named to the dean's list during the fall 2016 semester.

Area students who achieved this honor are Faith Anderson and Samantha Colvin of Custer Park, Megan Bohac, Karalynn Brock, Kristyn Goodwin and Susan Soda of Wilmington and Michelle Rich of Braidwood.


To qualify for the dean's list, a student must be full-time and have a semester gpa of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

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Aamair 'TJ' Tajuddin, D.O., Pediatrics

Stretching the law to pay state workers

If Attorney General Lisa Madigan succeeds in convincing the Illinois Supreme Court to consider ordering the state to stop paying employees without an appropriation, and the governor's legal team uses the same arguments as it did in St. Clair County, we could be in for a highly unusual argument.

First a little background. The Illinois Constitution and state laws are clear that no state money can be expended without a legal appropriation, which is legislative speak for a special kind of bill that lists how much government agencies, commissions, etc. can spend on various items.

As you probably know, the state hasn't had a "real" budget in a couple of years. A budget is basically just a collection of appropriations. The last legal appropriation for state employee payroll expired on June 30, 2015.

Negotiations between

the governor and legislative leaders stalled and shortly thereafter a judge in St. Clair County ordered the state to pay its workers anyway. Everybody back then figured this would probably be a temporary situation, so nobody squawked too much. It's been done before for a few weeks. No big deal.

Except, as we are all painfully aware, the governmental stalemate has continued for over 20 months. In January, Attorney General Madigan got tired of waiting for the governor and the General Assembly to cut a deal and filed a legal motion in St. Clair County to vacate that 2015 order.

She lost. We're not sure exactly why because the judge didn't issue a formal opinion, but the governor's office was at that hearing and filed a brief opposing AG Madigan's motion.

The governor doesn't want AG Madigan to win

because his bargaining position will be greatly weakened if the courts effectively shut down the state by ruling that money can't be spent without appropriations. Rauner is demanding some business-related reforms, a property tax freeze and a few other things before he'll agree to a tax hike to balance the state's infamously out of whack budget.

So, the man who once bragged that he would use the crisis of the state not having a budget to force through his preferred legislative changes now wants to avoid a much worse crisis that would compel him to abandon his demands in order to prevent the catastrophe of an actual government shutdown.

Got all that? OK.



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

One of the arguments used by the governor's lawyers when they won at the county level last month was that a bunch of state laws are in reality "continuing appropriations."

A continuing appropriation is a law mandating that certain state bills be paid in perpetuity. The General Assembly isn't required to pass new appropriations every year and the governor isn't required to sign them into law. It's automatic pilot spending.

But the governor's lawyers want to redefine what a continuing appropriation is. According to the governor's legal brief, "there are many statutes that function as continuing appropriations by mandating the

State to perform specific services. Employees who provide those services must continue to be paid."

Examples the governor's legal eagles used included a state statute which mandates that the Illinois Department on Aging "shall exercise, administer, and enforce all rights, powers and duties vested in the Department on Aging by the Illinois Act on the Aging."

Complying with these and other mandates, they claimed, "necessitates paying personnel" because compliance can't be accomplished without employees.

The governor's legal team then argued that it would take a lot of time to sift through all state laws to find these mandates, and that the task needed to be followed up by "evidentiary hearings to assess what employees are necessary to provide such services." Such a process could take months,

if not years. There are a ton of those mandates in the state statute books.

Needless to say, if such an argument prevailed it would give the executive branch almost limitless authority to spend taxpayer money as it pleased. And it wouldn't end with employee salaries, either.

If the Department on Aging determined that it needed a big new Chicago office building to perform its mandated functions, or had to let millions of dollars in new contracts, or had to purchase a dozen new vehicles, then, under the governor's legal logic it could go right ahead and do so without any legislative approval whatsoever.

The governor's team references what it considers to be favorable court rulings from 1953 and 1974, but this is either one of the most blatant executive power grab attempts I've seen or the biggest legal stretch ever.

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FOR THE LAST six weeks, St. Rose School students have learned how to use the correct tools to cut, grind, foil, flux and solder to complete two beautiful stained glass pieces. Chloe is shown soldering.



FIFTH THROUGH eighth grade St. Rose School students, including Nathan (shown), learned the art of stain glass.

St. Rose 's 11th annual auction this Saturday

St. Rose will host its 11th annual auction, Fire & Ice, on Saturday, March 18.

The dinner has been sold out, but the public is invited to attend the free live auction.

The doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the auction will begin at 7:45 p.m.

Auction highlights include:

- Two tickets for the Chicago Blackhawks vs. Boston Bruins game on April 2;
- A six-day Canadian bear hunt at Cickereel Creek Camp and Outpost in Northwest Ontario, Canada during bear season, Aug. 15-31, including a modern cabin;
- A one-week stay in a premier condo at Ft. Myers Beach between May and October of 2017;
- A Ben Zobrist authenticated autographed MLB ball in a shadowbox display;
- A Chicago Cubs VIP Experience - two tickets to a 2017 game; a VIP tour of Wrigley Field including field access; a pre-game luncheon with unlimited food and beverages; a private meet and greet with current or past Cubs players

including autographs, photos, and a question and answer session; a Cubs T-shirt, hat, official MLB game ball and 2017 Cubs Magazine; and a digital CD with all images taken throughout the day;

- A one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted kitchen island with wine storage;
 - A Lincolnshire Marriott Resort stay;
- There will be many more auction items including Chicago sports memorabilia.

There will also be several classrooms of silent auction items for kids, fashion and beauty, home and garden, dining and entertainment, sports and recreation, art and memorabilia, and professional services.

The live auction will be presented by Holmes Auctions. A cash bar will be available.

St. Rose School is located at 626 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington.

For more information contact auction hostesses Jill Duffy at 815-476-5979 or Heather Hobbs at 815-715-4017.

Red Carpet Corridor Festival

Craft show and flea market

Wilmington, Illinois

Saturday, May 6

A craft show and flea market is planned for Saturday, May 6, in the downtown antique district during the Red Carpet Corridor festivities, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Set-up can begin as early as 6:30 a.m. There will be a variety of activities taking place in the downtown area, drawing a steady stream of people. The Red Carpet Corridor Festival is part of the Illinois Route 66 event: <http://il66redcarpetcorridor.org/> that attracts Route 66 enthusiasts from all over Illinois. Unfortunately, no electricity will be available.

The non-refundable permit fee is \$30 for a 10x10-foot space postmarked on or before April 15 without exception. Permit fees postmarked after April 15 will be \$40 per space. Spaces paid for the day of the event will be \$50.

Complete the contract below and return it with a check made payable to Women of Wilmington to: Women of Wilmington, c/o Brenda Craig-Cherveny, 1235 Chesson Court, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Post-dated checks will not reserve a space. Confirmations will be emailed in mid-April.

Questions can be directed to Cherveny by emailing brenniej@aol.com or call 815-476-9470.

The Red Carpet Event Committee and Women of Wilmington will not assume liability for any losses, damages or injuries sustained by exhibitors or spectators.

Craft Show and Flea Market Application

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Person: _____

Signature: _____

E-mail Address: _____

List of what will be sold: _____



THIS BEAUTIFUL stained glass piece will be auctioned this Saturday at St. Rose School.

www.TheAuctionMap.com

FEATURED ILLINOIS AUCTIONS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Antique Auction No Reserve! March 19th 10am 1504 Mulford Rd. Lindenwood II Railroad Desk, Wood Wagon, Secretaries, Primitives, Wood Advertising Boxes, Stained Glass, Vintage Toys, More! kitsonauctions.com | Farm Equipment Auction March 24th 9am 1322 1250th Avenue Lincoln, IL Tractors, Combine, Vehicles, Equipment Tillage Equip, Planter, Carts, Wagons, Drill, Parts, Bins, Barn, More! brentschmidgallauction.com | Longaberger Baskets & More Auction March 25th 10am Park District Bldg 601 S. Fall Paxton, IL 400+ Lots Longaberger baskets, Pottery, Wrought Iron, MUCH MORE! strebeckauctions.com |
|--|---|---|

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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Deadlines

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The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.

Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.

Classified Word Ads

All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.

Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

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• The Free Press Advocate

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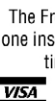
Line Ads are up to 20 words

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1 wk. - \$19; 2 wks. - \$23;

3 wks. - \$26; 4 wks. - \$28

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ACREAGE

For Sale by Owner, 13 acres, 8 farmable and 5 with trees and a creek. Call for price: 731-439-0891 or 731-632-1804. cc 9b-13a

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington: 2BR first floor apartment. Appliances, washer/dryer hook up. No smoking, no pets. \$675 plus utilities. 815-476-2219 or 815-278-5846.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Coal City, newer 2 BR, 1 BA, eat in kitchen, gas heat, CA, laundry facility, pet friendly, ample parking, close to schools and park, \$780 to \$805/mo., 815-634-4244. See pictures at www.apm4rent.com. ch 48b-tfn

Coal City: beautiful, newer large 1 BR, A/C, appliances, \$625 to \$650/mo. 815-744-1708.

Diamond, 2 BR, 1 BA, appliances furnished, rent includes W/S/G, Move-in ready, close to I-55, deposit required, no pets, 815-634-8677. ca

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Braidwood: Small, ground level, 1 BR apartment for rent. Completely remodeled and quiet. Landlord pays all utilities - heat, electric, water/garbage, \$675. References required, no pets. No smoking. 815-476-2219 or 815-278-5846.

Diamond, 446 N. School St., 2 BR, 1 1/2 BA, central heat and AC, appliances, laundry hook ups, off street parking, patio, no pets, \$750 plus utilities, 1 yr. lease, credit check, sec. dep., 815-823-7329. ca 9b-13a

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington - single studio, country setting, quiet, clean, fully furnished, all utilities, TV and cable included, no pets, no smoking. \$225/week, security deposit. 815-476-2005. ca 11b-14a

AUTOS

2007 Honda Odyssey, 230,000 miles, good shape, \$1,500 OBO, call 815-405-5498. cc 11a-14b

1980 Cadillac Eldorado diesel, tan leather seats, air ride suspension, climate control, 156,000 miles, \$2,500 OBO, call or text (815) 600-1074. ca45a-tfn

AUTOS

1963 Chevrolet Corvette Split Window Coupe, original 340hp motor, 4 speed, \$15,700. Contact ham125726@gmail.com or 224-212-9061. cc11a-13b

BOATS

1987 Sylvan, 16 ft., tiller, \$2,000 OBO, call 815-405-5498. cc 11a-14b

BUSINESS PROPERTIES FOR RENT

GARDNER: 600+ SQ ft office space, 208 Depot St, next to Fire Dept, \$250/mo. 815-557-4010 cc9b-13a

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Child care available, reading & tutoring, all ages, flexible hours and reasonable rates, near Custer Park Elementary call 815-458-0046. cc 11b-14a

DUPLEX FOR RENT

2 BR, 140 Calkey, Diamond, all appliances, new paint, lg. kitchen, nice back yard, garage, no pets, 815-941-4832. cc 9b-13a

3 Bedroom Duplex

ranch style, only 2 units per building. 1/2 mile from I-55 (Diamond). Attached garage, large backyard. oak cabinets, concrete drive, w/d hook-up. All maintenance included. Available June 1, \$945 per month plus sewer and water. No smoking or pets & year lease. Call 815-634-2755.

DUPLEX FOR RENT

Braidwood: beautiful 1BR or 2 BR, 1 BA condos, C/A, appliances & patio, \$725 to \$950/mo., 815-744-1708.

Godley: 2BR, 1BA, water, sewer, and garbage included, no pets, security deposit required. 815-693-9141 ck9a-12b

Wilmington, 1 BR, stove & refrigerator, \$450, sec. dep., first & last month's rent, no pets. Available now. Call 815-474-2897 leave a message. cc8b-12a

Wilmington, 3BR, fenced yard, w/d included, \$750 mo. plus security, avail. March 18, call 815-278-1203. cc 9b-13a

FOR RENT

Wesley Township now accepting Park and Pavilion Rentals at Rivals Lookout Park for the 2017 season. Contact Mary Jones at 815-263-0426.

GARAGE SALE

30935 South Riley Rd, Wilmington, lots of pictures, mounts, lamps, tables, lawn furniture and some clothes/nice jackets. Dog Kennels, stereos, and tools, Fri. March 17th & Sat. March 18th, 9am-5pm.

Garage Sale for Hope: March 16th through March 19th, 210 W. Division St., Coal City. Tons of new and used clothes, furniture, household items, toys, and more! Proceeds go to missionary trips and help get the Skaggs Family a fence. cc10a-11b

HELP WANTED

City Pizza and Sub Co. is NOW HIRING for Drivers, Cashiers and Cooks. Applications available on our website: CityPizzaAndSub.com or stop in at 300 E. Baltimore St. in Wilmington. ca 9b-13a

CNA/patient care assistant

PT for in-home care. Requirements include at least six months experience, valid drivers license, clean background and driving record. Flexible schedule. Submit resume or apply at www.absolutehomecareplus.com or call 779-429-5000. cc 10a-13b

Coal City Area Club is now taking applications for summer help. Maintenance, grass cutters & afternoon gate guard. Must have driver's license. Apply at office, 345 S. Broadway, Coal City. ca 11b-14a

Dawn of a New Day Care Center in Mazon is now hiring teachers. For more information call Dawn, 815-448-2530. cc 9b-13a

McDonalds: Maintenance and Crew positions available at Coal City (2 S Broadway) & Braidwood (285 N Front St) locations. Shift varies from 4a.m. -11p.m., 7 days/week. Stop in for applicatons or open interviews. cc11b-15a

General handyman for farm work, drive tractor, mow grass, Wilmington area, call 815-584-7925. ca 9b-13a

HELP WANTED

Grill cooks & cashiers needed for Eurest at Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant for outage, call Brian 815-417-4500. EOE. cc 10b-12a

HVAC service and installer, full time position, experience a plus, call 815-476-7453. ch 11b-13a

Offering CNA classes, days, evenings and weekends. CNA Instructors needed, Home health nurses needed. Call for class dates, 630-771-1162. cc 5a-16b

Need experienced flower gardener to give TLC to my beds this season. Lawn cutting and care also a real plus. 815-476-9787. cc 10b-14a

Needed: experienced CDL-A driver for MORNING, local mail delivery, extensive background check, O.L. Thompson Transport Svc. Inc., call 815-726-2569. cc 8a-15b

GCA at Braidwood Exelon is hiring temp positions for custodial. Pay is \$14.50/hr for 40 hours with opportunities for over time. All shifts available. Must pass criminal background check, drug/alcohol screening and site specific training. Call 815-417-2768 or 815-417-2293 for interview. cc10a-11b

Servers and delivery drivers needed at La Piazza, 435 W. Division, Coal City. Apply in person. ca 11a-14b

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CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HOMES FOR RENT MISCELLANEOUS REAL ESTATE REAL ESTATE REAL ESTATE

HELP WANTED
Part-time stylist wanted at Impressions, 605 W. Baltimore, Wilmington. Apply within. cc 11b-15a

Seeking an OTR driver with refrigerated trailer experience. Loads from IL, IN, WI to the West Coast and return. Home often. Small, family-operated company in rural Spariland. Call Mike at 312-925-0417.

Part-time bartender needed for Saturday evenings and fill-ins at Hot Shotz, 725 S. Broadway, Coal City. Please call 815-634-4319 for details. ca 9b-13b

HELP WANTED
VACANCY NOTICE
The Coal City Community Unit School District #1 is accepting applications for the following position at Early Childhood Center for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year: Part-Time Special Education Aide - 1 on 1, 3.25 hours per day of student attendance. Must have 60 hours of college credit or paraprofessional certification. Applications are available on the district's website at www.coalcity.k12.il.us or can be picked up at the Administrative Office, 100 S. Balma St., Coal City. Applications will be accepted through Wed., March 22, 2017. EOE ch 11b-12a

HELP WANTED
Step by Step Child Care Center is now accepting applications for teachers & assistant teachers for multiple locations. Please contact Kim at 815-941-1122 or Kelly at 815-458-3401 for more information. ca 9a-12b

Wanted: Heavy equipment mechanic or apprentice mechanic willing to learn, must have own tools & valid driver's license, 815-693-5226. cc 11a-13b

Cinder Ridge Golf Course is taking applications for deli, beverage cart, starter, ranger, cart attendant. Must be 21 yrs. or older, retirees welcome. Taking applications Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. only. Call 815-476-4000. ca 11b-12a

HOMES FOR RENT
Braidwood: 2BR, 1BA. Large corner lot, large living rm, dining rm and kitchen. C/A, covered deck, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, storage shed, mobile home, 495 W. 6th St. at Division St. (Rt. 113), \$750, first, last, security. 815-476-6462. cc9a-12b

Wilmington, 3BR, 1BA, 1 car attached garage, \$1150. References, credit report and security required, No smoking. 815-476-2219. cc10a-13b

HOMES FOR SALE
Coal City, 30 S. DeWitt Pl., For Sale By Owner, 2 BR, 1BA, new carpet, freshly painted, \$95,000, call 815-634-0272. cc 11a-14b

LOST & FOUND

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

LOST at Midtown Mart, Wilmington May 2016. Ladies size 7 6mm 14 carat gold wedding band. Reward. Need back for upcoming 30th wedding anniversary. Call 815-582-6461 or 815-274-9412. cc 9b-13a

LOTS FOR SALE
30 Duplex Lots - 98x110 by 142 deep, \$28,000-\$32,000, City of Dwight giving permits for \$1,000 per unit (no other fees), 2 miles from 155, Rt. 47 interchange. Will work with all builders, call Bill at 815-941-1532, leave message. cc 5b-13a

Wilmington, 130x250, access to city water, sewer and natural gas, call 815-476-9198. cc 10b-14a

MISCELLANEOUS
Appliances. GE Stove, Kenmore side by side refrigerator with ice through the door. Like new \$150 each. Microwave \$50. Buy both and the matching microwave is free. cc11a-12b

Country sofa and matching chair with ottoman \$175, vintage coffee table \$40, pair of wood upholstered bar chairs \$25 each, two dining room chairs \$20 each. All in very good condition, call 815-458-2307 and ask for Joan. cc10b-13a

Essex Lions Club Community Building for rent, seats 275 people, kitchen and bar available, call Phil at 815-405-5020 or Nancy at 815-365-2823. cc

Horizon Elliptical, very good condition, \$375 OBO, Diamond area, call cell 352-250-9219. cc10b-13a

HOMEMADE POTICA
Nut, poppy seed, apricot, raspberry; order now for Easter. Call Charlotte 815-545-8767. cc 8b-15a

Fishing for great buys?



Check out our classifieds! To place an ad call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315

Passport/Foid Photos
We take color photographs for passports, gun owners' cards (FOID), plumber cards, ID's and more. \$8 each for FOID or Passport (2 pics) for \$10. Taken throughout the week, ready the following Monday. Please do not wear white or very pale colors. Call 815-476-7966 or stop by the Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. tfn/47b

Portable massage table, 72x30 black upholstery with mahogany finished legs. Height adjusts 23-34". Includes adjustable face cradle and platform arm rest shelf and carrying case. Never used, near perfect condition, \$95. Call Kathy (cell) 858-537-7133. ca 11b-13a

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Twin mattress \$89.99, full mattress, \$139.99, queen set, \$299.99. Factory to You Furniture, 603 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington, call 815-476-6533. ch 47b/tfn

Hall Rental
Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ca 9b-13a

Liquid laundry detergent in 5 gal. buckets, name brand regular, \$30; HE name brand \$40; name brand fabric softener, \$30, cash only, plus tax, Bourbonnais, 815-933-3474. cc 8b-12a

Truck topper, fits full size pick-up, full crew cab. Gave \$1,400, \$1,000 firm. Less than one year old. 815-458-3970 or 815-474-3438

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Custer Park, 2BR in wooded area on river, \$650/mo., first, last and security deposit, call 815-342-1181 for showings. cc 10a-13b

PETS

Free: 2 female canaries, w/cage and accessories to approved home, call 815-458-3242. fr 11a-12b

Now Available: Frontline, K-9 Advantix, Baricide and Activyl flea & tick treatments. From Taste of the Wild, Blue Buffalo, Canidae, Diamond Natural, Whole Earth Farms, Natural Balance, Pure Vita, Wilderness pet foods, also Stella & Chewey's raw diet. Bird, hamster, fish and pond food. New spring apparel has arrived. Call for information on upcoming basic obedience class, 815-476-5104. Trinty Barkery, 240 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington. ch 20a-tfn

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 1517 Charlotte Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Single Family Home). On the 6th day of April, 2017 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Plaintiff V. Eric N. Bjornson; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 16 CH 1538 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours; plus, for residential real estate, a statutory judicial sale fee calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to the person conducting the sale, not to exceed \$300, for deposit into the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(g)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the

purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Codilis & Associates, P.C.** 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 15, 22 & 29, 2017

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS CENTRUE BANK Plaintiff, -v- UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF J. DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES D. HEXDALL AKA JAMES DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES HEXDALL, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF J. DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES D. HEXDALL AKA JAMES DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES HEXDALL, DECEASED, GOOSE LAKE ASSOCIATION, CHARLES L. SCHMIDT, JAMES HEXDALL AKA JAMES B. HEXDALL, WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF J. DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES D. HEXDALL AKA JAMES DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES HEXDALL, DECEASED Defendant 15 CH 54 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 17, 2016, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on April 3, 2017, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 3565 Perch Court, Morris, IL 60450 Property Index No. 06-15-155-004. The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$120,079.58. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. HEAVNER, BEYERS &

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719. If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS &

The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in AS IS condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after court confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719. If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS &

MIHLAR, LLC 111 East Main Street DECATUR, IL 62523 (217) 422-1719 Fax #: (217) 422-1754 N o n CookPleadings@hsbat-tys.com Case Number: 15 CH 54 TJSC#: 37-1969 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 34306 S. Maple Terrace, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Single Family Home). On the 23rd day of March, 2017 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff V. Michael F. Orr aka Michael Orr; Laurie M. Orr a/k/ Laurie Orr Defendant. Case No. 13 CH 2913 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours; plus, for residential real estate, a statutory judicial sale fee calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to the person conducting the sale, not to exceed \$300, for deposit into the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(g)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Codilis & Associates, P.C.** 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 1, 8 & 15, 2017

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- TIMOTHY C. STRATZ Defendant 16 CH 22 NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 17, 2016, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on April 3, 2017, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1037 Lisbon St., Morris, IL 60450 Property Index No. 05-04-276-016. The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$130,118.55. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in AS IS condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If you are the mortgagee (homeowner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with Section 15-1701(C) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719. If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 111 East Main Street DECATUR, IL 62523 (217) 422-1719 Fax #: (217) 422-1754 Non-CookPleadings@hsbatys.com Case Number: 16 CH 22 TJSC#: 37-1968 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Published in the Free Press Newspaper on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

REAL ESTATE

605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719. If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 111 East Main Street DECATUR, IL 62523 (217) 422-1719 Fax #: (217) 422-1754 Non-CookPleadings@hsbatys.com Case Number: 16 CH 22 TJSC#: 37-1968 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Published in the Free Press Newspaper on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

REAL ESTATE

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS OF THE CWHEQ INC., CHESTNUT RIDGE MASTER ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 15 CH 132 NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 11, 2017, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on April 13, 2017, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 613 CREEKSIDE CIRCLE, Milnooka, IL 60447 Property Index No. 03-14-227-017. The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$229,212.93. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in AS IS condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If you are the mortgagee (homeowner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with Section 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719. If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 111 East Main Street DECATUR, IL 62523 (217) 422-1719 Fax #: (217) 422-1754 Non-CookPleadings@hsbatys.com Case Number: 16 CH 22 TJSC#: 37-2177 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Published in the Free Press Newspaper on March 15, 22, & 29, 2017.

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MLS 09326193... 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath character brick bungalow w/ crown molding, hardwood flrs. Many updates! \$149,900 Elizabeth Stopka 815-942-2705

103 Foley Dr, Essex
MLS 09357312... 3 bdrm, 2 bath home, over .5 acres. Quiet street. Spacious layout, large bdms. RO system. \$199,900 Phebe Perino 815-942-2705

20161 W South Arsenal Rd, Wilmington
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Mary W., via e-mail

Without the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans would breathe dirtier air, drink more polluted water and live and grow food on contaminated soils.

Polluters wouldn't be held accountable for their irresponsible behavior, wildlife would have a more difficult time finding suitable habitat to raise their young, and greater and greater concentrations of greenhouse gases would jeopardize the ability of our own atmosphere to protect us from the heat of the sun.

In short, the United States and the rest of the world would be a nasty place to live, resulting in shorter life expectancy for humans and a decrease in biodiversity overall.

The EPA was created via Executive Order by Republican President Richard Nixon in December 1970 in response to rising concerns about pollution in an increasingly industrial-

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

ized United States.

Its purpose, then and still now, is to ensure that all Americans are protected from significant risks to their health and the environment where they live, learn and work.

To accomplish this, the EPA develops and enforces environmental regulations based on laws passed by Congress; monitors environmental quality across the country; funds states, non-profits and educational institutions to address local and regional problems; and educates the public about how to avoid and mitigate environmental risks.

Laws implemented and enforced by the EPA to protect our land, air and water save hundreds of thousands of Americans from premature death every year and keep our ecosystems healthy in the face of innumerable threats.

The EPA's very first major accomplishment back in the early 1970s was setting standards on common air pollutants plaguing urbanized and industrial areas across the U.S.

Other highlights from the EPA's first decade include: banning the pesticide DDT and requiring extensive environmental reviews of all pesticides; establishing the first fuel economy standards for cars and trucks on American roads; overseeing the phase-out of PCBs, chlorofluorocarbons and leaded gasoline; and setting nationwide benchmarks for drinking water quality.

Some of the EPA's notable achievements since then include: implementing "Superfund" (Congress' billion dollar plan to remediate the most hazardous of industrial waste sites across the country); establishing protections of endangered wetlands as a top agency priority; cleaning up Chesapeake Bay, the Hudson



Credit: Gage Skidmore, FlickrCC

SCOTT PRUITT, Donald Trump's pick to run the EPA, says he isn't convinced that carbon dioxide emissions from human industrial activity is to blame for global warming, and would like to see significant cuts to EPA funding if not the dismantling of the agency altogether.

River and other major waterways; launching the Toxic Release Inventory program to inform the public about the discharge of specific pollutants from industrial facilities in their communities; and creating the Energy Star program to force appliance makers to tow the line regarding energy efficiency.

Also forging a market-based system to reduce acid rain pollution; prioritizing environmental justice to protect low-income and minority communities from disproportionate exposure to pollutants; and setting new standards to clean up emissions from diesel fuel. More recently, the EPA has started the process of regulating the emissions of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming.

Beyond the agency's direct actions on behalf of the environment here at home, its very existence serves as an important

model for other countries to follow, and indeed most nations of the world now have their own environmental oversight authorities to keep tabs on pollution and set standards for the safe use, handling and disposal of pollutants.

As more and more of our lands are paved over, our natural resources extracted and our air and atmosphere compromised, we can all be thankful for the foresight of Richard Nixon in establishing the world's first government agency devoted to environmental protection.

CONTACTS: EPA History, www.epa.gov/history; Energy Star, www.energystar.gov.

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Register to vote at the DMV

Registration will not be processed until after the April 4 Consolidated Election for those who have registered to vote at any Drivers License Facility in Illinois after March 7.

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to continue taking registrations even after the deadline of March 7.

Those who wish to vote on Tuesday, April 4, can visit the Will County Clerk's website at www.thewillcounty-clerk.com and select the Register to Vote Quick Link.

This will provide information on Grace Period Registration and Voting, online registration through March 19, or Same Day Registration at the polling place on Election Day.



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