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BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL

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Suspect charged with assault after 911 call at Braidwood Motel

BY ROSE PANIERI
 STAFF WRITER

Hugo Sanchez-Cervantez, 30, of Glendale Heights, IL was arrested by the Braidwood police for allegations he assaulted a woman at the Braidwood Motel, 120 Washington Street.

Officers Owen Sterba and Victor Gastelum arrested Sanchez at 3:31 a.m. on New Year's Day. He was charged with unlawful restraint, aggravated battery, and domestic battery.

The officers were called to the Braidwood Motel for a domestic situation. The caller told 911 she was at the motel in an unknown room, and had been involved in a domestic altercation.

The victim was unable to provide details, stating someone was listening. She told the dispatcher that a man was blocking the door and she could not escape the room.

Upon arriving at the motel, Sterba and

Gastelum determined the altercation was taking place in room 11. The victim came to the window and stated she was unable to get to the door to let them in.

Sanchez reportedly cracked the door, but would not fully open it to allow officers to enter the room.

"Due to the exigency, myself and Officer Gastelum forced our way through the door into the room," Officer Sterba said. "Sanchez began yelling and became aggressive. I drew my Axon Taser 10 and pointed it at Sanchez."

Suspect spits in officer's face

Sanchez avoided being tazed as Gastelum managed to detain him. The officers handcuffed Sanchez, and made an attempt to place him in the squad car.

Sanchez, however, had other ideas, and continued to resist and fight with the officers. The suspect's



HUGO SANCHEZ

actions damaged both officers' vests and equipment.

"While at the patrol vehicle, Sanchez spit in my face," Officer Sterba reported. "I could feel wet saliva on my face and had to wipe it off with my glove."

When the officers returned to room 11 to speak with the victim, they noticed a newborn baby had been in the room during the incident.

The victim told Braidwood police she had been involved in a verbal

domestic situation with the suspect. She shared that when she attempted to leave the room, Sanchez blocked the doorway. He then pushed the victim onto the bed. She managed to escape to the bathroom where she called 911.

Makes threats in transport

Sanchez was placed under arrest at 4:09 a.m. for domestic battery, and transported to the Braidwood Police Department. The officers were informed by the 911 dispatcher that Sanchez had three valid warrants with no bond in Lake County and Cook County.

While attempting to complete booking, Sanchez screamed and requested an ambulance. He complained of having an anxiety attack and pain in his arm. The Braidwood Fire Department transported Sanchez to St. Joseph's Hospital, with Gastelum accompanying

SEE SUSPECT PAGE 2

Diamond issued fewer building permits in 2026

BY ROSE PANIERI
 STAFF WRITER

Although the total number of building permits obtained in Diamond dropped from 56 in 2024 to 44 in 2025, never underestimate the small but mighty force among area towns.

The village board is focused on positive growth and infrastructure, while at the same time maintaining the friendly small town atmosphere where folks can enjoy the peace and quiet.

Diamond has a 2026 population of 2,702. Diamond is currently growing at a rate of 0.6 percent annually and its population has increased by 2.66 percent since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 2,632 in 2020.

Population aside, the really big news in Diamond

was the opening of Jewel-Osco in late 2024. The grocer continues to draw a huge number of customers from Diamond and many of the surrounding cities and towns.

On Feb. 19, 2025, Culver's opened, much to the delight of local butter burger lovers, as well as attracting hungry travelers to spend a little money in Diamond.

Jimmy Johns also opened last February.

Construction is currently underway on a 5,000 square foot building that will open as a cannabis dispensary on Illinois 113 in Diamond.

The building, which local investors hope will be completed before the end of the year, will be occupied by TreeHaus and two other retail units, promising even more commerce in town.

The dispensary is

SEE DIAMOND PAGE 2



Photo by Eric Fisher

PEACEFUL PROTEST—About a dozen people stand at Wilmington's downtown intersection Friday holding signs objecting to fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis during an encounter with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents last week.

Local protest follows fatal ICE shooting in Minnesota

BY ERIC FISHER
 PUBLISHER

The fatal shooting of a 37-year-old Minneapolis woman by a federal immigration agent prompted more than a dozen people to gather Friday at Wilmington's downtown intersection for a peaceful protest.

The demonstration, held roughly 1,300 miles from where the shooting occurred, was in support of Renee Nicole Good, who was killed Jan. 7 during an encounter with U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement agents in Minneapolis.

According to federal officials, two ICE agents were approaching Good's vehicle, which was blocking a residential roadway, when it rolled toward one of them. An agent discharged his firearm while moving out of the vehicle's path. Video of the incident has circulated nationally, prompting sharply differing interpretations of what occurred.

"We are here in support of Renee Good, who became the latest victim of ICE agents," said Breanna

Paulsen, who held a sign reading "Due process is the law."

Paulsen said that since the shooting two days earlier, she felt compelled to remind people of the U.S. Constitution, which states that no person shall be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law" by the federal government. She invited a few friends to join her at the corner shortly before noon on Friday. Several others, some she did not know, arrived with their own signs.

Among them was Judy

Sutter of Custer Park, who said demonstrating in a small town can feel intimidating.

"To me, this isn't a demonstration about being a Democrat or a Republican," Sutter said. "That's a non-issue when you're talking about the taking of another person's life."

Sutter said public reaction was largely supportive, estimating that about 95 percent of motorists honked or waved as they passed. She said one driver shouted an obscenity. The group

cheered when a Wilmington police squad car sounded its horn while driving by.

A Free Press Advocate social media post about the demonstration drew more than 315 comments within 24 hours, reflecting a wide range of opinions. Some commenters expressed support for the protesters, while others blamed Good for interfering with ICE agents.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem alleged Good had been "stalking and impeding" ICE agents through-

out the day by blocking them with her vehicle and shouting at them.

Noem said Good "weaponized her vehicle" and attempted to strike one of the officers, calling the incident "an act of domestic terrorism." She said the agent feared for his life and fired his weapon in self-defense.

Comments on social

SEE PROTEST PAGE 2



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Florence Township seeking bids for hauling stone

Florence Township seeking bids for 2026 stone

PUBLIC NOTICE Bid Requested For 2026 year Florence Township is accepting bids for hauling stone.

PUBLIC NOTICE Bid Requested For 2026 year Florence Township is accepting bids for Stone to be used on the Township roads per Road Commissioner's needs.

Florence Township seeking bids for culvert piping

Florence Township seeking bids for tar & chipping

PUBLIC NOTICE Bid Requested For 2026 year Florence Township is accepting bids for culvert pricing for per foot for 22" & 15" 16ga.

PUBLIC NOTICE Bid Requested For 2026 year Florence Township is accepting bids for Tar and chipping of approximately 3 miles of roadway.

Sheriff's sale of 509 East Cross Street

PUBLIC NOTICE

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.

NO. 25 FC 0314

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 21st day of October, 2025, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 22nd day of January, 2026, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

The SAFE-T Act questions keep coming

Gov. JB Pritzker set off a chain reaction last November when he told reporters he'd be open to changes in the SAFE-T Act, which eliminated cash bail and replaced it with a new pre-trial release/retention system, among other things.



CAPITOL FACTS Rich Miller

crime front and center, a recent poll showed that fewer than 8 percent of Illinoisans put crime at the top of their list of the most important issues facing the state.

January 3-5, Emerson College poll of 1,000 likely Illinois primary voters. The statewide poll was commissioned by Chicago's WGN TV.

"What do you think is the most important issue facing Illinois?" respondents were asked. Just 7.6 percent identified "crime" as the most important issue.

That's lower than "Immigration" at 10.4 percent; "Threats to democracy" at 12.7 percent; "Healthcare" at 12.9 percent; and "Economy (jobs, inflation, taxes)" at a whopping 40.4 percent.

That doesn't mean crime isn't important, of course. It is without a doubt. You cannot have a functioning society with high crime rates (which, by the way, have been falling fast).

But the poll does help show how the yearslong and constant drumbeat of crime stories, tweets, Facebook posts and YouTube videos pales in comparison to what voters

are saying what they really want to talk about: Their personal economic well-being (add healthcare and housing affordability to that economy category and the number rises to 59 percent).

But I digress. Regardless of all that, the SAFE-T Act questions keep coming.

About a month ago, new Cook County Chief Judge Charles Beach formed a committee to look at some of the problems with the county's electronic monitoring program for detainees. The court system runs that program, which used to be operated by the county sheriff.

But there have been numerous problems reported, including officials not fully knowing what is going on with the electronically monitored population, and that has led to some tragic outcomes, like the one on that CTA train, which helped prompt the new committee's formation.

The SAFE-T Act included a provision granting those on EM part of two days a week for "essential movement" - things like doctor's appointments and job training which many judges had been denying before.

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart has claimed those folks are not tracked during those two days, but the Cook County Public Defender says that's not traced to the SAFE-T Act, which doesn't explicitly require eliminating tracking.

The change ball

moved forward a bit more last week when Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch was asked at a Chicago City Club luncheon what sort of changes he'd like to see in the SAFE-T Act.

Speaker Welch said that the legislature should "always try to find ways to do better."

Then he pointed at Judge Beach, saying he wants to wait and see what's in Beach's report, which is scheduled for release toward the end of January.

"I think we should give him an opportunity to come to us and make some recommendations to us," Welch said.

Perhaps more importantly, Welch also said his House Democratic Public Safety Working Group should, "probably listen to some other folks from across the state and get their input." Working groups meet in private and are invite-only.

Welch strongly defended the state law throughout his comments, insisting that the SAFE-T Act "is working" and that judges and police officers "will tell you that the bad guys are in jail because judges are locking them up. The SAFE-T Act is allowing judges to do their job."

I dunno about judges, but one doesn't hear many, if any cops say such a thing. That doesn't mean they're right, of course.

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

Sheriff's sale of 25050 South Timber Drive

PUBLIC NOTICE

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.

NO. 25 FC 0042

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 5th day of November, 2025, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 22nd day of January, 2026, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

LOT 5 IN TIMBER CREEK, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 16, IN TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, AND IN RANGE 10 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED NOVEMBER 22, 1978, AS DOCUMENT NO. R78-46651, AND CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED MAY 21, 1980 AS DOCUMENT NO. R80-13418, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 25050 South Timber Drive, Elwood, IL 60421 Description of Improvements: Residential P.I.N.: 10-11-16-202-008-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. 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.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(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 Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY Sheriff of Will County Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, Jan. 7 and 14, 2026.

Notice of Foreclosure - 604 Derbyshire Ln.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - CHANCERY DIVISION CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. LISA KLIMEK; MARK KLIMEK; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants. Case No.: 2025FC001330 Property Address: 604 Derbyshire Lane, Bolingbrook, IL 60440

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit: LOT 35 IN BLOCK 23 IN WINSTON WOODS UNIT NUMBER 4, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 10, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AUGUST 30, 1971 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER R71-20383 AND SUPPLEMENT TO PLAT RECORDED APRIL 24, 1972, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER R72-10436, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 604 Derbyshire Lane, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 Names of the titleholders of record: Lisa Klimek; Mark Klimek. Date of the Mortgage: June 18, 2021. Name or names of the mortgagors: Lisa Klimek; Mark Klimek. Name of the mortgagee: American Financial Resources, Inc.. Date and place of recording: July 12, 2021; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Will County, Illinois. Identification of recording: Document No. R2021075795.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before February 13, 2026, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Lender Legal PLLC 1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250 Orlando, FL 32810 Tel: (407) 730-4644 Service Emails: mrak@lenderlegal.com EService@LenderLegal.com Lisa Klimek 16516-4430

/s/ Michael Rak, Esq. Michael Rak, Esq. Counsel of Record for Plaintiff ARDC # 6340367 Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 21 and 28, 2026.

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COMET SPORTS



Photo by Miley Morris

GETTING AT PIN for the Comets on Thursday is Rylan West.



Photo by Miley Morris

LOCKED UP—Jayden Sanchez has a lock on his Sandwich opponent at 132 pounds. He won to improve to 21-7 leading into the Princeton Invite.



Photo by Miley Morris

WORKING HIS Streator opponent last week at 126 pounds is Reed-Custer's Kaaden Wood.



Photo by Miley Morris

WRESTLING AT 120 pounds for the Comets is sophomore Cole Harris (left) who has compiled a 23-5 record.

Comets 8th at PIT, win two more duals

The Reed-Custer wrestling team finished eighth overall Saturday during the 62nd Annual Lyle King Princeton Invitational, with multiple placewinners and strong consolation runs in a deep, 51-team field.

The Comets were paced by three top-four finishers, including a runner-up and two third-place medalists, as Reed-Custer battled through one of the area's toughest midseason tournaments.

2nd Place

215 pounds – Dominic Alaimo (24-4). Alaimo reached the championship match with a pin-filled run. He advanced with wins over Robert Horton (Roxana), Will Wilson (Wilmington), and a semi-final fall over Tristan Staggs (Litchfield) before finishing second to Coal City's Cade Poyner who got a pin in 3:38.

3rd Place

113 pounds – Colton Drinkwine (16-2). Drinkwine put together an

impressive consolation run after a narrow quarter-final loss. He recorded multiple falls, including wins over Princeton's Isaac Hufnagel and Coal City's Gavin Roudis, then claimed third place with a 2-1 decision over Brandon Gaither (Olympia).

120 pounds – Cole Harris (23-5). Harris was dominant in the consolation bracket, earning three pins and a major decision. He capped his run by avenging an earlier loss with an 11-3 major decision over Kainin Fillbright (PORTA) to secure third place.

4th Place

126 pounds – Kaaden Wood (22-7). Wood reached the semifinals with three straight victories, including two pins, before finishing fourth.

Other Placewinners

190 pounds – Aiden Shultz (22-7) placed 7th, scoring 15 team points, highlighted by two pins in the consolation rounds.

132 pounds – Jayden Sanchez (21-7) had a strong run that included a tech fall and two pins.

Reed-Custer also received additional efforts from Nathan Vogler (175) and Christian Mounts (285), who each contributed points, along with several underclassmen gaining valuable varsity tournament experience.

On Thursday, the Comets traveled to Manteno to compete against Herscher and Streator.

RC looked great in the first dual taking down Herscher 53-28. The Comets took care of business against Streator getting the a 79-0 shutout. RCHS girls team also had a great night with Madysen Meyer and Sophia Flowers both winning both matches!

The team is now 24-3 with a home match on Thursday against Manteno and Peotone. On Friday and Saturday they will host the multi-team Comet Classic Invite.



Photo by Miley Morris

AT 113 POUNDS, Colton Drinkwine has a 16-2 record as of last week. Here he gets the upper hand on his Sandwich opponent.



Photo by Miley Morris

THAT'S A PIN!—Reed-Custer freshman Sophia Flowers earns a fall last week.



Photo by Miley Morris

WORKING HIS OPPONENT is Reed-Custer freshman Nathan Banach.

WINTER CARNIVAL

Do the kids need to get out and burn off some energy? Bring them to the park for some carnival fun! There will be inflatables, carnival games, prizes, hot dogs, popcorn and such a good time to be had!

Friday, January 16, 2026 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Grades Kindergarten–5th (must be accompanied by an adult)

\$8 per child if registered/paid by January 15
\$10 per child day of or at the door

The Wee Winter Carnival for ages 2-5 will be held on Friday, January 23, 2026. Same times & admission rates apply.

GODLEY PARK DISTRICT

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