

RC music program driven by passion













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Commissioner of Public Property WARREN WIETTING



DALE WALSH

BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL!

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Mayoral candidates give their vision for Braidwood

Three candidates are vying for the open mayoral seat in the city of Braidwood next month.

With current mayor Bob Jones opting not to run for reelection in the April 4 consolidated election, the seat will instead go to one of the three participating in what has become a heat-

Candidates Doug Money, Matthew Beard, and Chris Earley Money, answered a handful of questions from members of the public during a Meet the Candidates night held on March 1 at Main Street Banquet Hall.

Braidwood, Money currently serves as the Commissioner of Accounts of Finances First voted in Commissioner of Public Property in 2019, Money resigned that post and was reappointed as finance commissioner after previous finance commissioner Wayne Saltzman resigned two years ago.

"I love this town, it's really a nice place to live, good schools, good kids, and it's a safe place," Money said.

Beard is a lifelong resident of Braidwood, and a 1998 graduate of local politics, Beard is a union painter and serves as a trustee with the man for the city.

Money is a 38 year resident of Executive Board for Painters Local 33 in Joliet.

"I love the community, grew up in this community, decided I want to be involved in the community, and I'm finally in a position where I feel I have enough time to commit to carry-ing on a goal like this," Beard said. Earley is a lifelong resident of

Braidwood, born and raised for more than 60 years. Earley is the president of the Braidwood Park District, and has also served as the city's building inspector, a local Cub Scout leader, baseball coach, and an active mem-Reed-Custer High School. New to ber of the Braidwood Lions Club, as well as a retired carpenter and handy-

"I'm here to help Braidwood build a better place than what I've seen has happened in the last four years," Earley said.

Asked why they are the best choice for the job, each candidate said that they have something unique to bring to the city. Money said his efforts as a com-

missioner have helped the city dig out of a deficit over the past four years, as well as passing a balanced budget and purchasing new equipment.

Not only are we not \$4 million in debt, as of right now, we're almost \$1 million ahead," Money said. "So, we not real good communication have recovered that much. We never thought we could do that good in four

years. We brought in almost \$600,00 a year in revenue, as opposed to \$400,000 before. It's all new business for the town. There are still things to fix, obviously, a website would be great to have, that would be something all three of us would love.'

new technology bringing information from the council chambers into people's homes. 'One of the problems that I've

Hall become more modernized, with

Beard said he wanted to see City

always seen with any of the City Council politics stuff, is that there's

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 2

City Council hires law firm for labor issues

BY MARNEY SIMON

The city of Braidwood has hired a new law firm to deal with any employment or collective bargaining issues, specifically within the police department.

On Feb. 28, the majority of the City Council approved an ordinance authorizing the execution of an engagement letter between the City of Braidwood and Storino, Ramello & Durkin regarding labor and employment servic-

But before the vote could

be taken, Streets and Alleys Commissioner Fay Smith objected to the plan. Smith said he was frustrated that the issue was up for a vote without previous discussion, and said there was not enough information in his council packet for him to give an approval. Smith argued that the letter of engagement explaining the service was missing from his paperwork, making it impossible for him to know what he was even voting on.

City attorney Bryan Wellner said the ordinance had been available for inspection for two weeks prior to the City Council meeting, and Smith had ample time to review all the documents and ask questions if they were not

"The city clerk does have a copy of it and it was available for inspection," Wellner said. "If you have questions you can call the city. I can give you a rundown.'

Wellner said the ordinance is an engagement letter with the law firm.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2



THE REED-CUSTER Theatre Department will present "Into the Woods," a musical by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. The story brings together several Brothers Grimm fairy tales—Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood and Rapunzel—all tied together with a baker and his wife and a witch who has cast a spell on them.

Reed-Custer Theatre Department to present

"Into the Woods"

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

It's story time at the library and as children gather, the narrator opens a book to tell a tale—a fairy tale all tied to a baker, his wife and a witch who has cast a spell on them.

The tale will be told by an all student cast as the Reed-Custer Theatre Department presents "Into the Woods," a Tony Awardwinning musical by Stephen Sondheim and

book by James Lapine.

The story brings together several
Brothers Grimm fairytales—Jack and the
Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Rapunzel—to tell the story of the lengths a baker and his wife will go to in order to reverse a spell that is keeping them from the one thing they desire most—a

The spell only to be lifted if they deliver four items, "the cow as white as milk, the cape as red as blood, the hair as yellow as

corn, and the slipper as pure as gold."

RCHS Director James Reinbacher selected "Into the Woods" as this spring's production for a couple of reasons: One being to showcase the talents of the students within his department, and because there is something for everyone in this show.

This show is one that Reinbacher has liked for quite some time, although he admits to not being a big fan of the second

act—boring is what he called it. "I am the type of person who likes a challenge, to take things I think are boring and make them interesting," he said, and that is just what the cast and creative team are doing.

Reinbacher is assisted by orchestra conductor Addie Dennis, vocal director Kevin Mangan and choreographer Kim Scerine. As a team they work together to bring all of the elements of the production together.

SEE RCHS, PAGE 3

Arrest made in Braidwood carjacking investigation

STAFF REPORT

A Chicago man was booked into the Will County Adult Detention Facility on Monday, March 13, after an arrest for allegedly carjacking a vehicle days earlier at Division Street and Coal City Road in Braidwood.

Jamiyah Johnson, 20, was arrested after the Braidwood Police Department obtained an arrest warrant, following the investigation into the incident that took place on Friday, March 10.

According to the police report, Johnson had traveled from Bloomington north on I-55 before the vehicle he was in stopped near Coal City Road.

According to a witness, Johnson and a female passenger got into an argument and



JAMIYAH JOHNSON

the female passenger walked

away northbound on I-55. At approximately entered into a vehicle without permission on Division Street

SEE ARREST, PAGE 2

Trash talk still an issue in Braidwood

BY MARNEY SIMON

EDITOR

It's been more than two months since the city of Braidwood officially switched garbage services.

But at least one city leader is still bucking against the switch, arguing that the change has not produced the savings promised.

During the Feb. 28 regular meeting of the City Council, Streets Commissioner Fay Smith questioned city administrator Tony Altiery about the new contract, which was

approved back in December. Service

Environmental Recycling and

Disposal began on Jan. 3. "Altiery, you were talking about when we switched the garbage, how much money you saved, how come they haven't cut that off of our water bill," Smith asked. "Everybody is looking for [the bills] to drop and it ain't drop-

ping."

The city went out to bid for a new garbage contract as

SEE GARBAGE, PAGE 2











Mayor

between the people who sit on the board and the citizens,' Beard said. "There's no back and forth, it's the same... all the time. That's why I think we need to bring more technology into City Hall. We need to get this stuff on the web so there's access, so everybody can see what's going on in the

Earley said his experience as a local leader puts him in a good position to take the reins from day one.

"I'd really like to be a mayor who can lead, and not be led," Earley said. "I would take control of the board meetings, I would not sit off to the side. I have experience as the park district president to show that I am committed to the city, what's best for the city, for the park district, and for the community. I won't be led around, I will work with the board, but we're going to bring true transparency as fast as we can to the city."

Asked about their top three goals for the next four years, each of the candidates

Money said he wanted to continue to encourage new businesses while keeping Braidwood's small town feel, by making sure any big businesses stay closer to the interstate where they can generate tax revenue without impeding on downtown. Money's other goals include utilizing an internship program, keeping crime low.

Beard said his top goals are increased communication from the City Council to the public prior to voting at meetings to establish working relationships with the public, transparency via a better city website among other ways, and promoting business

Earley said his goals are to increase the city's transparenand professionalism among city leaders and with the public, infrastructure improvements at the city's water plant, and staying out of the real estate business, meaning he'd back away from any business deals that would involve the city purchasing land to be donated.

Asked what makes them most qualified to hold the position of mayor, each of the candidates offered their own perspective on what the duties of the position actually entail.

Money said the mayor's job is to understand the business of running the munici-

"Any town or city is a corporation," Money said. "It's just like any other corporation except this is a legal municipal corporation. The mayor is the CEO... The finance commissioner is responsible for finances, the streets commissioner is responsible for streets. The CEO, the mayor, is in charge of everything. They are the overseer of all those

Beard said the duties of the mayor involve strong lead-

"There are no real qualifications to be the mayor of Braidwood, I've seen the past few people who have been elected mayor and I don't see where they are any more qual-

ified that I am," Beard said, adding that as a project manager, he understands the position of overseeing the business of the town.

"Being the mayor is managing the budget, managing by overseeing all the departments... it's being a leader and working with the people and working with the commissioners, and I just believe I can do all of that," Beard contin-

Earley said his experience in public office means he's prepared for the duties of being the chief executive of

"I feel like I would be one of the better candidates for mayor due to the fact that I have the experience being on the park district [board] for 20 vears," Earley said, adding that the mayor's job is to be fiscally responsible, to act as the chief financial officer and chief executive officer of the city, and to overall do what's best

for the city. The Meet the Candidates forum was hosted by the administrators of Braidwood Politics and News Facebook page. Video from the forum can be viewed on

Editor's note—Because not all the candidates for the remaining contested seats were present at the forum, the Braidwood Iournal opted to only feature the mayoral candidates in the spirit of fairness. All candidates have been provided with a candidate questionnaire. The results of those questionnaires will be printed in the March 29, 2023 edition of the Braidwood Journal.

Council

"Storino, Ramello & Durkin is a law firm that handles a lot of municipal matters, they are being hired by the police department specifically for labor and employment issues, generally related to collective bargaining and negotiations," Wellner said. "They are a very qualified firm, my firm recommended them, they work with a lot of municipalities that we work with as well, and their rate is the exact same rate as we charge the

The city will pay the firm \$215

per hour. While there is no retainer required within the ordinance, the firm reserved the right to request one

The council approved the measure 3-1 with Smith voting no. Finance Commissioner Doug Money was not present at the meeting.

In other business before the full council on Feb. 28:

 As he prepares to leave his post, Commissioner Smith said he remains frustrated at how the past four years have panned out, particularly with regard to the budget in the streets department.

haven't gotten anything accomplished this four years, because I couldn't," Smith said. "I

don't know where my money went, like that \$150,000 that came out of the budget and it was going to go back in the water [department], it never came back and I don't know where it went. But, that's beside the point... I didn't get it and I had to do without it in my budget."

Smith has argued over the past two years that \$150,000 was removed from his budget in 2021, with the promise to pay it back with the next budget. But, he said, that promise was never kept.

"Don't tell me something and not do it," Smith said, adding that the finances have sullied his final term as streets commissioner.

• The council approved an ordi-

Braidwood to enter into and for the Mayor of Braidwood to execute an agreement between the City of Braidwood, Azavar Audit Solutions, Commonwealth Company. City officials said after Azavar entered into an agreement with the city to audit ComEd's collection and remittance of municipal utility taxes for electric service, some

nance to authorize the city of

from 2017, which will now be paid. 'We'll be getting approximately an extra \$18,000 from uncollected utility debts," city administrator Tony

missing payments were discovered

ComEd is currently engaged in audit processes with other Illinois

communities.

· Public Health and Safety Commissioner James Mikel said that the city was beginning the process for hiring two new police officers. The department is losing two officers, one to retirement and another who is moving on for personal reasons, Mikel said.

Mikel noted that in the second half of February, the Braidwood Police Department responded to 190 service calls, resulting in three

• The council approved the payroll in the amount of \$88,360. • The council approved the pay-

ment of bills in the amount of

Garbage

Waste Management's contract, which had already been extended for one year, ran out. City leaders said Waste Management's new bid came in higher than Environmental, hence the switch.

"Like I was talking to you before Mr. Smith, if you'd like to come to my office I can explain what the difference is, is that... if we had stayed with Waste Management it would be \$3.80 more on your water bill," Altiery said. "Šo, instead of it going up that \$3.80 a month, you're not paying that and you received a yard waste can that's \$4 a month [with Waste Management], so in essence you're saving \$7.80 a month. It's not going down, but it's not going to go up that

Smith also said the new cans from Environmental don't stand up properly, and that residents are having to pull them out of their ditches because they blow over. Altiery said that is not a problem he's seen or been made

"They're the exact same [as the Waste Management cans] with different names. They're the same cans, the same everything, just different people picking them up," Altiery said. Smith also questioned the

bidding process.

Altiery said the city got four separate bids on the garage collection contract, but Šmith said the process was not explained well, nor was the city transparent about it. Altiery said that the bids

have been available at City Hall for anyone to look at, but has noted before that the bid packets are hundreds of pages long, and therefore the city didn't see the usefulness of uploading the entire bid packets online, since the city went with the lowest bidder. The new contract runs

through December of 2025.

The monthly price of the new service will be \$23.20 for 2023, \$23.12 for 2024, and \$24.04 for 2025.

The service includes one spring clean up date and one fall clean up date.

The pickup also includes one free bulk item per household per month, with a \$35 charge for each oversized item A quarterly electronic

waste collection will also be offered, at a cost of \$35 per television set, and no charge for other electronics. Altiery said the switch will

save the city as much as \$100,000 over the life of the contract. versus Management.

'That bill did not go up \$3.80 a month, so that's your savings," Altiery said. "I'm happy anytime you'd like to show you the bids. Or anytime anyone in the public has questions about it, there are two ways you can do it. If you want to call City Hall there's a lot of people who FOIA (Freedom of Înformation Act) stuff, I'd be happy to sit down and explain how the numbers are. It's in writing, I can't turn it around like some people have said. But, I'd be happy to explain it if anybody would like to come in and see the bids. If you come in and look at them, you can sit down and we'll explain them to you. If you'd like paper copies of them, that's where you have to file a FOIA."

Altiery went on to say that coming in and viewing documents is a service available to any resident, for any contract, ordinance, resolution, or other measure passed by the City Council.

"Any part of anything, the car dealerships, the garbage, anything you would like to come and sit down and have a discussion about, I'm here every day of the week," Altiery said. "Call in, make an appointment, and I can show you in writing. Once it's in writing you can't change it, it's there, so I would be happy to do it with anybody who would like to, especially you Mr.

Arrest

Coal City According to the police report, Johnson brandished a firearm and put it to the female victim's head, pressing the gun against her temple telling her to drive.

After driving a short distance, Johnson then told the female victim to exit the vehicle, then fled onto I-55 northbound.

Johnson was pursued by several area police agencies, however, he was able to elude police.

According to a press release from the Braidwood Department, Johnson was later tracked by BPD officers who were in communication with the vehicle's owner, who had the car equipped with the anti-theft device LoJack.

The vehicle was located by Braidwood officers and the Illinois State Police unoccupied in the 6800 block of South Paxton in towed back to Braidwood Department for processing.

Over the next 48 hours, several witnesses were interviewed and Johnson was positively identified as the suspect in this case. Johnson is currently on parole for possession of a stolen motor vehicle and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon for cases out of Cook County. After the arrest warrant

was signed, Braidwood investigators traveled to Chicago along with the Grundy County Sheriff's Office ProAct Unit to locate and take Johnson into custody for his outstanding arrest warrant.

Surveillance was set up on the 6800 block of South Paxton where a male identified as Johnson was located. At 2:19 p.m. on Monday, Johnson was taken into custody without incident by Grundy County ProAct, and IDOC Parole Agents, and transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility.

"I want to say, great job to Detective Sergeant Chris Altiery, who worked diligently on this case," Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons said.

Johnson was charged with aggravated vehicular hijacking (Class X Felony), armed habitual criminal (Class X Felony), aggravated unlawful possession of a stolen motor vehicle (Class 1 Felony), unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon (Class 2 Felony), aggravated unlawful restraint (Class 3 Felony), and parole viola-

Bond was set by a Will County Circuit Judge at \$2.5 Million.

He is due next in court on April 4.

Reed-Custer High School seniors of the week

BY MACKENZIE ROMINES RCHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Braidwood Journal features members from the Reed-Custer High School class of 2023. Featured this week are Brandon Moorman and Gabby Fitzwater who completed our questionnaire.

Brandon Moorman

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan on joining the local laborers What is something most do

drawing What's an everyday activity you could win an Olympic medal at? Eating

not know about you? I like

Favorite thing on the school menu? Mini corn dogs What is one thing you refuse to eat? Sloppy Joes

A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Football, the bond our team built and the way we brought the community together was



BRANDON MOORMAN

nice to see.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Canada. What class would you cre-

ate? Nap time class. Famous Person (dead or

alive) you would like to meet? not know about you? I put Jelly Roll, he is a pop country artist who lives a cool and fun

Teacher shoutout? Shoutout to Officer Reed

Advice you would give to underclassmen? Don't take the time you have for granted, and



GABBY FITZWATER

do all the activities you can.

Gabby Fitzwater

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan to study nursing, and go into pediatric oncology What is something most do

meaningful moments that I don't want to forget in my notes on my phone What's an every day activi-

ty you could win an Olympic medal at? Talking

Favorite thing on the school menu? Biscuits and

refuse to eat? Tomatoes A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? FCCLA, because Mrs. Arseneau always pushes you to be your best self If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Bora Bora

What class would you create? A class that would help vou for when you become an

. What is one thing you

adult (taxes, jobs, housing) Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Queen Elizabeth because she was such an amazing role model and I loved her outfits

Teacher Shoutout? Mrs. Arseneau

Advice you would give to underclassmen? Take time for yourself. Don't overcrowd your schedule because you still need time to be a kid!

Life is for living. Let's partner to help vou make moments matter.



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WORKERS COMPENSATION

Correction

In the March 8 edition of the Braidwood Journal, Reed-Custer School Board candidate John Guistat was misquoted as stating that he has a child who is currently enrolled in preschool with the school district. Guistat said that his child was in preschool, not a current preschool student as written.

This newspaper tries to be fair and accurate in its reporting. When errors do occur, we appreciate the opportunity to correct them.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher Marney Simon, editor

Schoolmaster Thomas Walsh and Grove School in Braidwood

ior in schools is certainly nothing new. So in a town like Braidwood. that already had a reputation for being "rough," it is no wonder that there were discipline problems.

Braidwood sprang into being almost overnight, there were no oneroom school houses, but larger ones to accommodate the rising population of miners. There was one person who seemed to be able to control the students though.

Thomas Walsh first comes into view in during the mining strike in September of 1874. We read, "Our public schools are running with a full attendance. We are to have an evening school under direction of Mr. Walsh, principal of the Grove School.

While the above statement doesn't seem that controversial, it was. There were very few small towns that held a night school. All good children should be in bed by then. Braidwood, however, was different. Many children worked



the day. The only time they had to attend school was in the evening.

There were adults who wanted to learn the language of their new country. Walsh was the first one to liked him a lot, because the recognize that fact.

He must also have been radical in other ways, because we read six months later, in March of 1875. "A school meeting was held at the Grove schoolhouse on Saturday last for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiments of the people in regard to retaining Mr. Walsh as school principal. It is said that the vote cast shows a majority of some 200 in favor of retaining him."

Since he won by such a large majority, we can only assume that it was the school board that was unhappy with him, not the parents or stu-

What kind of a man was Thomas Walsh? We know very little of him except a few bare bone facts. He was born in Ireland, married a New York lady and came to Illinois sometime after 1870. By 1880 he was

in the mines during living in Braidwood and had five children.

We also know that he was a tee-totaler. He was the founding President of the Catholic Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society, which he helped to form in Braidwood

His students must have

outgoing class of 1875 presented him with a gold pen as thanks for all he had done for He also must have been a man who was interested in the world, as every month we read

of speakers at the Grove School, ranging all the way from Mormon Joseph Smith to temperance meetings. This however was not liked by some. We read on February 21, 1879, "We hear a

number of complaints in

regard to the manner in which

the Grove School is being con-

ducted." Nothing was apparently done about it because we hear no more about him until June of 1879 when we read this is the Wilmington Advocate, 'Teachers' Pay Roll - School teachers in district No. 2 receive monthly pay as follows:



A PHOTO OF Grades 2 and 3 at Grove School in 1896

principal, \$70 (about \$2,260 today); Miss Rose Riley, \$33 (about \$1,070); Miss Mary Pettigrew, \$33; Miss Mary McGee, \$35 (about \$1,130); Miss Alice Brophy, \$32 (about \$1,032); Miss Rose Hawkins, \$32."

From that entry on, we hear no more about Principal Walsh. Whether he was fired or simply quit, by the following year, he had erected a building on Main Street and we read of Business Man Walsh.

He lived on the top floor and rented out the ground and second floor to merchants. We left it became even rougher. We

read, "James Bambrick will occupy the Walsh building (now LeCaron's drug store) so soon as it is vacated, putting in a big stock of boots and shoes. Probably the first of July will see the change effected.

And in 1886 we read, "H. C. Goodrich is to put his grocery stock into the Tom Walsh building early in December."

As for Grove School, it was the largest in the district and had more miners' children than schools closer to the business district. It also meant it was the roughest. After Walsh Burt and Alex Howatt, nice young bloods, for disturbing the Grove school were fined \$3 (\$94) and costs, each, on June

It was so rough that the principal, Miss Eddie Coddington took off for Kansas City the following month, to return the following year as principal of Eureka School. Her place was taken by Miss Etta Bardwell who came from

Eureka School.

But it was no use, woman principal just could not keep discipline at the Grove and finally in 1885 we read of another change, "Coal City - Jos. MacElmail left on Sunday to take the principalship of the Grove School, Braidwood."

We read no more of problems at the school. In the 1900 census we find Thomas Walsh living in Chicago with his wife and two children.

No occupation is listed for him, but in the column marked "Attending School" there is a check mark after his name. Whether he was attending school or teaching school we

Passion drives teachers behind RCHS music programs

BY MACKENZIE ROMINES RCHS STUDENT REPORTER

The National Association for Music Education has marked March as "Music In Our Schools Month". The celebration of this month is meant to inspire appreciation for the art of music within students, and to support music education programs.

Reed-Custer music teachers Addie Dennis and Kevin Mangan, as well as theater director James Reinbacher all expressed their deep love for music, as well as what they believe it can inspire within their students. When asked about what had made them decide to pursue music as a career, both Dennis and Mangan stated that they had grown up with amazing teachers that lent them the guidance they needed.

"I was lucky enough to just have some really good music teachers that I felt like made a big difference, and it was the thing that I always felt like I fit in, and they always had a special place. So I think having those leaders that kind of showed me the way made me want to follow in their footsteps," Mangan commented.

Dennis agreed, relaying her story of finding her love for even in kindergarten she could always understand music,

largely due to her general music teacher. When Dennis was in fifth grade, her teacher told her that she should try to do band and choir, and she happily agreed, emphasizing how much the teacher had influenced her not only as a student but also in her future.

Dennis and Mangan said they always knew they wanted to be teachers, however the both of them were at first unsure if they wanted to teach music or English. Again, they stated it was the influence from their music teachers that made the difference.

Dennis said that her Junior year in high school a new band director took over, and much like the general music teacher from elementary school, her new director greatly inspired and influenced her, and made her sure of her choice in music education. eventually becoming a band director herself.

Mangan said that in junior high and high school he had played violin, but after discouraging words from a private instructor, he was not sure if he could go to college to teach orchestra as he had originally hoped. However, after his choir director told him he should pursue singing, he began takmusic young. She said that now the director of Reed-Custer's choir.



STRIKE UP THE BAND! The Reed-Custer Marching Band features brass, woodwinds, percussion and color guard sections that all come together in song.

about the music program, Dennis said "I feel like at Reed-Custer we have this little music utopia". She is grateful for the support the program receives administration and teachers, as well as parents and kids. Mangan said "we have the best setup we could possibly ask for, so I feel like it's about trying to just get better and

However, no matter how good a program could be, love and inspiration for the work being done is still a necessity to ing private voice lessons, and is a thriving musical environment. Reinbacher said that, "if you're passionate about what When asked how they feel you're doing, then your pas- a connection to a selection if

sion should rub off on the students that you're influencing."

He said that when he went to school, his favorite classes were band, choir, and French, because it was clear that the teachers cared deeply for what they were doing. He said that passion breeds passion, so if you care about it your kids are going to care about it".

Expanding on what Reinbacher had said, Mangan stated that he tries to make sure that he always cares about what he is trying to teach to his students. He said delves deep into every piece selected, believing that he needs to have

he wants his students to connect to the music as well.

carefully chosen selections are something that makes teaching and learning music unique. "We don't read the same books every year, we don't do the same math problems. Yes, the concepts are the same, but its always fresh because we get to choose new music, and what fits these kids and their personalities.

"There is no linear path to your future," Reinbacher said. Don't become a teacher because you think it's easy, become a teacher because

you're passionate about it." While he is passionate about the things that he does, he does not feel as though that same love could translate into a classroom. While he may not directly be involved in education himself, the connection he has to theater is clear to everyone around him. He has inspired a love for acting and music in countless kids, even if he does not teach in a tradi-

Mangan really appreciates all the diversity among the lives of his students, and that it's great to feel as though they can all come to class at an equal footing. He said that he thinks there are very few places that can say the same about uplifting students in such a way, and that music is really special in that sense. Dennis said that she also really appreciates that music is something her students can do for the rest of their lives, no matter where or how far they decide to pur-

The three of them ended the interview by stressing the importance of music in everything. At every event, all across the world, everything contains music and artistry within it. They do not expect everyone to pursue music for the rest of their lives, but they hope to have every student see the importance it plays within life.

RCHS

The cast members say they are grateful for the support the directors provide.

"James is really inspiring, he's always there for us and even through he does push us to our limits sometimes, he does it because he cares and believes in us," said Ava Van Duyne, who takes on the role of narrator in this production.

The show opens with Van Duyne seated at center stage surrounded by young children for story hour inside their local library.

The concept of setting the show inside a library is a bit different that most and it plays to the idea of telling a story.

Reinbacher said, it also creates a central space where, "the beauty of the story is in the story and not what's around them.'

Stephen Menard, a senior at Illinois State University, helped bring the concept to life as the show's scenic artist.

Maria Bragg, a junior, who plays the Baker's Wife, says this show is all about the story being told.

"It's funny, but serious at the same time, it balances itself perfectly," she said. Bragg first took the stage

as a fifth grader, appearing as a member of the children's choir in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." From that performance she was hooked on theatre and has been cast in every show since.

Being a part of theatre, she said, is fun and it's taught her to come out of her shell.

"I'm really not a social person in any way shape or form. But once you are on stage you learn to become a leader and push yourself toward being successful.'

"Theater isn't just going up there saying some lines and singing, you get to turn into someone else and I find that interesting. You get to study how someone else is and be able to understand and have your own motives of why you are taking the actions that are in the script," Bragg said.

Both Bragg and Van Duyne say they have made wonderful friends through the process of putting a musical together, "we're a family," Bragg said.

A member of that theatre family is Jamon Spikings, who is taking on the role of the Baker in this production.

It's a challenging role for the Reed-Custer senior, who said his character is overwhelmed by his life-dealing with both his wife and father and the road blocks they face.

To understand his character, Spikings, he did some research.

He has been a part of the theatre department since middle school and his current role as the Baker is among the best he's played. Portraying Professor Callahan in the school's 2021 production of "Legally Blonde" is at the top of the list also.

'Into the Woods" opens at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 17 in the Reed-Custer High School Auditorium. Additional shows are Saturday, March 18 at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m.. on Sunday, March 19. Admission is free and tickets can be obtained at the door, however those who would like to select a seat in advance can do so by logging on to vancoevents.com.

Bragg encourages the community to join her and her castmates in the theatre for one or more performances



HUNTED BY THE wolf [Mark Martinez], Little Red Riding Hoods [Olivia Allen] heads of to grandmother's house in Reed-**Custer Theatre Department's** production of "Into the Woods."

this weekend.

"Every live performance of a show is different...no two shows are the same," she said, noting the cast, crew and orchestra have worked hard on developing the story.

Rounding out the cast of 'Into the Woods," are: Olivia Allen, junior, Little Red Riding Hood; Victoria Loomis, senior, Witch; Paige Holland, senior, Rapunzel; Olivia Williams, junior , Cinderella; Zack Randall, junior, Jack, and Jaina Dubbert, senior, Jack's Mother.

Also, Tristan Randall, freshman, Rapunzel's Prince; Mark Martine, freshman, Chindrella's Prince and Wolf; Gibson Waldvogel, senior, Mysterious Man; Alice Gruber, sophonore, Cinderella's Step-Mother; Reese Damaschke, junior, Lucinda; Jadyn Stephens, freshman, Florinda;Dakota Wilkins, jun-

ior, Cinderella's Mother; Eden Przybyski, senior, Granny and Giant; Joey Ulrich, senior Cinderella's Father, Colton Waldvogel, freshman, Steward.

The cast is supported by a 17 member orchestra directed by Dennis. Student members are: Tyler Wiyniger, senior, flute/piccolo; Kaitlyn Faurout, Makayla Wilkins and Jenna Bragg, seniors, clarinet; Emma O'Neill, sophomore, trumpet; Jack Krall, sophomore, and Julia Janopoulos, senior, horns; Gabby Davies, senior, euphonium; Micah Crisp, junior, bass, and Danny Kuban, senior, and Landon Edwards, junior, percussion.

"The show is fun and has good heartfelt moments, everyone should some and see what we've been working hard on. They will very much enjoy it," Spikings said.

Godley Park District to hold hearing on budget ordinance

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Change of April Monthly Meeting Date) The Tentative Amended Combined Budge & Appropriation Ordinance for the Godley Park District for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2022 and ending on April 30, 2023, has been placed on file for public inspection for the period of 30 days beginning on March 14, 2023.

Said Ordinance may be inspected at the Godley Park District Administration Office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Public Hearing concerning the Tentative Amended Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Godley Park District for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2022 and ending on April 30, 2023 way 1, 2022 and entiting on Apin 30, 2025, will be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at the Park District Community Center, 500 South Kankakee Street, Godley, Illinois, 815-458-6129. Secretary Godley Park District

Board of Commissioners Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Notice of Sheriff's Sale of 265 E. 1st 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

COUNTY OF WILL IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Plaintiff, vs. William S. Allen; et. al. No. 22 FC 1024

STATE OF ILLINOIS

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the **15th** day of **February, 2023**, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the **6th** day of **April, 2023**, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate THAT PART OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT LYING WEST OF THE WEST LINE OF THE LAND CONVEYED BY DOCUMENT NO R87-8414 AND LYING EAST OF THE EAST LINE OF THE LAND CONVEYED BY DOCUMENT NOS. R77-32088 AND R84-8808; SAID TRACT DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THAT PART OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7 IN THE CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILLION COAL COMPANY'S RESUBDIVISION OF LOTS 6 AND 7, IN BLOCK 15, IN THE CHICAGO AND WILMINGTON COAL COMPANY'S SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SAID RESUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SAID RESUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4 (PART 1), PAGE 24 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1, 56 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 1 TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF KERN STREET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID NORTHERLY LINE OF KERN STREET TO A POINT ON SAID NORTHERLY LINE OF KERN STREET, THAT IS 36 FEET SOUTHEASTERLY OF SAID SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 1, THENCE NORTHEASTERLY TO A POINT OF THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 6, 282 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6; CONTINUING THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ON THE SAME LINE, 26.4 FEET TO A POINT THAT IS 279.8 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 7, 23.4 FEET EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER THEREOF; THENCE WEST 502.2 FEET ON THE SOUTH LINE OF FIRST STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPTING THEREFROM COAL AND OTHER MINERALS BENEATH THE SURFACE THEREOF AN ALSO EXCEPTING ALL MINING RIGHTS PERTAINING THERETO, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 265 E 1St Street, Braidwood, IL 60408

Description of Improvements: Residential P.I.N.: 02-24-08-405-034-0000

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 residen tial 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 Countv.

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

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

MIKE KELLEY Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 15, 22 and 29, 2023

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

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the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they

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

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

Worse than before

BRAIDWOOD-As a 50-year resident of Braidwood I can honestly say that this is the most vicious local election that our community has ever seen. So many people thought the 2019 election was bad but this one is 10% worse. It is extremely sad to say that our beautiful community is heavily divided by small town political warfare right now. I think we all can't wait for April 4th to come and go so we can pull up the hundreds of campaign signs and move on with our lives.

Retraining

SHADOW LAKES—The Woke left has banned Zip a Dee Doo Dah as a Racist song. If you hear anyone singing this report them to your local Democrat HQ for retraining. Eddie

Bring back Sammy

Memo to the Cubs. Bring Sammy Sosa back to Wrigley Field. Retiring #21. 545 homers, enough said. Thank you.

Rest of the story

BRAIDWOOD—Last week's Sound-Off regarding the City of Braidwood wanting to annex the Braidwood Recreation Club only told half of the story. Consider the following: At present the club pays absolutely nothing to the city in real estate taxes simply because it is not within city limits. But if it was, there would be substantial taxes to pay. I can only guess at what the value of a golf course and pro shop are worth in tax revenue to the city. Add to that a beautiful beach, beach house, campgrounds, etc., all located on hundreds of acres of prime real estate and you can quickly see that the city would stand to make a small fortune at the expense of the club. In fact, the only way the club could meet that burden would be by greatly increasing membership dues. Additionally, the club would be subject to Braidwood zoning and building ordinances and regulations. Braidwood city officials would actually be able to dictate what, if any structures are built and how and where they are built. Nothing could be

done on club property without the approval of the city through its appointed officials and special comittees/boards. The Braidwood Recreation Club has been doing just fine for more than 70 years without the interference of the city of Braidwood. I want to keep it that way. And to the present Braidwood Recreation Club board who had the good sense to reject the idea, thank you for doing what is in the best interests of the Club and its members.

Spewing false info BRAIDWOOD—The Braidwood communi-

ty is in a state of utter embarrassment right now. All of the political candidates and their supporters are spewing false information from every direction. You can tell this is going to be a close election because the mud being thrown is caked in spurs for added leverage. Don't believe everything you read, but then again no matter what you read chances are it will contain some sort of falsities.

The right direction

BRAIDWOOD-There's something to be said about the fact that residents who have had a negative experience, certainly none like Kim E, are choosing to stay in our city. There's something to be said about the fact that houses that pop into the market aren't available for long. There's something to be said about the fact that rooftops are going up at an amazing rate. More has happened in Braidwood, for the good in the last four years than perhaps in the last two decades. The bank statements don't lie. The new equipment purchased on grant money speaks for itself. The countless "We Support Our Police" signs within yards and windows speaks volumes, and, in my opinion, the city just has a different feel from times past. A step in any other direction than forward would be disappointing and a disservice to prosperity. I hope others feel Kim's passion and follow suit of seeing Braidwood for what it has become and what it truly can be with right people at the



Coal City Area Club

COAL CITY—I have belonged to the Coal City Area Club for years. This year we got socked with a substantial raise our senior dues. We had no notice the dues were going to be raised for us. You would think that something this important would be made known so we could voice an opinion. What are we getting for this raise? Absolutely nothing. As a senior member I cannot hunt, have a dock or pontoons or a fishing boat. I can't take my 10 foot jon boat out to fish in. They say there are a little over 500 senior members, and I don't think our dues raise is going to make a difference in money received for repairs. Are you trying to get us seniors to turn in our membership? If

you need more income for repairs, consider adding another 50 or 100 members. Our club isn't crowded. You assume we hardly use the club, but we do enjoy it. Add some more members. You won't even know we are there.

Just spend less

SHADOW LAKES—Biden wants to raise the taxes on corporations \$8 billion. This is how it works. You tax business more, they raise the price of the things they sell to make up for the new taxes. We get more inflation that the middle class pays for. Simple. Biden will blame Maga white supremacists. That makes no sense. How about just spending less money?

Commentary

A budget hawk fighting for fiscal sanity

BY JOHN HENDRICKSON

The national debt is at \$31 trillion and rising. Congressional Budget Office has recently estimated that the Fiscal Year 2023 deficit could hit \$1.4 trillion. The economy is still struggling with high inflation, which is a direct result of reckless and out-ofcontrol spending.

Under President Biden, the national debt has increased over \$3.7 trillion. assuming office. President Biden has increased spending by over \$10 trillion.

Both political parties can share the blame for the national debt and the broken budget

Nevertheless, U.S. Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN) is one of a select few policymakers who is trying to seriously address the debt crisis. Braun is a rare budget hawk in Congress and his efforts to address both the national debt and rein in spending should be seriously considered.

Progressives and liberals have embraced the radical Modern Monetary Theory, which states that since the federal government has the ability Act of 2023 and the Make Rules to print money it does not have to worry about deficits or debt. This theory argues that the federal government can have a spend without any consequences.

As an example, having the United States Mint produce a platinum coin that would be worth" \$1 trillion.

Modern Monetary Theory repeals the laws of economics and fiscal sanity. It also ignores the numerous examples from history that demonstrate what happens to nations when they simply just print money.

This is why Braun has introduced a measure that Modern would condemn Monetary Theory.

It is this reckless philosophy that has led to record high inflation. Consumers across the nation continue to not only pay more at the grocery store, but inflation is destroying their earnings and purchasing power. Families and businessdifficult decisions about their

This is why Sen. Braun has Act through Balanced Budgets manent, which when passed

Matter Act. For too long, Congress has not only sidestepped fiscal responsibility, but through institutional rules, "blank check" to continue to is able to waive budget rules in order to increase spending.

> Braun is attempting to correct this by making it more difficult to waive budget rules.

> Sen. Braun is also calling for the federal budget to be balanced and has proposed a plan to meet this objective. The Braun Budget plan would place a cap on total spending and would balance the budget over a 10-year period and save taxpayers \$4.5 trillion. The Braun Budget proposal would also require much needed transparency and force Congress to review government programs.

> A large portion of the federal budget is on auto-pilot and this not only increases spending, but allows wasteful and unnecessary programs to

Sen. Braun's proposal is es are forced every day to make also respectful of Social Security and Medicare, and it would extend the life of both trust funds. It would also make introduced the Fight Inflation the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act per-

and provided much needed tax relief for families and busi-Opponents of the Tax Cuts

and Jobs Act argue that it has led to massive deficits, but the opposite actually occurred. Revenues increased as a result of the tax cut, which demonstrates that the federal government has a spending problem.

Braun's budget proposal would make other meaningful reforms to the federal government, but it would provide a path forward for fiscal sustain-

The national debt is not just a serious economic problem, but it is also a threat to national security. Sen. Braun should be commended for his leadership in trying to restore fiscal conservatism to the federal government.

Further, Braun has not forgotten that the Republican Party, the conservative party, must be the champion for sound economic policies and to stop the economic insanity of Modern Monetary Theory.

John Hendrickson serves as policy director for Iowans for Tax Řelief Foundation

Illinois drivers would get \$50 fine for lap dogs with new legislation

BY KEVIN BESSLER THE CENTER SQUARE

Legislation advancing at the Illinois statehouse would get motorists in hot water for letting their pet ride on the driver's lap.

House Bill 2910 provides that a person who holds an animal in the person's lap while operating a motor vehicle is guilty of a petty offense. The bill's sponsor, state Rep. Jawaharial Williams, D-Chicago, said pets aren't covered under distracted driving laws.

"The new law would allow police officers to pull

you over if they see that you are driving with an animal in your lap, whatever the animal may be," Williams said.

Williams cited a AAA survey that showed that 31% of drivers with pets said they have been distracted by their pets while driving, and 20% of drivers who have admitted to driving with the pet on their lap have been involved in accidents.

Offenders would be subject to a \$50 fine. The measure moved out of the transportation committee and is headed to the House

floor.

Commentary

Campaign contributions a concern ahead of high-profile cases

BY GREG BISHOP THE CENTER SQUARE

Attention on judicial integrity has been raised with the focus on \$2 million in campaign contributions Gov. J.B. Pritzker made to two Illinois Supreme Court justice candidates who won in November. The court hears cases next week. In one high-profile case, Pritzker is a top defendant.

Pritkzer downplayed his \$1 million donation to each of two then-supreme court candidates who are now on the bench of seven. He gave half a million from each of his political campaign and his revocable trust to Supreme Court candidates Mary O'Brien and Elizabeth Rochford. That's despite the governor signing into law last year limiting contributions to such campaigns to \$500,000 from single indi-

"If you're suggesting that the fact that I gave money to let's say the Democratic Party or the committees that supported candidates means that everybody who's received any money has to recuse themselves from anything to do with the state of Illinois, that's ridiculous," Pritzker said at an unrelated event in Springfield. "And I've certainly never asked anybody to vote a certain way or decide on a case a certain way. I would never do that. I never have and I never will."

Pritzker said the justices are independent jurists.

Yesterday the high court was to hear the appeal of a Kankakee County court's ruling that the no-cash bail provision of the SAFE-T Act is unconstitutional. In May, justices hear oral arguments in the gun-ban challenge from Macon County where Pritzker

is a lead defendant.

In talking about ethics, state Rep. Blaine Whilhour, R-Beecher City, raised a red flag.

'It's important to point out that that kind of stuff is inappropriate, he did circumvent the rules basically by doing that, giving from different entities," Wilhour said. "The governor should lead by example in those kinds of

State Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, said campaign spending is growing, but there are other issues of fairness like the redistricting iudicial Democrats approved in 2021.

'Let's remember, 600,000 voters said we need to change how we deliver redistricting in the state of Illinois, [former Illinois Supreme Court Justice Tom Kilbride was the deciding vote to squelch the wishes of

those voters," Spain said. Killbride lost retention

before new districts were drawn and approved in 2021, which Spain said moved the courts more in Democrats'

Longtime politics professor Kent Redfield said electing judges can cause problems.

Then the general public starts to think of judges once they get elected as any other elected official," Redfield told The Center Square.

Any appearance of conflict like campaign contributions can foster distrust in the judiciary, Redfield said. 'That calls into people's

minds the legitimacy of the court in general or the specific rulings of the court," he said.

Čhanging Illinois' elected judiciary into an appointed one would require a constitutional change but Redfield said appointing judges also has pitfalls of perceived bias.

Illinois Bankers Association says Illinois banks insulated from collapse in other states

BY GREG BISHOP THE CENTER SQUARE

With two major banks collapsing in other states, the Illinois Bankers Association is reassuring Illinoisans they are secured, and not by taxpayers. Silicon Valley Bank in California and New York

Signature Bank were both taken over by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation over the weekend. President Joe Biden announced Monday the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation took the banks over and management there

will be fired. And while depositors will secured through FDIC, bank investors won't.

"They knowingly took a risk and when the risk didn't pay off, investors lose their money," Biden said. "That's how capitalism works.

Bankers Illinois Association Vice President of Government Relations Ben Jackson reiterated Biden's insistence that taxpayers are not impacted by the FDIC support of depositors.

"The funds there to back-

· Elder Law/Nursing homes

· Wills & Trusts, Estate Planning

Mediation (custody and divorce)

Agency pursuant to an act of Congress.

Asset Conservation

Family Law & Divorce

Medicaid

stop Americans' deposits are funded by banks so banks pay quarterly assessments based on a very specific formula, Jackson told The Center

Square. He doesn't expect there to

be a cascade.

These were banks that generally had clients that were in areas that pose some risks such as startups, cryptocurrencies, that type of thing, and they had situations where depositors pulled out and the banks didn't necessarily have

the liquidity," Jackson said. Illinois banks and thrifts are strong, Jackson insisted, and they are insulated from bank failures in other states. Anyone with concerns should reach out to their bankers, he

"A banker wants their customer to feel secure that their deposits are going to be insured and that they're going to be available when they need

them," lackson said. Jackson said the reforms that were put in place since the housing and banking crisis 15 years ago have helped insulate banks from when other

banks may collapse. THE LAW OFFICES OF

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FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Mobile food pantry to visit Kuzma Cottage

Catholic Charities of Joliet tribute food. will be hosting Mobile Food Pantry at Kuzma Care Cottage on Monday, March 20, at 635 S. Main St., Wilmington from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

When you arrive, please line up in the St. Rose Church parking lot by entering on the Main Street side. (Please do not arrive before 9 a.m.) All Mobile Food Pantries will use a "drive thru" method to dis-

Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Everyone is welcome.

Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Wheeler Ave. bridge over I-80 closing

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that a project to replace the Wheeler carrying Avenue over Interstate 80, in Joliet, will require a full closure of Wheeler Avenue, between Woods and Park avenues beginning March 20 through early November.

The project is part of advance work leading to the \$1.2 billion reconstruction of I-80 through Will County.

A posted detour will direct motorists to Meadow Avenue, Larkin Avenue (Illinois 7) and Jefferson Street (U.S. 52). Motorists should also expect occasional overnight lane closures on I-80 at the bridge during that time.

The \$5.7 million project will replace the existing bridge accommodate the widening of I-80 under the bridge, new

storm sewers and ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps will also be installed. The project is anticipated to be completed in

The overall I-80 project will redesign and rebuild 16 miles from Ridge Road, in Minooka, to U.S. 30, in Joliet and New Lenox, while adding or extending auxiliary lanes to improve safety and reduce congestion.

Interchanges will rebuilt or improved at Interstate 55, Illinois 7, Center Street, Chicago Richards Street and Briggs Street, with a new flyover ramp linking southbound I-55 to eastbound I-80 to improve traffic flow and safety. More than 30 bridges will be rehabilitated or replaced, including those over the Des Plaines

The cocktail that made tequila popular

Brian Rung

I am a big fan of classic rock, and the social media advertising algorithm knows this very well. I regularly receive updates in my news feed when my favorite bands release new music, or go on

I was happy to see the Eagles Hotel California tour is still going strong into 2023. If you are a fan of the iconic Hotel California album, you're in luck as the band performs the album in its entirety at every show as part of this tour.

How "iconic" is Hotel California? Well, the December 1976 release is one of the bestselling albums of all time with certified sales of over 26 million copies in the US and over 32 million copies worldwide.

In addition to performing the Hotel California album from start to finish the band will also play a "greatest hits' set on this tour. The band has been touring and recording in various forms off and on for over 50 years, let's toast the country/rock pioneers with the classic Tequila Sunrise. I had always assumed that

the Tequila Sunrise cocktail was named after Tequila Sunrise the song. Though the cocktail and song were popular in the early 1970s, it is actually the song that is named after the cocktail. The late Glenn Frey and

Don Henley wrote the song together, and Glenn Frey almost nixed the title because he felt that the drink was too popular and the title would be too cliché. Henley insisted that they keep the title and told Frey to look at it from the point one watching the sunrise drinking tequila all night.

The stuck and the song became one of the band's signature songs. It is safe to assume that the Henley and Frey were Tequila Sunrise as

the Tequila Sunrise craze of the early 1970s. The drink originated in

northern California at the Trident, a bar in Sausalito. Young bartenders Bobby Lozoff and Billy Rice created the cocktail in late 1971 or early 1972 while working at the One evening in 1972, leg endary Bay Area promoter Bill

Graham rented the Trident for

a private party to kick off the

Rolling Stones North American Mick Jagger fell in love with the Tequila Sunrise at the party and spent the entire tour drinking Tequila Sunrise cock-

tails with his entourage.

In 2023, we take our selection of quality tequila for granted. În 1972 tequila was difficult to find on US store shelves, and when you did find it Iose Cuervo was more than likely your only option. Large scale imports of premium 100% agave tequila was still

The Tequila Sunrise is responsible for giving tequila

years away in 1972.

Cuervo seized the moment and began to print the recipe Tequila the Sunrise on every tequila shipped to the US. The song was so popular in the spring of 1973 that everyone wanted to make their very

Tequila Sunrise. California was ground zero for The recipe was simple, the ingredients were easy obtain, and anyone with ice and a glass could make one.

> Start with a tall, ice-filled glass. Pour in tequila, top with orange juice, slowly pour in grenadine. Wait a few seconds for the grenadine to settle to the bottom, and do not stir the drink. The red grenadine at the bottom will remain separated from the drink creating a "sunrise" effect in the glass. If you stir the drink it will become a reddish-orange drink that will taste great, but will not have the trademark sunrise. The drink was likely made

with Jose Cuervo Gold tequila in the early days, but higher quality 100% agave tequilas are your best bet both for presentation and taste.

Start with a blanco (white) or plata (silver) tequila. The blanco tequilas tend to be drier and leave very little aftertaste and are better suited for mixing. A good 100% agave blanco or plata tequila will set you back about \$20 depending on state and local taxes.

Pour your tequila over ice the boost that it needed, and and top with a quality orange

use Minute Maid juice for mixing. The ratio of orange juice to tequila is 2 to 1, so you will want to use a quality orange

The best grenadine for a tequila sunrise is the brightest, reddest grenadine that you can get your hands on. Even though Rose's Grenadine is more of a red dyed cherry syrup, it works remarkably well

bright red color. Monin makes a wonderful grenadine, Sonoma Syrup Company turns out quality grenadine as well. However, these newer craft cocktail grenadines are made from real pomegranate which makes them a bit dull in color.

in a Tequila Sunrise due to the

dine available in most markets back in 1972, so it is safe to assume that the Tequila was created using Sunrise Rose's. Pour yourself a Tequila Sunrise and spin (or stream)

Rose's was the only grena-

your favorite Eagles album, be sure to catch the show when it comes to your town. The Tequila Sunrise is

built and served in a Collins (tall) glass. Fill a tall glass with ice,

then add: 1.5 oz. tequila

3 oz orange juice

Slowly pour 1/2 oz. grenadine into the middle of the glass, allow grenadine to sink to the bottom to form the "sun-

Until next week, enjoy





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Chicago fastest growing city in U.S. for auto thefts tion programs for at-risk youth." BY GLENN MINNIS Police Department crime statistics.

THE CENTER SQUARE

states at 35%.

The city of Chicago easily outpaced the rest of the country as the fastest growing city for auto thefts in 2022 with larce-

nies rising by 55%. With such acts of vandalism on the rise across the country as part of an ongoing pandemic-fueled outbreak, a new National Insurance Crime Bureau (NCIB) annual study found Illinois had the largest percentage increase among larger

"Over one million vehicles were stolen nationwide in 2022," NCIB president and CEO David Glawe told The Center Square. "States that saw the largest increase in vehicle thefts were Illinois, Washington and New York. There is little deterrence with vehicle thefts treated as property crimes. Organized gangs and juveniles steal vehicles and use them to facilitate other crimes. To stop this lawless behavior, we must re-invest in our law enforcement partners, support community engagement and policing programs and implement successful early interven-

Just last week the Braidwood Police reported a carjacking at a gas station at Illinois 113 and I-55. The suspect drove off on northbound I-55 with police in pursuit. They backed off to later find stolen vehicle driven to southeast Chicago. The suspect ran off, leaving the vehicle behind where it was recovered and brought back to Braidwood. Across the country, thefts were up

7%, pushing the number of stolen vehicles over 1 million for the first time in more than 15 years. Overall, including carjackings, Chicago had 21,516 reported auto thefts over the year, up by nearly 8,000 from 13,856 the previous year.

As part of its campaign to stem the tide, the Chicago Police Department over the past several months has instituted an expanded vehicular hijacking task force. Through February, there were 232 reported carjackings across the city this year, a 23% decline over the same period in 2022.

At the same time, overall motor vehicle thefts are sharply up over the first twoplus months of this year, with 5,375 reports of stolen vehicles through March 5, a 138% increase, according to Chicago

"Vehicle crime is certainly still a

major issue across the nation and while there are many reasons for this, NICB data does not point to one specific reason," staffers at the Des Plaines-based organization added. "We know that criminals steal vehicles to commit other crimes, sometimes vehicles end up in chop shops, get shipped overseas, or cross the border into Mexico." Glawe added at least part of the epi

demic can be traced to supply chain issues that have made used cars more valuable and the job of upkeep for them more costly. Over the last 36 months alone, catalytic converter thefts have jumped by 1,200% and a recent study by online auto search site iSeeCars details that in Illinois, the average price of a used car now tops \$35,000.

In January, the CPD began hosting vehicle safety events where they passed out steering wheel locks for Kia and Hyundai vehicles as part of a plan aimed at making it easier to identify catalytic converters, which makes them harder to

Illinois bill would require personal finance class

BY GLENN MINNIS

THE CENTER SQUARE

State Senator Kimberly Lightford is pushing a bill that would require all high school students to take a semester-long personal finance course before graduating.

Senate Bill 1266 strives to make sure students learn about managing money before earning a high school diploma, with the course covering everything from banking, to bill payment, to investing, to managing credit and paying for college.

The bill would affect the freshman class of the 2024 to 2025 school year, with those students required to take the course as a junior or senior before receiving their diploma.

The proposed bill comes on the heels of a new Wirepoints report that outlines how Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) data shows not a single student at no less than 53 schools across the state can do math at grade level. The numbers are nearly just as bleak in reading, where the report looked at 30 schools with at least 22 of them being part of the Chicago Public Schools sys-

Overall, researchers found that only 1 out of 10 kids or fewer

can do math at grade level in 930 schools. Wirepoints President Ted Dabrowski, who co-authored the website's schools report, isn't sure how much difference

Lightford's proposal will make, even if it becomes law. Every kid should learn about finances and how to manage their financial future, but the first priority for Illinois leaders should be to assure that kids can read and do math and today that's not happening," he told The Center Square. "Instead of adding another mandate for this they should mandate that schools massively elevate the percentage of kids who can read

and do math in Illinois schools.' Despite Wirepoints' findings, many of the schools where some students are struggling the most were rated "commend-

able" by ISBE.

SB 1266 is now awaiting a hearing in the Senate Education

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This one-hour event is designed to increase awareness of energy use. To participate, all you need to do is turn off your lights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on March 25.

This event is celebrated around the world with many iconic buildings turning off lights. It also serves to make the night sky easier to view, with its many stars. Some birds use the stars to navigate and "light pollution"

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The Illinois Department Natural Resources is anglers that fishing, hunting and combination licenses for the 2023 season are on sale both online and bait and tack-

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p.m. at Braceville United

Methodist Church, 106 W.

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SIGNATURE RETINA CONSULTANTS has open in the former U.S. Bank building in Braidwood. Dr. Sumit Bhatia and staff members Nichole Olson (left) and Cherie Watts (right) have been busy setting up the new medical offices. They stand in the reception area after entering the building.

Signature Retina Consultants opens in Braidwood

wanted to be at the forefront

of diseases you could barely

treat or not treat at all. So now,

in the 15 years I've been in

practice, we have treatments

for wet macular degeneration

and we can help people initial-

ly improve their vision and

then maintain it for years.

Normally with that disease

you'd lose your vision in about

something for you, prolong

your vision' when in their par-

ents' generation that wasn't an

last few weeks a new drug has

become available that can prolong vision for dry macular

degeneration. Before, there was little more than vitamins

amazing advances for retina

diseases. On one hand there

are diseases which you don't

have necessarily the ability to

regain perfect eyesight. But we

can help people maintain and

even improve it somewhat.

You can keep it going much

longer than the natural dis-

knowing he can do more for

his patients today than he

in the morning and keeps me

wanting to come to work every

day. It's being able to do more

for my patients. Like getting

this office open for patients.

It's got a special place in my

heart to get my own building.

could 15 years ago.

Bhatia said it's rewarding

"That's what gets me up

option," Dr. Bhatia said.

"So it's nice to be able to say to people 'we can do

He noted that just in the

"There have been some

four months.

BY ERIC FISHER **PUBLISHER**

A world-class retina specialist is feeling right at home with a recent move to Braidwood.

Dr. Sumit Bhatia opened new offices on Main Street in the former U.S. Bank building. In three short months and still a work in progress, the feeling of moving to a small town with regional appeal has settled in.

"We love the small town feel. It just feels so cozy and everybody has been kind and knows each other," Bhatia said.

Like the other day when a delivery for his office went to a wrong address. "The guy who got it actually came by and dropped it off for us. You don't get that kind of hospitality in every town."

Bhatia is a board-certified ophthalmologist and retina surgeon who has been in private practice since 2007 and comes with a wealth of experience having done over 33,000 in-office and operating room based surgical procedures.

He's is a native of Illinois having grown up in Peoria. He received his undergraduate education from the University of Illinois at Urbana

Champaign. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Chicago in 2001. Following a one year internship at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, IL, he completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Chicago in 2005. He then obtained his Retina Medical and Surgical fellowship at the esteemed Boston University Medical Center in Boston, MA.

Dr. Bhatia has 15 years of experience in the treatment of surgical and medical diseases such as age related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal occlusion, retinal tears and detachments, vitreous hemorrhages, epiretinal membrane

and macular holes. He helped patients in Bloomington, Peoria, Decatur, Danville, Springfield, Peru, Champaign and Galesburg

before opening his own prac-He lives in Bloomington with his wife and two children

so his commute is a little more than one hour. "I drove up here, drove

around and found a couple of properties that were available. I worked with a realtor who mentioned a bank branch that had been closed and was immediately available. After looking over the town and surrounding communities I felt it could work.

The first month was spent renovating the building. The indestructible bank vault and bullet-proof drive-up window are still there, but the rest of building has been converted into a spacious waiting room, reception area, four patient rooms with state-of-the-art laser and optical equipment, break room and new rest-

rooms. "It was a long month, we were always here while this place was being worked on. We were going to Casey's like two times a day. So we've got to know all the staff. We've gotten to know the people at Rosati's Pizza, eating there sometimes two, three times a week," joked Bhatia. "But you know that small town feel just really welcomes you and lets you know that everybody is really happy to have you in

As a retina specialist his patients are mostly by referral. He does not perform cataract surgery, nor general eye exams or dispense glasses, instead specializing on treating eye

"I wanted to focus on, at that time, diseases where

there were no great cures. I But what really brings me in day after day and has been for can now call world-class eve 15 years is seeing the patients and being able to talk with them and being able to encourage them that we will keep this vision going for as long as we can. That's what I hope to be doing here for the next 20-25 years.

As for hobbies Dr. Bhatia says other than family he has none. He loves family time, eating together, watching movies or being outdoors. But now that he's practicing on his own there are new demands.

"It definitely has brought on new challenges the last six months and I'd say they're starting to ease a bit. But you learn a lot about how to run a business and you appreciate all the other small businesses that are around in town, especially what it takes to keep them going. I see a lot of hard working people in these small towns and I've come to appreciate them more now that I am a business owner too," he commented.

Ideally he'll draw patients from a 60-mile radius.

'There are not a lot of retispecialists outside of Chicago in this part of Illinois or even down in Central Southern Illinois. The people I treat are usually a little bit older who need to sustain the vision they have. They may feel more comfortable coming to a small town than going to Chicago. We've got the latest medicines and equipment being used anywhere in the U.S. and we're able to treat them right here."



DR. SUMIT BHATIA, a retina surgeon, uses state-of-the-art optical quipment and medicines to examine and treat patients. Here he tests the eyes of his receptionist Nichole Olson.

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BITUARIES

Victor R. Issert

WILMINGTON-Victor Roger Basil Issert carefully parked his beloved 1206 tractor in the tool shed for the last time on March 10, 2023. Wow, Dad packed so much into his life since his birth on June 12, 1933 in Kankakee. Jules and Marie Ange (Fortin) Issert nurtured and instilled morals and strong work ethics in Gramps, along with his sister, Therese and brothers, Leon and Tony on the family farm in Peotone Township. Dad raised Chester White hogs and show hens

along with working the farm. These animals were blue ribbon and Grand Champion winners in the Will and Kankakee County Fairs many times, and Pops was quite proud of this. It didn't take Dad and Mom long to start

their family once they graduated from Peotone High School in 1951. Pa earned extra money for his young family while farming, and as a custom fertilizer applicator. Dad was not content with that, so he built and operated the first handoperated carwash in Joliet in 1965. The love of the outdoors, farming, and raising livestock refocused his efforts, and his energy was poured into the family farm on Ballou Road in Wilmington.

Oh how he enjoyed raising Hereford, Shorthorn, and Angus cattle. Calves sprinting about were one of the things that slowed Dad down and brought a smile to his face. Pops continued to farm into his mid-80's. And how many times did you pass Victor, and wave, as he drove that red 6-wheeler all over several Illinois counties? Fifty plus years have been shared with family and friends at the "Ballou Cabin." What glorious memories. If you have been lucky enough to share time there, you know. If you wanted something created from wood, Dad was your man. Look around at various family farms and homes and you will spy a Gramps creation.

Oh Family. How Dad loved his family, and here they are along with the words that each chose that best describe their relationship with him. His five kids: Stephen and Debbie Issert, "We tilled earth together," Denise Marie (Rick Smith) Issert, "My little baby French girl," Phillip Issert, "Honest, thoughtful, motivated, plowboy, father," Jeffry and Jan Issert, "Best man I ever knew," and Joel and Angie Issert, "Super Dad, inspiration to all;" 13 grandchildren: Janene (Jon Floyd) Issert, "Je vous aime beaucoup," Raechel and Eric Girardot, "Loving, servant heart, sweet, thoughtful," Lauren and JJ "Loving, servant Schmidt, "Handsome, dry wit, loving, dedicated," Andy and Tiffany Harned Pilbeam, "I've always bragged about him," Jared Pilbeam, "Organic man of high standards," Hayley Marie-

Ange and Greg Henke, "Strong, smart, loving, special, wise," Garret Victor and Cara Pilbeam, "Hours in the combine together," Brittany and Jong Kim, "Wise, generous, loving, reserved," Ian and Kelly "Generosity, kind, loving, thoughtful, ingenious," Paige Issert and Aaron Medina, "Always kind to me," Sean Jeffry Issert and Taylor Lawless, 'Homemade truck and homemade bread," Alex Issert and Tyler Rys,

"Welcoming, genuine, carefree, family-oriented, hardworking," Tyler Issert and Nicole Simmons, "Funniest straight-faced grandpa ever;" 19 great-grandchildren: Jacob, Benjamin Stephen, and Caleb Victor Floyd, Amelia Marie and Gage Girardot, Owen and Evan Schmidt, Grace, Gunner, Keely Jynna Marie, and Scotland Henke, Finley Pilbeam, Avery Rogowski, Jacobie, Paxton, and Leo Kim, Ian, Ryker, and Rowan Issert.

Victor is also survived by his big brother, Leon Issert, "He was the do it guy," and also many nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by the mother of his children, Marie (Barthelme) Issert.

Dad will be planted, in a small country cemetery in Peotone Township facing the same rising sun he saw each morning as he grew up, and the same sun his children saw each morning as they grew up just a 1/2 mile east down the gravel road.

Donations may be made, in memory of Dad, to Uplifted Care Hospice of Kankakee County that was awesome with Pa. Don't send flowers to his service. Grandpa wouldn't want that. Save your money he would say. Plant a garden and raise some beautiful tomatoes instead. Pops would love that. And please make an effort to thank a farmer!

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Thursday, March 16 from 4-7 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road, Wilmington. Funeral Services will follow on Friday, March 17 at 9:30 a.m. with a drive past the Ballou Farm to West Peotone Cemetery, 11700 Kennedy Road, rural Peotone.

Following the gravesite get together, lunch will be served at the VFW Malcolm J. Mayo Post 5422, 557 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington.

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

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

Dr. Charles W. Birch _

Dr. Birch graduated life with High porter, coach, and biggest fan for so many students in his 59 years in the public schools. He was always "Glad to be here" each and every day and it showed. More importantly, he was a son, brother, cousin, uncle, husband, father, grandpa, and great-grandpa. Charles William Birch was born on

Aug. 24, 1941. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ethel Birch. He was raised in his beloved home at Calhoun Farms in New Berlin, WI with his sisters, Catherine (George) Balles, his Irish twin, Jean (Bob) Kissinger, and MaryJo (the late Del) Kaatz.

He met Lorie Hatten at the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse, and they married in 1965. They soon welcomed their children, Patrick (Cheryl) Birch and Courtney (Caleb) Moore. Their greatest joy was being grandparents to Kristen, Katie, Kenzie (Jeff), Kelly (Junior), Avery, Hunter, Gehrig, and Cate. The greatgrandchildren are even more special, Reni and www.fredcdames.com.

Recently Chuck and Lorie moved to Ottawa, making it their 13th home that they shared together. Their homes were always welcoming to all, and over the years they opened their doors and hearts to many. If you entered their home as a friend you left as part of the family. In each town where they lived, Dr. Birch made his presence known. He was a friend to all that he met and treated everyone with kindness and compassion.

The "Fighting Irish" in him took on the recent diagnosis like a champ. This time he had the support of his fans; Cancer is a Birch that's for sure. Reading each and every message brightened his spirits.

To honor his legacy of caring about the community in lieu of flowers we ask you to donate to We Care of Grundy County in his

For more information or to leave an online dolence, visit his Memorial Tribute page at

Donald Kundert

MORRIS— Donald Gene Kundert, 83, of Morris, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 9, 2023 at home with family by his side. Born June 9, 1939 in Burns, OR to Olga (Otterby) & (Walter) LaVelle Kundert. He graduated from high school in Hills, MN with the class He began working at Caterpillar in Joliet and retired in 1990 after 33 years. On June 11, 1961 he married Connie (Drum) Kundert in the First United Methodist Church in Morris.

his time to wood working in his shop, making gifts for many family and friends. He was also the custodian of the First United Methodist Church of Morris for over 10 years. He enjoyed reading, doing word search puzzles and spending time with his family.

Don is survived by son, Steve (Cheryl) Kundert, of Minooka; ďaughter, Julie (Toďd) Pierce, of Coal City; four grandchildren: Fruland Funeral Home, 121 W. Jeff Stephanie (Josh) Foster, Carla (Kevin) Kundert in Morris is in charge of arrangements.

Mendez, Drew Pierce and Marissa Pierce; one great-grandson, Elliott Foster; one brother, Wally Kundert, of Sisters, OR; one sister-in-law, Sherry Doyle, of Oswego; niece, Amy Doyle; two nephews, Barry (Megan) Kundert and Jeff (Melissa) Kundert.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday March 18, 2023 at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Morris with Rev. Ayla Samson and Rev.

Deborah Kang officiating. Visitation will be After retiring from Caterpillar he devoted held on Saturday from 9 a.m. until the time of service at the church. Interment will be at

Memorials can be made in Don's name to Lightways Hospice in Joliet or First United Methodist Church of Morris.

For more information or to sign the private online guestbook go to www.frulandfuneral-

Fruland Funeral Home, 121 W. Jefferson St.

Proposed law would ban the declawing of cats

the House committee vote on last week, which means the practice of declawing cats may soon be outlawed in the state if the bill can pass further legislative hurdles.

Veterinarians in Illinois are thrilled about the prospect of this much-needed law to protect cats.

Dr. Debra Teachout, who lives near Chicago, says there's good reason for declawing to be banned as the procedure leads to short- and long-term behavioral and medical prob-

lems.
"Declawing often increases biting and house soiling, which are proven reasons for Veterinary cats to be relinquished to shel-

Illinois' HB 1533 passed ters," Dr. Teachout says. "Even emails to members encouragwhen cats are destructive, I've found there are always workable solutions that do not involve declawing, relinquishing to a shelter, or euthanasia."

While ISVMA President Dr. Joanne Carlson was quoted in My Journal Courier as saying, "veterinarians perform feline onychectomies infrequently, and any suggestions that this is a common practice are untrue," statistics don't seem to support her claim. Pawproject.org estimates between 25 and 43 percent of cats are declawed in the

United States. The State Medical Association recently sent

ing opposition to HB 1533. An unsigned email sent March 10 read, "This bill threatens the veterinary profession, belittles your credentials and restricts your ability to use sound medical judgment."

Dr. Teachout finds such inflammatory accusations absurd. "If there's no law banning declawing," she says, "many veterinarians are pressured into declawing cats in response to their human customers' demands, and, if one veterinarian turns down a client, that client will simply look for another willing to go

Amy M. Farcus

COAL CITY-Amy M. Farcus, 98, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, March 13, 2023.

Born in Felix Township, Grundy County, Amy Martha was a twin daughter of John "Fred" and Alice (Williamson) Brunner. She attended Short Grade School and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1941. On April 28, 1956, Amy married Richard Farcus in St. Thaddeus Catholic Church in Joliet, and together they made a home and raised their son in Coal City. A talented seamstress, Amy's employment

entailed working for Hyman Clothing Factory and Raymond Lyons Draperies before going into business with her twin sister, Alice as A&A Draperies. She retired in 2000. Amy was a member and past Elder at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City and belonged to the Area #1 Recreation Club. In addition to sewing, Amy took great pleasure in gardening and bird watching. Survivors include her son and daughter-in-

law, Alan and Cindy Farcus, of Coal City; three grandsons: Adam Farcus, of Bloomington, IL; Matthew (Jenna) Farcus, of Wilmington and Benjamin Farcus, of Coal City; three greatgrandchildren: Athena Elizabeth Farcus, Everett Alan Farcus and Evelyn Mae Farcus; two sistersin-law, Patricia (the late Richard) Sandretto and Helen Farcus, both of Ioliet and one brother-in-law.

Raymond (Cheryl) Farcus of Coal City, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Amy was preceded in death by parents; husband, Richard on

March 22, 2021; two brothers, Roy Brunner and John (Eleanor) Brunner and her twin sister, Alice Dinger. The family will receive friends for a visat Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12 p.m.

Wilmington, where Amy will be laid to rest with her late husband, Richard. Preferred memorials may be made a gifts in Amy's memory to New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield Street, Coal City, IL 60416

Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery,

or to Lightways Hospice of Joliet. Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Amy's

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of

Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Linda Odo

COAL CITY-Linda Odo, 73, of Coal City, passed away Thursday, March 9, 2023 at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, IL. Born April 24, 1949 in Joliet, Linda

Lou was a daughter of John and Rita (Girot) Endrst. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1967. On Aug. 17, 1970, Linda married Peter Odo in Morris, and together they made a home and raised a family together. Linda's career entailed working in the med-

ical field her entire career following being at home to raise her daughters. She was employed with various local physician offices over the years, and most recently worked for Dr. Alex Spadoni in Joliet. Linda loved her job, and she treated the patients in the doctor's office as her Anyone who knew Linda recognized that

her family came first and foremost. Though she took pleasure in working in the yard, being in the pool, fishing and following the Chicago Cubs, her greatest hobby was anything that involved her family and being together. Linda will be remembered as a devoted, wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend, who was truly a selfless soul. Gone from our sight, Linda Odo leaves behind a priceless legacy, in which those who knew and loved her can be proud to carry

Survivors include her daughters: Kimmy Odo (Guy Lawrence), Tami Maland, Shari Talkington and Gina (Keith) Wharrie, all of Coal City; grandchildren: Dakota Collins (Dawn Szatmari), Carson (Dom) Principe, Rita Maland (Chase Mincey), Peter Maland, Charles Maland, Gwen Wharrie and Thor Wharrie; one sister, Janice "Pinky" (the late Butch) Olson, of Coal City and Lou Ann "Mimi," of Kankakee, who was

nephews, as well as Tony Maland (Megan Anderson) who were like family. Linda was preceded in death by her parents, John and Rita Endrst; husband, Peter Odo,

like a sister; her brother-in-law, Dave Powell, of Coal City and numerous special nieces and

and one sister, Janet Powell. Per Linda's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made as gifts in Linda's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis,

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

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

Donald O'Brien ____



in Joliet.

REDDICK—Donald Lawrence O'Brien, 90, of Reddick, passed away peacefully Friday, March 10, 2023 at Lightways Hospice Home

Born Jan. 17, 1933 in Reddick, he

vas the son of William T. and Loretta

(nee Clodi) O'Brien. Donald lovingly married Norma Masching April 27, 1933 in Campus, IL. He was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #265 in Carol Stream, IL. His passion was farming, proudly owning and operating O'Brien Trucking. Donald was a former Highway Commissioner for Norton Township for 16 years and member of the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI). He was also a member of the Dwight Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #2503, VFW Post #2608, American Legion Post #486, charter member of the Union Hill Lions Club and devout member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Reddick. He looked forward to his many trips to Ireland and also enjoyed collecting antiques, antique farm equipment, playing a competitive game of euchre, dancing, and was a proud lifelong Democrat.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 65 years, Norma O'Brien, of Reddick; two daughters, Mary Kay (Todd) Gereaux, of Essex and Melinda (Dan) Hogan, of Buckingham, IL; three sons: William (Cheryl) O'Brien, of Reddick; John (JoAnne) O'Brien, of Buckingham and Patrick

(Karen) O'Brien, of Reddick; 14 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren with one on the way; one brother, Paul (the late Lois) O'Brien, of Reddick and numerous nieces, nephews, and their fami-

Preceding him in death were his parents, William and Loretta; son, Donald Lawrence O'Brien; two sisters, Marie Wood-Berns and Phyllis (Glenn) Buza and two brothers, Gerald O'Brien and Francis (Aldine) O'Brien.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Family and friends are welcome to meet at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Reddick, Saturday, March 18, 2023 for a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Inurnment with military honors will immediately follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Campus, IL. Guests are also welcome to attend the Celebration of Life for Donald that will follow at Station 343 Firehouse Restaurant in Dwight with a luncheon at approximately 12:30

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to the St. Mary's Catholic Church or Lightways Hospice would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, has been entrusted with arrangements

Elaine Testa

SOUTH WILMINGTON-Elaine E. Testa (nee Donna), 97, of South Wilmington, passed away March 10, 2023, at Heritage Health in Dwight.

Born in Braidwood on Sept. 27, 1925, Elaine was the daughter of Peter and Effie Donna. She was raised and educated in Braidwood and graduated from Reed-Custer High School Following high school, Elaine worked at Grinchucks pants factory. On Aug. 19, 1947, she married Carl W. Testa. They lived one year in Braidwood before moving to South Wilmington, where they took over the local school bus business from her brother-in-law. They successfully ran the business for nearly 20 years. After Carl's passing in 1974, Elaine went to work as the manager of the Braidwood Recreation Club golf course pro shop, where she remained for 18 years. She then worked in the deli department at Markettis grocery store in South Wilmington for a few years until transi-

tioning into retirement. Elaine's favorite pastime was baking pies, cakes, and cookies. If there was an occasion to be celebrated, she always made the "goodies." She also loved to give cookies to her friends and neighbors. Elaine also enjoyed watching sports, particularly the Chicago Cubs and Bulls along with professional golf and tennis. Most of all, she was a lifelong Cubs fan and got to attend Game 7 of the 1945 World Series between the Cubs and the Detroit Tigers. Elaine was also an avid golfer, having played in ladies' leagues at Braidwood Fairways, High Point Golf Course and Dwight Country Club. Elaine was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington, where she belonged to the Alter and Rosary for many years, baking pies, cakes,

and cookies for parish funerals.

Surviving, is her daughter, Lynn (Scott) Allison, of Braidwood, grand-son Sean (Jody) Allison of Braidwood; grandson, Shane (Mary) Allison and their sons, Wade and Sam, of Temecula, CA. Also surviving are nephew, Richard (Jeanette) Kusper, of Newport Beach, CA; nieces Kay (Glen) Studley, of Essex; Donna (Bill) Shockey, of Carmel, IN; Pat Testa, of Moline, IL; nephew, Jim (Raelene) Testa, of Mesa, AZ and numerous great-nieces, great-nephews and

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Carl Testa; her brother and his wife, Vincent (Margaret) Donna, sister and husband, Mary (Frank) Huml; sister and husband, Josephine (Jim) Barnett; sister and husband, Connie (Bruno) Muzzarelli and sister and

husband, Dolores (LeRoy) Kusper. Visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services will be Friday, March 17, leaving in procession from the funeral home at 9:40 a.m. to the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington for Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m.

Donations may be made in her name to the South Wilmington Fire Department or the St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood has been entrusted with arrangements.

WWW.FREEPRESSNEWSPAPERS.COM

2022 dean's list:

Anna

Named on fall dean's list

lowing area students to the fall

Braidwood; Joseph Piatak, of

Insurance. Contact me today.

Schulte,

Courtney Meyer and Joshua Wilmington.

A "TAKE SOME OF THE WORRY OUT OF LIFE" POLICY.

And with the support you need, every step of the way. For your car. Your home. For your unique life.

Dream fearlessly with American Family

Mizzou recognizes the fol- Michalak, all of Diamond;

Coal City; Harley Felker, and Emily Watson, all of

Mazie Meyr, of Essex and

Rhianna Brown, Raelene

DesRochers, Rebecca Horton

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



BATHING SUITS, SWIM trunks and even some Hawaiian skirts might look normal on the beach at the

Braidwood Rec Club in July, but it was not your typical refreshing dunk in the water on Saturday, March 11. Hundreds of participants including law enforcement and fire department officials from Braidwood, Wilmington, Will County, and the Illinois State Police, as well as residents and fun seek-Eye Care ers, took the plunge for the 2023 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics Illinois athletes. The polar plunge, which takes place at multiple sites across the nation, raises funds for Special Olympics. The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run is the statewide presenting sponsor for the 2023 Polar Plunge. The Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised more than \$61 million since 1986 while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accom-Specialist



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DIVERS FROM THE Braidwood Fire Protection District coax some polar plungers into the water at Braidwood Rec Club. The divers were on hand to ensure a safe event.

AUDREA HUSTON

Local author

book signing

Huston, of Diamond, will be at

Lori Bonarek Realty, 640 S. Broadway in Coal City on

Thursday, March 16, 6-7:30

p.m. Sway is the first book

written by Huston who writes

under the pen name Kathleen

Lacie. Join us on Thursday,

March 16, 6-7:30 p.m. Limited books will be available for

sale, or bring your own book

port a local author" stated Bonarek. For more informa-

"We are so excited to sup-

to be signed.

Local author Andrea

Gas prices rise despite drop in price for oil

Average gasoline prices in per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.62/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378

stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 11.4 cents per gallon higher than a of gasoline has risen 8.0 cents month ago and stand 95.2 cents per gallon lower than a

With the transition to more expensive summer gasoline underway coast to coast, wholesale gasoline prices continue to inch up at a rate typical for this time of year, reflected in the national average rising for the second straight to slowly decline as we see week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.13/g while the most expensive was \$4.69/g.

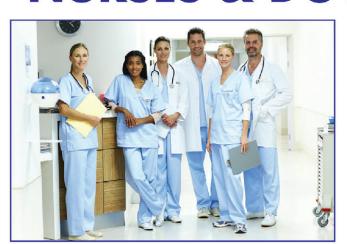
Locally gas prices varied Illinois have risen 12.2 cents from \$3.33/g at Mohsen on Lorenzo Rd., Wilmington, \$3.41/g in Braidwood, \$3.46/g in Wilmington and \$3.59/g in

Coal City. The national average price per gallon in the last week,

averaging \$3.44/g. While oil prices edged slightly lower on weaker outlooks for economic growth, continued refinery maintenance and the higher cost of seasonal blends of fuel are offsetting oil's decline. The price of diesel, however, continues consumption for diesel lighten. The best news for both gasoline and diesel prices is how significant a drop we've seen from year-ago levels, with more disinflation to come in the weeks ahead, even as gas prices are likely to inch up.



THANK YOU NURSES & DOCTORS



We have come to appreciate nurses and doctors who save lives every day.

But don't forget about yourself.

Last Will and Testaments, Trusts, Durable Power of Attorney and Health Care Power of Attorney are serious concerns that need to be addressed while you are living. Gain peace of mind knowing your affairs are in order by calling for an appointment in taking care of these important life decisions.



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

tion call 815-518-2300.



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

Drawing by Emma McMahon



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Call Us At 942-9190 or Log on to C21.com

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

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

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315

<u>Cost</u>

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)

1 wk.- \$15; 2 wks.- \$19; 3 wks.- \$22; 4 wks.-\$25 \$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington - Beautiful 2 bedroom with all new carpet, 1 car attached \$1,200 garage. 618-383-6330 month. cc10-13

AUTOS

Accepting International 4900 as is 4x2 single axle, 26,000 miles, 11R/22.5 tires. fixed bed, V Box with conveyor, spreader, Monroe 11 Ft Poly Snow Plow. Repairs needed. Contact Highway Commissioner Jeff Sorensen at 815-476-7869 questions. Sealed bids due to Wesley Town-ship Hall by 3:00 PM on April 11, 2023 and will opened at the monthly township meeting later that evening at 7:00PM. Wesley Township Road District 21333 W Ballou Rd

Wilmington, IL 60481 ch9-11 **DUPLEX FOR RENT**

2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 car garage. 140 W. Fourth Street, Coal City. \$1,200/month plus security. 815-210-9220. ca9-11

FOR FREE

Kittens, free to a loving home, litterbox trained. Male & females. Wilmington. 618-383-5870.

HELP WANTED

Teresa's Family Styling has been serving the Wilmington community for the last 23 years on the corner of Water St.(102) & Kahler Rd in Wilmington. We are looking to hire a LI-We are CENSED STYLIST. An individual who is upbeat, hardworking & honest. A steady clienpreferred but tele is we're willing to work with the right candidate. Commission % based on experience. Please call 815-476-1955. ca11-14

Office help wanted. Experience perience with excel, QuickBooks and pay-Approximately 30 flexible daytime hours per month. Send resume to P O Box 181, Gardner, IL 60424 or email admin@gardnerfpd.co

<u>m</u> ch9-10

HELP WANTED

Coal City Area Club, positions. hiring all Gateguards. Lifeguards, Area Maintenance and Main Office Admin. \$15. LG Supervisors, \$16. Applications @ our website or main office. 285 S. Street. Broadway www.coalcityareaclub. net ch8-11

Office help needed at a local sportsmen's club. Seasonal part time Experience with hours. computers and knowledge of Excel and Access preferred. Please inquiries send wcsc1946@gmail.com

The Braidwood Recrea-

tion Club is hiring for

the 2023 Season. Concession Stand - Must be at least 16 years old. are Operating hours Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Open daily 10:30am to 6:00pm, 7 days per week. Must be willing to work flexible hours and duties include stocking, cleaning, and customer service. Shifts will be approximately 5 hours Custodians Must be at least 16 years old and be open to a flexible schedule. Certified Lifeguards All applicants must be and Lifeguard Certified and be at least 16 years of age. Proof of certification must be provided at time of application. Gate Guards -Average 5 hour shifts. Applications can be printed off the club club website (on Club Documents page) at braidwoodrecclub.com

HOMES FOR RENT

and emailed or picked

up at the office. Please

questions

with

815-458-2150. ch9-12

Braidwood area, 3 BR, 2 bath, stove, refrigerator, C/A, W/D hookup, storage shed. Large lot & deck, 169 N Vernon Dr., Godley. \$1,250/mo. 1st, last, security, credit check. 815-476-6462. cc10-13

House for rent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, attached garage. Cottage Rd. on Kankakee River with boat launch. \$2,200/ boat launch. month. 708-205-4826. ck10-13

> **SHOP YOUR** LOCAL **BUSINESSES!**

an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law

Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois

Oral Interviews: Monday, April 24th and Wednesday, April 26th, 2023.

Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)

Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.

Be a citizen of the United States

candidate will be given.

Seeking Qualified Applicants

for Firefighters/Paramedics

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an

eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$59,731.88

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of

Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire

Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates March 13th, 2023 - April 17th, 2023 between

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:30 pm on April 17th, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process.

Orientation/Written Exam: Monday, April 17th, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in

Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District,

will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's

the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL.

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

reclining Electric loveseat, gray, like new, \$250; solid oak Tressle dining table with two leaves, w/chairs, needs a little TLC. \$400 obo. Call 815-476-2972. cr10-12

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 kitchen full people. available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Godley - Small mobile home, recently remodeled, no pets, no smoking. \$700/month, 1st, last and security. One lease required. 815-263-8597. cc8-11

and Cat Food, treats, accessories. aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Balti-Wilmington., more 815-476-5104 slewis@trinityservices.org. ch22b-tfn

REPAIRS

FIREWOOD, Cherry BBQ firewood Dry, seasoned, oak firewood \$149. mixed woods \$129, plus deliv-Quick, friendly ery. 815-260-0108 service. cc8-15

Gas Fireplace Repair 40 years experience. Licensed. insured bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most Weekends brands. available. Thank you.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 265 E 1St Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Residential). On the 6th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Court-house Annex, 57 N. Ot-tawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **M&T** Bank Plaintiff V. William S. Allen; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1024 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. 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 accor-ILCS and ILCS with 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) (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 sub-

divisions (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 & Ass Associates,

15W030 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 DEBT ADVISED THAT LAW FIRM DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT-ING TO COLLECT A
DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED PURPOSE. FOR THAT Published in the Free Press Newspa-pers on Wednesday, March 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. INSULATION. Keep your house cooler in

summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for from Mike Collins Roofing. lic # 104.007296. for Mike 815-730-1303. ck17b-16b

Words **Photography** 385 N. Second Ave.

815-791-2913

REAL ESTATE

OUTER DR., TON, IL 60

LAKEVIEW Title: Case little: LANGUAGE LOAN SERVICING, LLC Plaintiff V. JULIE WHIT-Plaintiff V. JULIE WHIT-MER; CITY OF WILMING-TON; UNKNOWN OWN-ERS AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS; Defendant.
Case No. 22 FC 0498 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. No judicial 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 resi-dential 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 the condominium, in accordance with the condominium, in accordance with the condominium. dance with 735 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) ILCS 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 sub-divisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the asof 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 surjustion of the control of the court o plus 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 Informato the State. For informa-tion Please Contact:AN-SELMO LINDBERG OL-IVER LLC. 1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563

P: 630-453-6960 F: 630-428-4620

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR COLLECTION DEBT PRACTICES ACT YOU
ARE ADVISED THAT
THIS LAW FIRM IS
DEEMED TO BE A DEBT
COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A
DEBT AND ANY INFOR-PRACTICES COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A
DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL
BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., March 8, 15 & 22, 2023.

REAL ESTATE

1802 N. Division St.,

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 404 N Dr, Wilmington, IL (Single Family Home). On the 6th day of April, 2023 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. Ryan L. Zelek; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1131 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. 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 resi-dential 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 dance with 735 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) ILCS 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

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legal fees required by sub divisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the asrequired sessments 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,

N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION
PRACTICES ACT YOU
ARE ADVISED THAT
THIS LAW FIRM

ARE ADVIOLATION IS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT ATTEMPT-COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFOR-PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, March 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

Shawn Hornsby, 1802 N. Division St. Designated Managing Broker Morris, IL 60450

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 \$469,000
 COALCITY
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 \$269,900

 4 BR, 2 BA, house w/two car att. garage and 7 buildings including a grage and 7 buildings including a grage and 7 buildings including a grage and 7 buildings including and cooling for low utility bills. Text car grage are sum, summ, RV prkg, CCSchls.
 Assenting and cooling for low utility bills. Text car grage, cvrd porch, cc pario. Rod garage+24324
 Coal City. School District. 2 car grage-24324
 Cour buildings including and cooling for low utility bills. Text car grage. vvrd porch, cc pario. Rod garage+24324
 Coal City. School District. 2 car grage-24324
 Shawn 815-474-6670. WM12
 Baudino 674-2583. PS904
 Shawn 474-6670. FH176

\$225,000 S.WILMINGTON \$198,000 Adorable & cozy 3 BR, 1.5 BA
3 BR, 2 BA brick ranch hom ranch home which has been with two cargarage is located on completely remodeled! Call Kelly large corner lot. Text Shawn 815 815-823-6147.

HR1113
474-6670.

LC7

\$108,000 COALCITY

GARDNER \$150,000 MAZON \$119,000 MAZON \$129,900 VERONA \$108,000 3 BR, 1 BA ranch with large 2 BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large Why rent when you can own this 2 story home in small quiet town. 4 kitchen, All appliances stay, 24 ft. corner lot. 24x24 det. grg, 12x12 above-ground pool and hot tub, shed. 27 ft. above ground pool, small town. Mazon. Lortie+ rooms/yard. Call Della 815-258 Kelly 815-823-6147. EU303 Crawl, Della 258-6467. HL411 Owen Toker 715-5959. DC602 tiet town. Here is your opportunity to own work. I.g. agreat lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes!

AO432 Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PP62

STORAGE

STORAGE Clementine's **Closets** 815-530-0200 - No Deposit -Starting at \$50 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

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WANTED SCRAP METAL Farm Machinery

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Appliances

Anything Metal

7 days 815-210-8819

Entry-Level Police Officer Hiring Process



Wilmington Police Department, Wilmington, Illinois The Wilmington, Illinois Board of Police Commission is accepting applications for

the position of police officer with the Wilmington Police Department. **Starting Salary:** \$61,530 - \$73,376

Population: 5,735 Sworn Police Officers: 22* (17 Full-Time and 5 Part-Time)

accepted.

Will add four (4) full-time within next 2 years.

The Wilmington Police Department is proud to announce that they are now certified by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs for the Police Officer on-the-job Training Program. Please visit http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/onthejob_ apprenticeship.asp

All applicants must meet the following minimum requirements established by the City of

Wilmington:
• U.S. citizenship;

 No felony convictions; Possess a valid state-issued driver's license with good driving record;
 Must be a minimum of 21 years of age and UNDER 35 years of age at the time of

application unless otherwise exempt by State Statute 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6; Possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent;

• Possess a valid NIPSTA card – **OR** - equivalent criteria as per the State standard, issued within 12 months of the written exam date (April 15, 2023); • POWER Test Cards issued by NIPSTA, Triton College or Joliet Junior College will be

· Applicants must present the POWER Test card NO LATER than the written exam date (April 15, 2023).
• Any applicant who would like to schedule a ride along with a Wilmington police officer

may contact Sergeant Dan Brimer at 815-476-2813.

Successfully pass a written examination with a minimum passing score of 70% on each of the (4) sections;

Successfully complete an oral interview with the Board of Police Commission; Successfully complete a background investigation, polygraph, and psychological

 Successfully complete a medical physical, to include drug and alcohol screening; There is no application processing fee.

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Illinois must get smarter with mental health

last week when announcing formation of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center that the state was building "the best behavioral health system in the

It was quite a bold thing to say. So, my associate Isabel Miller and I asked a couple of follow-up questions: How long will this take and how much

The response from a spokesperson was kinda underwhelming: "Under Governor Pritzker's leadership, the state has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to rebuild our behavioral health infrastructure and Governor is committed to continuing these critical investments year after year to build the best system in the nation. Illinois has climbed in the national rankings by putting our people first and we're on the right path if we continue to make generational change. With our statewide partnerships and continued investment Illinois will soon serve as the national standard for a behavioral health system that prioritizes workers and provides the best possible care for those who need it."

That obviously didn't answer either of our questions. And no Brownie Points for brevity, either. Sorry to make you read it.

Also, the background information the governor's office sent about the administration's progress didn't quite governor's flowery rhetoric.

R e c e n t national rankings issued by Mental Health America, a group more than a century ago, show Illinois has moved from an 11thplace overall mental health back in 2018 to 9th place this year. An over-

to the organization, "indicates lower prevalence of mental illness and higher rates of access However, the state's rank-

ing for adults actually slipped during that time period from 8th to 9th, and the ranking for youth remained at 13th. This despite spending hundreds of millions of additional dollars since the start of 2019 on mental health initiatives. Even so, a key stakeholder

heaped praise on the governor's plan to use the new Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center to lead the revamp of the long-troubled Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center in deep southern Illinois. Equip for Equality issued

an investigative report back in which documented numerous horrors at Choate. The group called for the facility's closure at the time. "Nearly two decades later," the group claimed last week via press release, "enhanced monitoring



Rich Miller

munity "without receiving the necessary services to actually address why they ended there." Residents, group said, continue to be "afraid all ranking of 1-13, according of staff and peers, and afraid of retaliation if they report staff

> abuse.' "Many of the recent news tories are about incidents that happened a year or more ago,' said Stacey Aschemann, Equip for Equality's vice president in charge of monitoring the conditions at Choate. "Based on our recent monitoring, we can say without a doubt that these continue to be ongoing issues.'

> So, why has it taken so long for the state to act? The governor told reporters that the state simply hadn't had the financial resources to do enough about the problem.

> new Behavioral The Health Workforce Education Center has been in the works for five years and will hopefully help the state increase the workforce size enough to deal with the issues, not only at Choate, but throughout the state. With more tax revenues coming in, the state can start getting a handle on things.

And, make no mistake, the

what national rankings may show. Currently, 15,000 people are on a waiting list for community-based intellectual and developmental disabilities placement, according to a report last week by Capitol News Illinois, Lee Enterprises and ProPublica Illinois. Those outlets' reporting on Choate, by the way, sparked the recent intense interest in the facility's

> There are, of course, parochial concerns about any changes at Choate. Sen. Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro), who represents the area, claimed the central problem is with facility management (a good point) and said she opposed moving residents out of the facility (not so good). AFSCME, of course, is worried about the future of its members at Choate.

many problems and helped

push the administration into

action, a fact which Pritzker

himself has acknowledged.

The bottom line is that the state just has to get smarter. These problems have existed for decades and decades, but the folks at Choate and thousands of others across this state deserve care and help. not physical abuse and neglect. The people in charge need to be better than this, so this attempt to bring new workers into the system and keep them there cannot fail.

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

Bill to end moratorium on building nuclear plants in Illinois advances

SPRINGFIELD -Sue Rezin has advanced legislation putting Illinois one step closer to finally lifting its moratorium on building new nuclear reactors.

"For over 35 years, our state has had an archaic and arbitrary ban on the construction of new nuclear power plants," said Senator Rezin. moratorium remained in place despite the fact that Illinois has efficiently and safely received carbonfree energy from our state's six nuclear stations for roughly four decades.'

Senate Bill 76 would delete the language that provides that no construction shall commence on any new nuclear power plant to be located within the state. Under Rezin's legislation, public utility and energy companies would be given the option to choose whether they want to invest in the construction of both traditional, large nuclear reactors or new, small modular reactors (SMRs) that could be placed in existing infrastructure such as factories or

State pre-existing coal-fired power plants that are already connected to the electric grid.

"New nuclear power plants, whether SMRs or the traditional, offer our state the ability to increase its energy capacity and potentially lower future energy cost with carbon-free, reliable, and resilient nuclear power," continued Rezin. "They would also have the potential to help local economies of traditional coal communities that are currently or will be struggling from the loss of their decommissioned coal-fired

Senate Bill 76 advanced out of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee on March 8, and now awaits a vote by the full Senate cham-

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State police see alarming trend in road rage shootings • Illegally driving on the shoulder of them pass or they kept tailgating.

The Illinois State Police (ISP) is warning the public about what appears to be an increasing trend in road rage.

While the number of shootings on Chicago area expressways continues to decrease compared to the height in 2021, victims are increasingly reporting road rage as the reason behind the expressway shooting.

In 2022, road rage was reported in approximately 40% of Chicago area expressway shootings handled by ISP. This is up from 12% in 2021. Already in 2023, road rage has been reported in at least nine Chicago area expressway shootings. This is in addition to other types of road rage-associated violence such as crashes and physical fights.

Watch for the following signs of road rage, aggressive driving:

- Following too closely or tailgating • Improper or erratic lane changing

- the road (emergency lane), in a ditch/median, or on sidewalk
 - Passing where prohibited
- Operating the vehicle in an erratic, reckless, careless, or negligent manner or suddenly changing speeds
 - Failure to yield right of way
- Failure to obey traffic laws, signs, and devices
- Failure to yield to emergency personnel and construction zone speed lim-
 - Failure to signal
- Driving too fast for conditions or in excess of posted speed limit
 - Racing
 - Making an improper turn

According to a AAA Foundation study, when drivers explained why they became violent, the reasons were often trivial such as the other driver wouldn't let

If you are in the left lane and someone wants to pass, move to your right and allow them to pass.

When merging, make sure you have plenty of room and use your turn signal. If someone cuts you off, slow down

and give them room to merge into your If a speeding driver is tailgating you,

safely change lanes when able. Making gestures might anger the

other driver; create distance and avoid

If another driver is acting angry, don't make eye contact. Call the police if you believe a driver is following you or harassing you. Call 911 and/or go to the nearest police department to report it.

Soup Supper, talent show A soup supper and talent

show will be held at Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 W. Gould St., Braceville on Saturday, March 18. Supper will be from 4-6 p.m. with talent show starting at 6 p.m. Admission is donation.



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April 30 and pick them up in Wilmington on Saturday, May A rain barrel will capture

70-90% of a typical rain fall, allowing some overflow to cascade across your lawn to

Will County is teaming up storm drains in the street or swales in some subdivisions.

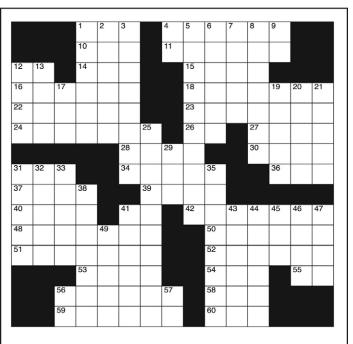
You may use the water vou captured for watering your garden, plants, trees, and bushes between rain events. This saves you money and reduces pressure on our drinking water sources.

To place an order go to the event calendar at willcounty-

Take a Marvelous hike

The Forest Preserve will be hosting a Marvelous March Hike Friday, March 24, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Explore ephemeral ponds, emerging buds and other ecological wonders on a 1.5-mile hike with a naturalist. Free, all ages. Register by March 23.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Belonging to a thing
- 4. Pass or go by 10. Partner to cheese
- 12. U.S. State (abbr.)
- 14. Bits per inch 15. Forest-dwelling deer
- 16. Illinois city
- 18. A salt or ester of acetic acid 22. Wholly unharmed
- 23. Cuddled
- 24. Bane
- 26. Global investment bank (abbr.) 55. For instance
- 27. Oh my gosh! 28. Arrive
- 30. Famed Spanish artist
- 31. Home of "Frontline"
- 34. Group of quill feathers

36. Keyboard key

41. Football play

42. Makes unhappy

48. Island in Hawaii

50. Back in business

51. Of an individual

54. Matchstick game

58. Popular beverage

60. Time units (abbr.)

56. Even again

59. Evaluate

52. Painful chest condition

53. Tropical American monkey

39. Detail

37. Army training group

40. Pole with flat blade

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Stain one's hands 2. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 3. Back condition 4. Popular movie alien
- 5. City of Angels
- 6. Peaks 7. Infantry weapons
- Left 9. Atomic #99
- 12. Told a good yarn 13. Vale
- 17. Resistance unit
- 19. Aquatic plant 20. Bluish greens
- 21. About some Norse poems
- Reinforces

- 33. Expired bread

29. Egyptian mythological

- 31. Supportive material 32. Subatomic particle

- 35. Cereal grain
- 38. Goes against 41. Walkie
- 43. One who does not accept
- 44. Beliefs
- 45. Indicates near
- 46. Brazilian NBA star 47. Grab quickly
- 49. Romantic poet
- 56. College dorm worker
- 57. Set of data

How upgrading your phone can effect the planet

bad for the planet to upgrade my phone every two years? – A.J., Ďarien, CT

Smartphones have certainly become ubiquitous, with some 85 percent of Americans and 67 percent of adults worldwide possessing Manufacturers sell almost 1.5 billion of them per

And every year these manufacturers come out with upgraded models to lure customers into trading in their old models to get the latest technology at their fingertips. According to the Consumer Electronic Association the average lifespan of a smartphone is 4.7 years, but the average American user average replaces their smartphone within three years.

This can be, in part, attributed to planned obsolescence by manufacturers. As new smartphones are manufactured, new software updates accompany them; these updates can lead to older phones becoming unusable if they do not have the capacity to accommodate the new soft-Regarding pollution creat-

ed by the industry, 95 percent of emissions come from the production phase. A culture that requires constant replacements results in ongoing growth of manufacturing emissions. In addition, continuously

replacing phones creates ewaste in the form of the phones themselves. In 2019, 50 million tons of waste came from smartphones which constitute about 10 percent of ewaste globally.

One way to combat ewaste is to recycle. However, according to the World

damaging your home or run-

Homeowners can save up to

10% on their water bills by cor-

recting common and easy-to-

fix water issues like leaking

valves and worn toilet flap-

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your

up

Fix that leak and save water

Stop water leaks from pers, according to the U.S.EPA.



Economic Forum, only about 20 percent of global e-waste is recycled. The Basel Action Network used radio tracking to verify where shipments of ewaste were sent.

They found that nearly 40 percent of e-waste from the . United States was exported illegally to developing nations where it was unsafely processed or even burned in where the open air.

There are steps manufacturers can take to alleviate the environmental burden, one being to introduce "repairable" phones. Currently manufacturers hamper smartphone repair with very high repair prices and restricting third parties from having access to the needed parts. Europe is leading the

economy surrounding smartphones that encourages repairs, refurbishments and upgrades instead of replace-Various European countries have instituted programs

charge on embracing a circular

to address the problem. France maintains a publicly accessible phone repairability index to help consumers there make smart choices about their smartphone purchases.

Meanwhile, Sweden and Austria both offer financial incentives for device repairs to encourage fixing instead of junking old smartphones and

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KEEPING A smartphone for more than two years could yield dividends for the environment.

other electronics.

Whether or not such programs exist in your neck of the woods, you can be part of the solution by simply waiting longer to upgrade your phone, which will help reduce the demand on production while lowering your environmental footprint.

While it may not seem like much at first glance, keeping your phone for an extra year can reduce your lifetime

device usage by 25 percent. When it is finally time to get a new phone, an eco-conscious consumer can turn to compa nies like Fairphone and SHIFT that offer easily changeable parts and support software upgrades throughout the phone's lifespan.

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Red Carpet Corridor Festival Craft show and flea market Wilmington, IL • Saturday, May 6

Become a vendor in the craft show and flea market planned for Saturday, May 6, in downtown Wilmington during the Red Carpet Corridor festivities, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A non-refundable permit fee for a 10x10 space is \$35 on or before April 22; \$50 postmarked April 24-29. Do not mail after April 29. For vendors who make payment the day of show the fee will be \$65 (first come, first served). Must arrive by 8 a.m. to set-up. Even non-profit organizations must pay for a spot.

For fresh food vendors (for all who prepare food on site): \$100 fee for a 10x20 space and contract must be postmarked by April 29; \$130 fee if space is paid for after April 29. Set-up can begin as early as 6:30 a.m. Arrive by 8 a.m. and

remove all vehicles by 8:40 a.m. Check in will be at the north end of Water St. Unfortunately, no electricity will be avail-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.

Questions can be directed to Cherveny by emailing bren-

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

Contact Person: ___ E-mail Address:

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Craft Show and Flea Market Application __ City: ____ _____ Zip Code: _____ List of what will be sold: How many spaces? (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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COMET SPORTS

Comet athletes take to the track

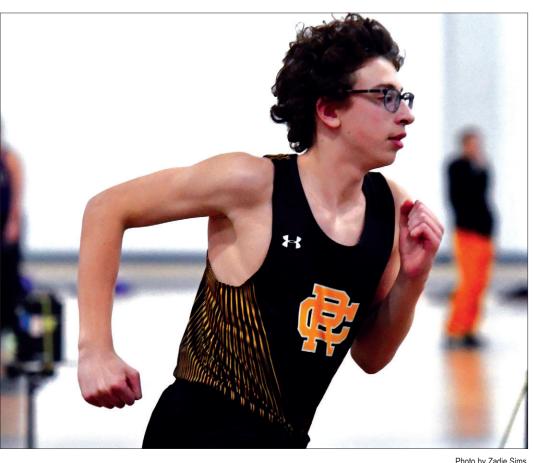


Photo by Zadie Sims



COMPETING IN HURDLES for Reed-Custer is Connor Eggleston during the first track meet this year last week in the fieldhouse.



VINCENT BOLLINO runs 800 meters at Tuesday's meet at home in the field house.

HAYLEE KEYMON competes in the hurdles against Wilmington,



MADYSEN MEYER races against Coal City, Streator and, Dwight on

RCMS wrestlers compete at state

Reed-Custer (Dixon Reagan). competed in the IESA Class 1A state tournament in DeKalb on Friday and Saturday but did not place.

Two Panther wrestlers went 1-2 during the event, getting victories in the first round of the wrestlebacks before bowing out.

RCMS seventh grader Colton Drinkwine (1-2) wrestled at 85 pounds, losing his opening match 12-0 to Bentley Fields (Gibson

He rebounded with a 5-0 decision in the consolation lost his opener by sudden bracket, defeating Tyler Olson (Orion) with a 5-0 decision.

Drinkwine then suffered a heartbreaking 5-3 7-0 before getting pinned in

At 105, Kaaden Wood (1-2) suffered a 1:39 fall to eventual state champion Nelson Benesh (Oregon JHS) in the opening round.

Wood fought back with 5-2 victory over Patrick Schaefer (Morrison JHS). But his run came to an end against Preston Richards Reagan) (Dixon outscored him 2-1.

Finishing with records were Panthers:

65-Finnley Wood who lost by :58 and 2:50 falls.

75—Collin Bryant who death 9-7 and then by fall in

At 85, Cole Harris lost to the eventual state champion loss to Kazmyn Barber 3:47 in the wrestlebacks.

Newbrough in the Senior Spotlight for March

Newbrough.

Dwight, and Streator on Tuesday.

Laci is the daughter of Mike and Angie Newbrough. During her high school career, Laci was involved in Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Yearbook, Safe School Ambassadors, FCCLA, and Academic Challenge Team. She was also an Illinois State Scholar, a Student of the Month, an ACE winner, a class officer, Captain for all three of her sports, on the High Honor Roll, and was Honorable Mention All-Conference in Basketball.

Her future plans are to attend Bradley University in Peoria, major in Kinesiology and Health Science, and eventually pursue a career in Physical Therapy.

Here are a few thoughts

from Laci's teachers.

Mrs. Terry thinks that Laci "is amazing. She is confident and independent and always has a smile on her face. She steps in and helps out when needed and without being asked. She is an enormous asset to the yearbook program.'

Mrs. Leveille remembers that Laci, "as a Freshman, was energetic and had a positive attitude. She was always will-

School Senior Spotlight winner for the month of March is Laci group work. She is friendly and Ms. polite towards others and participated on the Academic Challenge team as a senior."

Mr. Welsh says that Laci is "a young woman with a big heart, one who cares for those around her."

Laci "was a wonderful student for me in OT. She was diligent, respectful, and fun."

Mrs. Benoit thinks that Laci is "the real deal! Great as a person in school and out of school. She works hard to maintain her high academic success with her tough course load. She is fun, athletic, respectful of others, a great communicator with her teachers, helpful towards her peers, AND is great on the slopes as a snowboarder!"

Laci "is a one of a kind, honest, hardworking student. She gives 110% in all she does.'

Mrs. Rankin loves that Laci is "super diligent, enthusiastic, and has great taste in

Mrs. Lee appreciates that Laci "great in so many ways! She is so kind to her teachers and peers. Laci truly cares about succeeding in all aspects

Ms. Zastrow thinks that Laci is "an awesome student inside the classroom and out! She is one of the students that puts in effort to include everyone around her! She is smart, kind, proactive, and positive. Laci holds herself to a high Mr. Smith believes that standard and ensures that she

is always at her personal best!" Ms. Conley says that "It has been a joy getting to know Laci over these last couple of years! Many stories, laughs, and cups of coffee have been shared while planning for her future this past year. She keeps things light and fun, but is serious and dedicated when it comes to her schoolwork and responsibilities. I can't wait to see what her future holds!"

Ms. Meents believes that Laci is "overall an extremely Mrs. Morrissey says that dedicated person, no matter what she is doing. She works hard in the classroom, and I'm excited to see all the success that she will have in her next four years. I also had the privilege of coaching her, and I enjoyed watching her grow as an athlete mentally and physically throughout the season. I will definitely miss Laci when she graduates, although I know

she will do amazing things!"

academics. She is always willing to help others-students and teachers. Additionally, Laci is a great listener. She is always willing to lend an ear or give advice to those who seek it. She will be missed next year, but I know she is on to bigger adventures and I have no

doubt she will be successful." As a final thought, Laci's advice to younger students is, "Keep an open mind".

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, congratulations Laci Newbrough as the March winner of the Senior Spotlight.

The Reed-Custer High ool Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High on Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High of Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High of Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life." The Reed-Custer High of Senior Spotlight winner and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a leader with her life. The Reed-Custer High out and stood out as a lea out in regional finale

The Reed-Custer 8th Great season ladies! grade volleyball team lost to Saratoga last week for the regional championship, 9-25 and 18-25, ending their sea-

Kirstin Klein had two aces and three assists. Alyssa Wollenzien had one kill and one dig. Mackenzie

Foote had two kills, two aces, and one block. Kayla Schott had two aces, one dig, and one kill. Caysie Esparza had one dig and one kill. Taylor Bova had three kills.

The Lady Panthers beat Peru in the semifinal, 27-25, 24-26 and 25-23. Alyssa Wollenzien had six kills, three aces, and two digs.

Kayla Schott had six aces. Taylor Bova had eight kills, one ace, and one dig. Mackenzie Foote had two kills and one

Kirstin Klein had eleven assists, three digs, two aces, and a kill. Kaitlyn Lantka had two digs and one kill.

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COMET SPORTS

Lady Comets Class of 2023 honored on Senior Night



RCHS BASKETBALL SENIOR Samantha Sprimont is the daughter of Zak and Lenna Sprimont. After graduation, Samantha is joining the Air force and continuing her education to become a physical therapist or athletic trainer.



RCHS BASKETBALL SENIOR Laci Newbrough is the daughter of Mike and Angie Newbrough. Although undecided on where she will go after graduation, Laci plans on attending a four-year university to work towards a degree in Physical Therapy.

These are their glory days!

Save them with our action photos.

RCHS BASKETBALL SENIOR Caelan Cole is the daughter of PD & Katie Hollis and is also being escorted by sister Rory. After graduation, Caelan plans on attending a four-year university to major in Biology/Kinesiology and eventually find a career as a Physician's Assistant. She also plans on play-

ing soccer while in college.

RCHS BASKETBALL SENIOR Addison Harms is the daughter of Tim and Heather Harms. In the fall, Addison plans on attending a four-year university to study forensic science and psychology and plans



on working towards a career as a forensic psychologist.

We take so many photos at sporting events that we're making them available online. Visit our website to see what sporting events we attend each week.



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RCHS BASKETBALL SENIOR Brooklyn Harding is the daughter of Tina Pruett and Rich Harding. After graduation, Brooklyn plans on joining the union and starting her career.