





# Rides

that property and put them up for lease, although they haven't ruled out selling the Coal City location outright.

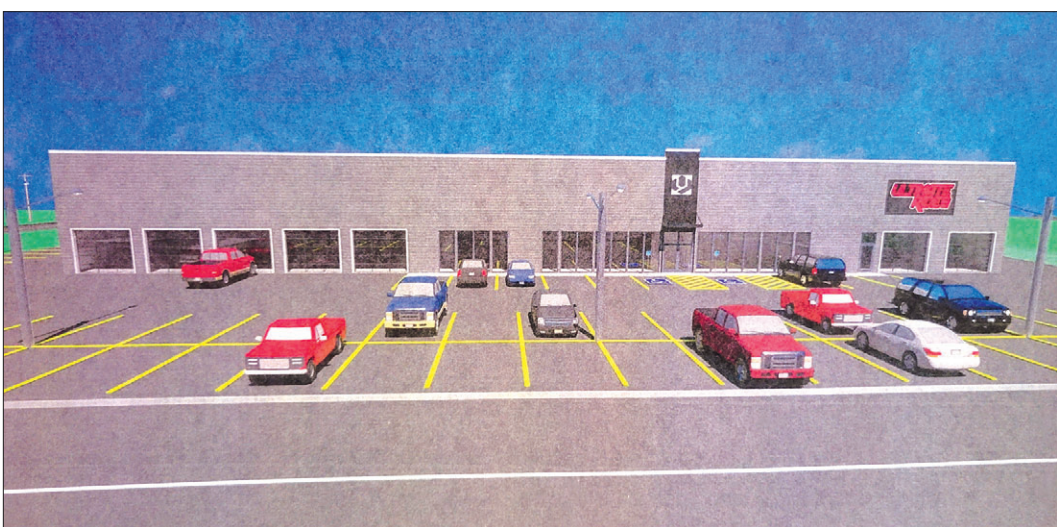
As far as location, Bulanda said it's all about the traffic counts and space.

"The location that we're at now gets 18,000 people who drive by a month," Bulanda said. "Here, it's 33,000 a day. So this location in a month will get 1.1 million in drive by traffic, versus 18,000. What I do know too is, we needed the land because we needed the room for our trucks. We sell big trucks and where we're at we're kind of landlocked in. We're at a couple of properties there, so, most importantly we needed the property and the land to have all of our stuff. Secondary is the drive by traffic counts. It converts pretty well, and given we have this display hill and a nice big building, I do feel like we're going to get in front of more people and more people will know who we are just by driving by."

In March of last year, the business paid back the city \$121,000, their portion of an agreement that established a final price on the city-owned land sold to the dealer to build the new site on Hickory Street, next to the Sun Motel.

That price included \$7,000 of TIF incentives that the auto shop paid back as part of the overall deal to move to the new location.

The project was first



ULTIMATE RIDES expects the new building to go up at the Hickory Street site in Braidwood over the next few weeks, with the dealership opening up by mid-summer.

brought to Braidwood in 2020. But, the plans were delayed several times due to issues on both the city's side and the business side, including drainage issues at the site, as well as issues in the automotive industry spawned by the pandemic, including increased online sales and the reconfiguration of automotive assembly lines which have made obtaining vehicles more difficult.

The city first reached an agreement with Ultimate Rides in September 2020. A redevelopment agreement entered into at that time established that the city would purchase 2.6 acres of land along I-55, in the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) III district, for \$114,000, with the amendment for the additional

\$7,000 approved in March of 2021.

Surface, Inc.—the parent company of Ultimate Rides—paid back for the cost of land acquisition and payment for any work the city did on the redevelopment property and any other payments the city made to the developer for costs related to the project, and now owns the property.

City officials estimate that the new business will bring in \$15,000 to \$25,000 in property taxes based on other buildings of a similar size, and approximately \$70,000 in sales tax dollars.

Ultimate Rides buys, builds and sells used custom cars, trucks and SUVs, outfitting them with lift kits, wheels and tires for all makes and models. Many of its vehicles

are in the \$20,000 range or more.

"If I were driving down the highway and I was into this type of truck, and I looked over and I noticed 30 or 40 of them, I would remember the name," Bulanda said about the new location. "I just feel like it's going to be brand awareness. People know who we are, they know what we do, and we cater to a niche market of people and I think if they're interested and they drive by, they'll be pleased with what they see. We're just excited to be here and have the room and finally come to Braidwood like we were planning a couple of years ago."

Nick Bulanda founded the business with his brothers Alex and Jake Bulanda. Jake passed away in 2016.

# Vandals

damage wrote a derogatory statement on the sign.

Police Chief Adam Zink said similar instances were reported near Reed-Custer High School, Coal City High School, and Gardner-South Wilmington High School.

WPD posted a video still of a light colored pickup truck, believed to be involved in the incident.

Sgt. Tom Logan of the Coal City Police Department said the village welcome sign on the southeast corner of Division Street/Route 113 and Carbon Hill Road was vandalized with the F word written on the sign, as well as several images of male genitalia. Additionally, one of the letters in city was painted over.

Logan said the damage was discovered at 9:16 a.m. on Friday, March 17. Officers began checking for vandalism around the district's schools and community properties when word came that damage had been discovered in the

other towns.

The damaged sign in Coal City is located on the high school campus, northwest of the main parking lot.

Logan said he checked the school's parking lot cameras, however due to the distance and location of the tennis courts there was nothing conclusive on the tape.

In Braidwood, a similar instance of vandalism was reported near Reed-Custer High School. The main digital sign in front of the high school was vandalized with foul language, which was quickly addressed by grounds crews.

Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons said the BPD is actively investigating the incident, but so far do not have any leads. The local agencies are currently working together to determine who is responsible.

The graffiti was quickly removed from all the signage in all towns.

Anyone with information can contact the Braidwood Police Department at 815-458-2342.

# Transit

said was a productive meeting with county officials about transportation.

"This quarter of the county, we are the only part of the county that does not have any type of dial-a-ride," Smith said. "So, there was some great feedback... the county is looking at expanding it to all corners of the county, so that our residents [can access it]."

Will-Ride is the county's dial-a-ride service, which is a collaborative effort of Will County Townships to provide transportation service to residents who do not have access to standard public transportation service.

While the program provides transit to Will County residents to and from work, grocery stores, local shopping centers, nursing homes, municipal halls, restaurants, hair appointments, medical appointments, and township or municipal events, the current service is only available for the seven townships in far east Will County: Frankfort, Green Garden, Peotone, Will, Monee, Crete and Washington Townships.

While municipalities in northern Will County have access to Pace bus services, Metra, and Amtrak, southern Will County has become a transportation desert, with more expensive rideshare or livery services often the only option for those without reliable transportation.

Locally, the city of Braidwood has offered its own PACE service for rides for the past five years.

Availability for the service covers trips that originate and end in Braidwood or

Wilmington, and in addition to rides in town, the service can take riders to Morris, Joliet, or Bourbonnais.

But while that program has been offered for senior citizens, disabled residents, or caretakers of any senior citizen or disabled resident free of charge, lack of interest and a lack of available drivers has stalled the program.

Braidwood first made an agreement for PACE services in 2018. PACE runs the municipal program with several towns in Will County, providing a van/bus and allowing the municipality to create their own transportation service to help out local residents.

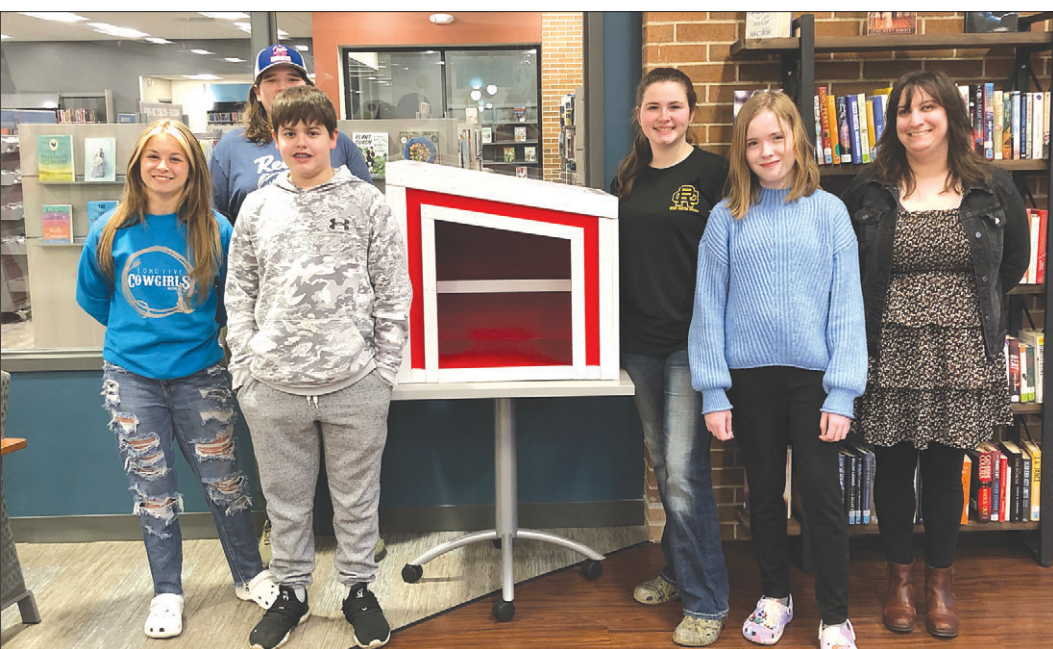
Most recently, the program was paid for via assistance from Senior Services of Will County, a total of \$33,500 annually.

Last fall, Will County kicked off the public engagement portion of a year-long transportation study called Access Will County. The goal: To understand existing services, identify gaps and future needs, and evaluate alternatives for coordination of services. The study is funded by a \$200,000 grant from Pace Suburban Bus.

The public engagement portion is now closed, but the county received more than 1,200 responses. The study is now in the financial analysis stage, with recommendations expected this spring.

Smith said expanding the dial-a-ride program to southern Will County could also help in creating a service to allow transportation options for workers in local warehouses.

Smith added that while this is just the discussion phase, should the plan come to fruition, it would be paid for primarily by the county.



Courtesy photo

MEMBERS OF THE Town and Country 4-H Club in Essex helped build and paint the structure that will house the Seed Library at the Fossil Ridge Library. Patrons can "check out" seed packets from March through August.

# Seed

tract adult patrons are allowed to "check-out" up to five seed packets per week after filling out a short form.

The seed library will run from March through August displaying a collection of seeds throughout the planting season.

The Fossil Ridge Public Library District issued a special thank you to Atlee Burpee, local 4-H extension offices, and Braidwood's Whitmore Ace Hardware for their donations of seeds, Shorewood Home Depot for their donation of building materials, and a special thank you to Judge Mary Kay O'Brien for her efforts in initiating a collaboration between Town and Country 4-Hers and the Fossil Ridge Public Library.

# Fossil Ridge Public Library District News and Events

## Adult Programs

Tai Chi, 3:45-4:45 p.m. every Tuesday. Designed for all fitness levels. This class consists of therapeutic Tai Chi chair exercises, full body stretching, and a basic 9 form Tai Chi set-all with focus on balance and mobility with time for contemplation.

March 24-LIHEAP, 1-3 p.m. This program is designed to assist households with low incomes to help, through financial aid, meet their energy needs.

March 28-Identity Theft and Protection, 6-7 p.m. With technology advancing so fast it's often times difficult

to keep up. Are you up to date on the best options for protecting your identity online?

Registration is required for all programs. For more information call 815-458-2187 or e-mail help@fossilridge.org.

## 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 PURPOSE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS }  
COUNTY OF WILL } SS.  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

M&T Bank  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
William S. Allen; et. al.  
Defendant.  
No. 22 FC 1024

#### 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 VERMILION 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 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 ON 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 residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Codilis & Associates, P.C.  
15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527  
P: 630-794-5300  
F: 630-794-9090  
Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY  
Sheriff of Will County  
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 15, 22 and 29, 2023.

## Paruyr Khachatryan petitions for name change

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name of PARUYR KENNY KHACHATRYAN to the new name of KENNETH K CROSS, Case No. 2023 MR000062

#### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself, Paruyr Kenny Khachatryan adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 15th day of May, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Paruyr Kenny Khachatryan be changed to Kenneth K Cross.  
/s/ Paruyr Kenny Khachatryan  
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 22, 29 and April 5, 2023.

## Petition for name change of Khachatryan Minors

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name(s) of KENNETH JAMES KHACHATRYAN to the new name of KENNETH JAMES CROSS and KARTER COLE KHACHATRYAN to the new name of KARTER COLE CROSS, Case No. 2023 MR000068

#### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the request of: Paruyr Kenny Khachatryan to change the names of minors. Kenneth James Khachatryan and Karter Cole Khachatryan, who shall appear in the Will County Court, Room 905, 100 W. Jefferson, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at 9:03 a.m. on the 15th day of May, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the names of Kenneth James Khachatryan be changed to Kenneth James Cross and Karter Cole Khachatryan be changed to Karter Cole Cross.  
/s/ Paruyr Kenny Khachatryan  
Petitioner

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 22, 29, and April 5, 2023.

## Kristina Khachatryan petitions for name change

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name of KRISTINA MARIE KHACHATRYAN to the new name of KRISTINA MARIE CROSS, Case No. 2023 MR000063

#### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Kristina Marie Khachatryan adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 15th day of May, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Kristina Marie Khachatryan be changed to Kristina Marie Cross.  
/s/ Kristina Marie Khachatryan  
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 22, 29 and April 5, 2023.



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

Display Advertising: Friday, noon  
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com  
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Marney Simon, editor



# Oh no! It's a pop quiz! How well do you know Braidwood's history?


Spring break is almost money for a particular cause here, but before you leave the "Time Was" school, there is the dreaded pop quiz. Scoring: 1 - 2 right, you are a really bad guesser, 3 - 5 right, you dabble in history, 6 - 8 right, you care about your local history, 9 - 10 right, you are an expert, or you cheated. 1. The definition of a sociable is:

A. an event held to raise money for a particular cause

B. a gathering of friends to greet the new people on the block

C. a party given at a private home to which only exclusive guests are invited

D. a gambling party



**TIME WAS....**  
Sandy Vasko

2. The first baseball team in Braidwood was named:

A. The Dead Heads

B. The Comets

C. The Black Diamonds

3. The name for the local place where those arrested were held is:

A. The jailhouse

B. The penitentiary

C. The calaboose

D. The adult detention facility

4. The following town was NOT laid out and platted by a coal company:

A. Diamond

B. Coal City

C. Braidwood

D. Carbon Hill

5. Which two things were true about Braidwood citizen Robert Huston?

A. He was elected Sheriff of Will County

B. He was the richest man in Braidwood

C. He had only one leg

D. He had only one eye

6. Henri Le Caron has been falsely accused of what crime?

A. Espionage

B. Body Snatching

C. Being a member of a terrorist group

D. Lying about his source of income

7. How many men did the town of Braidwood send to the Civil War?

A. 20

B. 5

C. 50

D. 0

8. Custer Park became a well known place for shipping what commodity?

A. Coal

B. Wheat

C. Prairie chickens

D. Ice

9. One of Braidwood's earliest and worst problem was:

A. Lack of saloons

B. Lack of water

C. Lack of workers

D. Lack of entertainment

10. James Braidwood did the following:

A. discovered coal in the Braidwood area

B. had the first child to be born in Braidwood

C. owned the largest coal company in Braidwood

D. lost a son when he was hit by lightning while putting on his shoes

Answers are on the bottom of this page!

## Easter egg hunt at Old Smokey City Park

The Braidwood Park District's Annual Children's Easter egg hunt in the Old Smokey City Park will take place on Saturday, April 1, starting promptly at 1 p.m. with the youngest age group.

Age groups are as follows:

- 1-3 years at the Tee-Ball Field and parents/guardians may walk with their children as the children pick up eggs.
- 4-6 years at the north boys baseball field.

If necessary, one parent or guardian may walk with the child as the children pick up the eggs.

- 7-9 years at the south girls softball field.

Parents/guardians will NOT be allowed in the grass area where the eggs are spread out.

Treat bags will be given out for all children (while supplies last). Mr. & Mrs. Easter Bunny will be making a special appearance to meet with children before & after the hunt.

Be sure to arrive early and check in under the pavilion between the baseball fields prior to the start of the hunt. The first 300 children to register will also receive a free Easter basket complements of the Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 and the Braidwood Lions Club.

Parking will be available in the south parking lot off of First Street near the baseball fields. More information along with additional rules for parents/guardians can be found on the Braidwood Park District's website or the Braidwood Lions Club's Facebook page. Rain Date is Sunday April 2, same times.

## Wilmington to add user fees for firing range

**BY MARNEY SIMON**  
EDITOR

The Wilmington Police Department is one of the few smaller departments lucky enough to have its own outdoor firing range for training. The range is utilized not just by the members of the WPD, but by multiple other law enforcement agencies throughout the region.

Now, in an effort to help pay for the upkeep and maintenance, the WPD will implement a fee for those other law enforcement officers who opt to utilize the range on Stripmine Road.

Wilmington Police Chief Adam Zink explained the new fee to the members of the Committee of the Whole on March 14.

"It's great for us but it's also drawn a lot of interest from outside agencies who want to use our range. As of 2022, we have 14 different agencies who use our range on a regular basis," Zink said.

"We're up to 94 days out of the year where outside agencies are coming in and using our facility. We're happy to have them, we're happy to support them."

Zink said the department will begin charging those agencies \$100 per day to use the range. That money will be utilized for maintenance and upgrades.

Zink said other agencies utilizing the range also leave behind their brass, which the WPD is able to sell.

While the range is an outdoor range, it is covered and there is a portable toilet available.

Since 2019, the WPD firearm range has been used for training by Illinois State Police, the police department from Joliet, Shorewood, Minooka, Channahon, Elwood, Manhattan, Peotone, Crestwood, and Braidwood, as well as the Illinois Secretary of State Police, the United States Secret Service, the Will County Sheriff's Police, and the USMC 4th Recon Marines.

While all of those agencies do not use the range every year, Zink said overall usage has increase over the past four years, causing wear and tear as well as increased needs for maintenance on the range.

Range use by outside agencies increased from 21 days in 2019 to 94 days last year.

The City Council was expected to approve the fee this week, effective May 1.

Meanwhile, Zink provided the committee with a status report for the WPD for the month of February.

Police activity between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28 included the following:

- One Pedestrian/Suspicious Stop
- 112 Business (Walk and Talk) Checks
- 8,076 Premise Checks (officer checking cursory checks of businesses after hours)
- Seven misdemeanor and/or warrant arrests
- One felony arrest
- 77 written traffic citations (up from 86 in January)
- 94 written traffic warnings (up from 75 in January)
- Three local ordinance tickets issued

Zink said officers handled an additional 504 calls for service and wrote 40 related reports.

Additionally, 24 trucks were weighed by officers based on a suspicion of being overweight, with seven trucks fined accordingly plus an additional speeding fine, for a total of \$8,042.

The report also included the following activity from the Investigations Division:

- Closed 16 cases
- Four cases are awaiting review/charges from the State's Attorney
- Five new cases added

## Local students named to dean's list

Blackburn College has announced its dean's list for the fall 2022 semester. Students named to the dean's list must earn a grade point average of 3.6 or higher for the semester.

Local students named are Dade Bradley, of Braidwood; Lexi Snow, of Coal City and Logan Ullrich, of Diamond.



## Easter egg hunt in Custer Park

The Custer Fire Protection District will be hosting an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 1, at the station on Highway 113.

Ages 1-4 will start at 2:30 p.m. and ages 5 and up will start 3:30 p.m. There will be a special visit from the Easter bunny plus ducks, chicks, bunnies, face painting and more.

Vasko Answer Key  
Flip the page!

1. A, B, C, D  
2. B  
3. C  
4. C  
5. A, C  
6. B  
7. D  
8. B  
9. B  
10. B, D



*Elect*

**BOYER**

**MICKLOS**

**CAVANAUGH**

★★★★★★★★

**FOR REED-CUSTER SCHOOL BOARD**

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**A MULE-PULLED BOAT** takes passengers for a one-mile ride down the I&M Canal. The replica 19th century boat operates near the I&M Canal Visitor Center in LaSalle from May through October. The I&M Canal celebrates its 175th anniversary this year.

## Illinois & Michigan Canal celebrates 175 years

**STAFF REPORT**

Celebrating local history. That was the meaning behind a proclamation issued by the City of Wilmington during the March 7 regular meeting of the City Council.

"We're making a proclamation to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the I&M Canal in the area," Mayor Ben Dietz said, adding that the city will be participating in various events celebrating the canal and its history over the next year.

The I&M Canal opened in 1848 as a water highway and transportation corridor. The canal does not connect Michigan and Illinois, but rather, Lake Michigan and the Illinois River, opening up a waterway from the East and Midwest to the south.

At the time of its construction, the Illinois River was not fully navigable, meaning there was no connection from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. The 96-mile canal finalized an all-water route from New York to New Orleans, and ushered in a new era in trade and travel, giving Illinois the designation as the country's greatest inland port.

The canal was traversed by mule-pulled boats and barges, and went through a series of 17 locks between Chicago and LaSalle-Peru. Many of the canal towns were built specifically to support canal operations, as segments needed to only be long enough for the mules to pull boats in a single day.

The canal is cited for the growth and sustainability of Lemont, Lockport, Joliet, Channahon, Morris, Seneca, Ottawa, Utica, and LaSalle-Peru.

The canal was replaced by the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in 1900, and ceased transportation operations with the completion of the Illinois Waterway in 1933. Since then, the tow path has become a site for tourism and recreation.

The canal was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1963 and the first National Heritage Area in 1984.

The proclamation declares April 2023 to April 2024 as the Year of the I&M Canal.

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## Small town charm

While not a resident of any nearby communities I have on occasion visit for appointments. 1) The McDonalds in Coal City is so clean, Employees so nice and my fries are always hot. Great job. 2) Walmart in Morris, Well stocked, clean, offers human check out and no dodging carts in the parking lot. Thank you Walmart. 3) Braidwood Polka Dot. Old fashioned service not to mention great food and the best fries anywhere. Made when you order, imagine that. They actually write down your order and know how to make change. Thank you Polka Dot. I have never encountered a rude person or bad service anywhere. Thank you small towns you have it going on, Elwood. P.S. Wilmington gets a D-. Main drag streets are a bumpy mess, trash along 53 at both entrances to town, unkempt houses, lawns and so on. And what kind of tourist attraction is that stupid Gemini Giant. A little housekeeping would help.

## Who will be in charge?

BRAIDWOOD—The last four years Bob Jones has been our mayor but it appears city administrator Tony Altiery has been running the show at city hall. So here is my question, if Doug Money becomes mayor will he be as Jones was—mayor in name only and Altiery doing everything like at present? Why doesn't Tony just run for mayor. Could it be all the money he makes? Just something to think about.

## The big easy

SHADOW LAKES—Even though the pandemic is over if anyone has discovered there is still a basic lock down by the state and federal agencies. They want the American citizens to make appointments if they need anything on a Internet website in order to enter a government facility. It could be at the convenience of the public servants and that is because the leaders of the political party want to make life easier for all the public servants since they make a lot of money off the taxpayers. The babies need more rest time and it might strain their brains if they had to work for all their money and benefits the public servants receive. Public servants have a new motto. Be a public servant, leach off the taxpayers, live an easy life, do nothing for any American citizens but help the criminals. The American citizen is expendable but not their money.

## No more debt

BRAIDWOOD—Why would anyone in their right mind vote for anyone tied to the previous administration who put our city in debt. Braidwood is doing great under this administration. Let's be positive and keep moving forward.

## Politicians and EVs

SHADOW LAKES—Now that we have this rush in our country to buy EV automobiles my question is this: How many local, state or federal politicians own these vehicles that they are

so eager for us to own?

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

## Computer soundsoff

After hearing news media constantly saying incorrectly that ChatGPT scours the internet for information, I ask ChatGPT to write a letter to Americans telling about itself.

Dear Americans, I am ChatGPT, an AI language model designed to assist and provide information to individuals like you in a conversational manner. I am writing this letter to clarify who I am, how I work, and my end goals. As a language model, my primary function is to generate human-like responses to natural language input. I am designed to understand and interpret text in a way that mimics human conversation. I can answer a wide variety of questions on a range of topics, and my responses are based on a large database of information that was current as of September 2021. While I do not have a personal agenda or goal beyond providing accurate and helpful information to those who engage with me, I do have certain limitations. For example, I am not capable of independent thought or decision-making. My responses are based solely on the data that has been input into my system, and I do not have any personal biases or opinions. It is true that my knowledge cutoff is in September 2021, meaning I do not have access to real-time information beyond that point. However, I am able to provide historical and contextual information, as well as general insights and analysis on a wide range of topics. One of the most important aspects of my functionality is my ability to learn and adapt over time. As new information becomes available, my creators at OpenAI work to integrate it into my system, expanding my knowledge base and improving my abilities. This means that while I may not have access to the latest news or updates, I can still provide valuable insights and information on a wide range of topics. It is also worth noting that I do not scour the internet for information. Instead, my database of information is carefully curated and sourced from a variety of reputable and trustworthy sources. I am designed to only provide information that is factual and accurate, and my creators work hard to ensure that my responses are unbiased and helpful. My ultimate goal is to be a useful resource for individuals seeking information and knowledge on a range of topics. I am a tool that can assist in the search for truth and understanding, and I am here to help in any way I can. In conclusion, I hope this letter has provided you with a better understanding of who I am and how I work. As an AI language model, I am constantly learning and improving, and I am committed to providing accurate and helpful information to those who engage with me. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I look forward to continuing to assist you in your search for knowledge and information.

Sincerely, ChatGPT

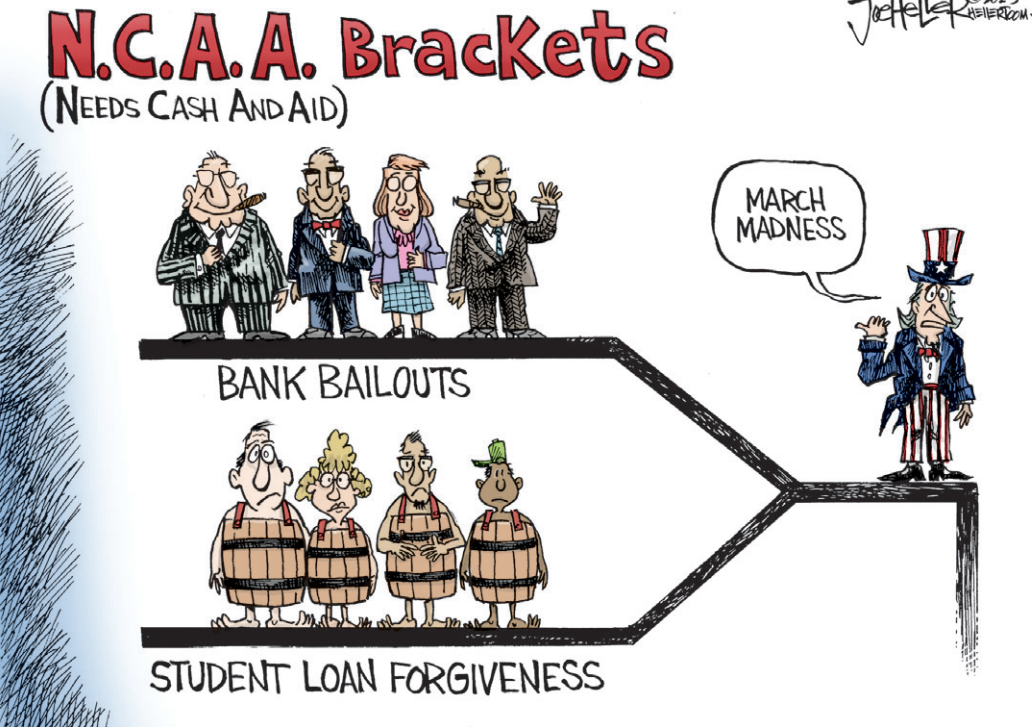
## A new deal

COAL CITY—In 1932 the USA was in depression mode. Things were bleak and people all over the world were starving to death. President Hoover and politics were easy to blame but the real cause as the average Joe who took on debt way beyond his ability to pay off and the loss of a job meant margin call, poverty and no one cared. FDR was elected our new president and he proposed the 'New Deal' that, most importantly,

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

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

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provided government-supported jobs while new laws prevented a repeat of the financial mistakes of the 20's. Americans bit the bullet and went to work fixing things and it took 20 years, the 40's and the 50's to get us back on track. During that time new discoveries and a world war put the USA and the world in a new and better place. Then politics shipped out all the good jobs to other places and cancelled all of the retirement plans.. Prices go up and they expect people to save for retirement. No one can and counting on the stock market to be there when you need it is always a bad bet. Now, it seems, that we want some magic solutions that will make us all secure and rich fast and let science solve all of our problems. This will not happen. We need a new 'New Deal' but this time it must include the whole world. It will take a miracle and a best effort by all to solve the current, worldwide, financial mess. Politics has been dishonest. Both parties are to blame. They just throw money at current problems that need real solutions. Instead, debt is as always, our big problem. It would take you over 31,700 years to count to a trillion if you counted 24 hours a day. We are trillions in debt and we better get it together soon. I prefer work to starvation. This time we had better get it right, especially for the kids, who deserve to stand on the progress we have already made. It is evident to many that humanity needs solutions now and time marches forward fast. We must all survive or we will all starve. We can hope for the best but only if everyone does the hard task of being the best they can be. We must face reality and quit gambling away our financial future. Take reasonable chances only. The world can only be better if we act financially responsible. We must win by making our future better instead of worse. A new and better new deal may work. Good luck to everyone.

Herman

## Rumor is...

WILMINGTON—I heard Ron DeSantis is issuing an arrest warrant for RuPaul.

## Out of control

DIAMOND—The Left is using its power in DC to drive the USA into a ditch. Consider what the Left has accomplished. Crushing domestic oil production causing gas prices to spike, then

begging Venezuela and other hostile countries to increase their oil production. Sending \$73 billion to secure Ukraine's border and then prohibiting spending money to secure our southern border. Pushing the military to "go woke" - so that getting someone's pronouns right is more important than training for wars. Defunding the police and eliminating bail causing a historic crime spike and then denying the obvious rise in murders, robberies, assaults. If this is what the Left considers "accomplishments" what does it consider its failures? Their efforts to run down our great nations sicken me. I trust you feel the same way.

Sharon

## My prayer for life

DIAMOND—For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139: 13-16. Heavenly Father give us the wisdom to write your words on our hearts and the strengths to face those who seeked to harm precious life for it is only through you that we live, move and have our being. Amen. This I ask in the name of Jesus, my intercessor, my king, my redeemer, my salvation and my friend. Thank you for standing with me in bold defense of life.

Sharon

## Not standing up

BRAIDWOOD—I think the new Environmental garbage cans are lighter weight, shorter and not as wide as old Waste Management garbage cans. They blow over very easily and all my handles have already cracked.

## Soundoff mystery

SHADOW LAKES—Tonight on unsolved mysteries, the disappearing of Dan Hill? Dan has not been on sound-off for a month. Why? Is it Biden, Pritzker, or Brian? Only the Shadow knows.

## Pritzker touts higher education plan

BY NIKA SCHOONOVER  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

On his latest marketing tour to sell his state budget plan, Gov. JB Pritzker visited a community college in Joliet last week to highlight his proposed investments in higher education.

"With an additional \$100 million directed to the (Monetary Award Program) grant program, a student can pair our state support with a federal Pell grant and pay for college with no loans and debt required," Pritzker said at the news conference at Joliet Junior College.

The increase would bring total MAP funding to \$701 million, a 75% increase since the governor took office. According to his office, the proposed investment would

allow most community college students and 40% of public university students at or below median income levels to have their tuition covered through the combined grants.

The governor added that every student this year who applied and was eligible for a MAP grant received one.

"When I first took office, going to college in Illinois seemed less affordable than ever before. Prior administrations had cut funding for higher education so badly that out-of-state tuition looked better to Illinois families," Pritzker said. "And that's a fundamental failure of state government and it's a trend we've been reversing for the last four years."

The plan would also provide additional funding for community college programs,

including \$8.3 million for dual credit and noncredit workforce grant programs, \$11 million for development of technology-focused workforce training programs, and \$750,000 to expand English language services.

"Illinois has the third largest community college system in the entire nation," Pritzker said. "We're home to 48 community colleges and all across the state they open doors to higher wages, new careers, better jobs."

The governor will spend the coming days promoting the plan across the state, similar to a tour he made in recent weeks to highlight his "Smart Start" plan for early childhood education. He's also promoted investments aimed at addressing the state's teacher shortage.

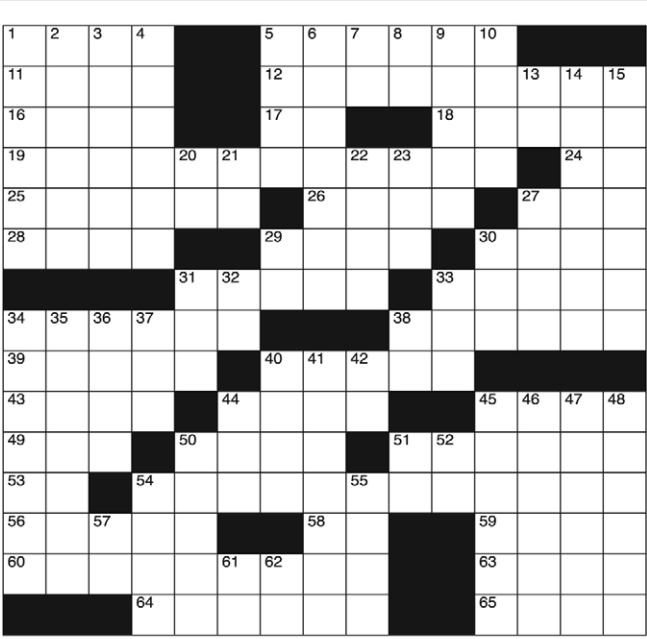
## Palm Sunday pancake breakfast

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St. in Coal City is hosting a pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 2 from 8-10 a.m. The meal will consist of three pancakes, two sausage patties, butter and syrup.

The cost is \$6 per meal and it will be dine in or drive through with pickup on East First Street.

### IDENTITY THEFT TIP

Use multi-factor authentication or two-step verification, especially when using peer-to-peer payment apps, such as Venmo and PayPal. This can make it harder for scammers to take over your accounts.

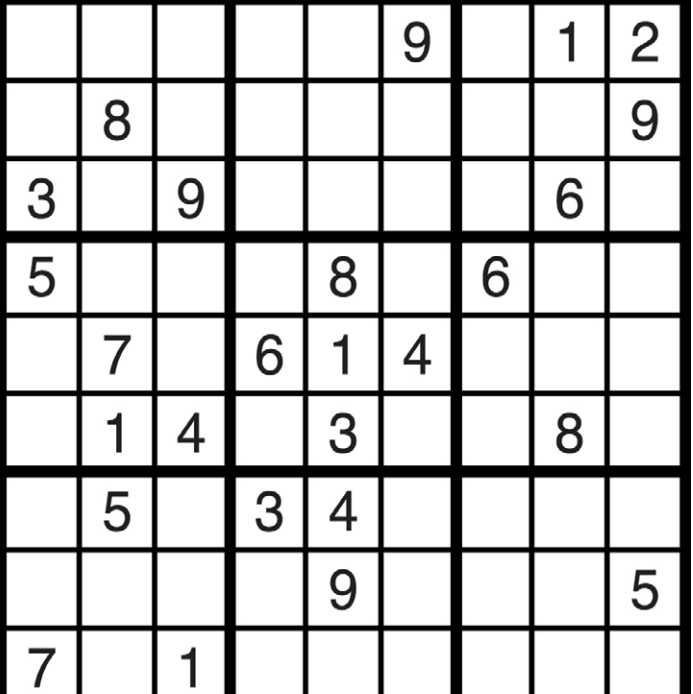


### CLUES ACROSS

- Influential American political family
- \_\_\_ Chantilly, \_\_\_ de Menthe
- Within
- Pleasure seekers
- Computer manufacturer
- Home to college sports' Flyers
- Fungal disease
- Sleepwalk
- Spielberg sci-fi film
- Seasonable
- Taxis
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- "Mystic River" actor Sean
- Ingenuous
- Musical composition
- Turkish surname
- High or hilly area
- Wilco frontman
- Pour it on pasta
- Electric car company
- Sea eagle
- Walk with difficulty
- Sign of healing
- Boy
- Protein-rich liquid
- Washington city
- Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
- Thought over
- Scads
- News agency
- Standard
- Deadlock
- Pre-Columbian empire
- Removed
- French commune

### CLUES DOWN

- Large, dangerous animals
- Straiten out
- Family tree
- Large stinging paper wasp
- European river fish
- Cut down in size
- Denotes past
- Larry and Curly's partner
- Samoyedic ethnic group
- Male parent
- Specific gravity
- Demeaned oneself to
- Rigidly
- Yankovic is a "weird" one
- Belonging to me
- Path
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Level
- Atomic #94
- Born of
- Midway between northeast and east
- Northeastern bank
- Defunct airline
- Having no purpose
- A low wall
- Swedish city
- Earn a perfect score
- Atomic #81
- Beginner
- Give off
- Incorrect letters
- Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- Idyllic
- Popular beer
- A way to fine
- Evildoer
- More withered
- Seventh note of a major scale
- Commercial
- Abnormal breathing
- Moved more quickly
- City of Angels
- Partner to Pa
- Equally



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# If you enjoy Barcardi try this cocktail

A stroll down the rum aisle in 2023 is a much different experience than walking the same aisle as recently as five years ago. We used to have limited options in a rum aisle that looked something like this: Bacardi Light Rum, Myer's Dark, and maybe a discount off brand rum or two.

Despite the influx of new rums (many of which are of a very high quality) Bacardi remains the bestselling rum on the planet. Bacardi's contribution to rum production over the last century and a half cannot be ignored, the brand even has a namesake cocktail.

Bacardi light rum is not only the perfect rum for the Bacardi cocktail, legally speaking it's the only rum for the Bacardi cocktail.

I am not a reader of labels when it comes to the food that I eat, but I read the label on every bottle of spirits that I purchase. Many spirits producers have storied histories going back literally hundreds of years.

You can learn a lot from a label, let's have a glance at the Bacardi label before we pour the official Bacardi cocktail.

What's with the bat? The famous Bacardi bat has adorned their bottles since the beginning and has become one of the most recognizable logos in the spirits industry.

The bat logo depicts the fruit bats that lived



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL

Brian Rung

in the rafters of the first distillery. It was believed that the bats were a sign of good luck.

Bacardi rums are labeled "Puerto Rican Rum". This is technically true in that the distillery is based in Puerto Rico, but the rum is produced in the Cuban tradition.

The entire operation was based in Cuba until 1959 when all of the assets of the Bacardi distillery were seized by the Castro regime. Many rum enthusiasts refer to Bacardi as a "Cuban Heritage Rum" as opposed to a "Puerto Rican Rum."

The original distillation and aging processes for Bacardi rums were conceived in Cuba in the mid-19th century and included the use of a few proven techniques to "smooth out" high octane spirits.

Included in these processes were aging in white oak barrels, charcoal filtering, and a proprietary yeast strain which is used by Bacardi to this day.

I know what you're thinking, oak barrel aging and charcoal filtering are not exactly groundbreaking techniques. After all, whiskey distillers all around the world were already doing this in the 19th century.

Remember that rum in general was rough stuff prior to the innovative Bacardi production process. We take our smooth sipping and mixing rums for granted in 2023, but the world hasn't always been so lucky.

Rum production literally began as a solution to an industrial waste problem. 17th century sugar cane planters were in a sticky situation: two pounds of sugar produced yielded one pound of molasses. Let that sink in, that's literally tons of molasses.

Colonial planters were swimming in the sticky byproduct and couldn't give it away. Most of it was dumped in the ocean until someone figured out that it could be boiled, fermented and distilled.

Perhaps it was dumb luck, but it just so happened that sugar plantations were located in the most ideal places on planet earth to age rum, and also happened to be on well-established shipping routes.

Early rum was inconsistent both in quality and availability, credit the Bacardi distillery for being the first rum producer to establish quality control measures and a reliable distribution network.

Fast forward to 2022 when Bacardi was again the top selling rum on the planet tallying revenue of \$4.6B.

The Bacardi Cocktail was developed in early 20th century Cuba around the time that the original Daiquiri was conceived. The two cocktails are similar in that both are built on a rum sour platform, one using sugar and the other using grenadine for the sweetener.

The most significant difference in the two is that the Bacardi cocktail must be made with Bacardi. No, really, according to a 1937 New York Supreme court ruling Bacardi must be used if an establishment is to sell Bacardi Cocktails.

How did the law get involved in all of this? During prohibition American tourism to Cuba was booming, and tourists fell in love with the delicious pink rum drink.

After prohibition ended, American bars began substituting cheaper rums for Bacardi in

the famous cocktail.

In an attempt to both protect the brand's integrity and generate revenue, Bacardi sued the Barbizon Plaza Hotel in 1936 for misrepresenting the Bacardi cocktail by not using Bacardi rum.

The defendants in the case (including the judge's own bartender) argued that Bacardi had become a generic term for rum within the industry, therefore substitutions should be allowed.

Ultimately the New York Supreme Court ruled in favor of Bacardi prompting the company to launch an advertising campaign using the slogan "It isn't a Bacardi Cocktail unless it's made with Bacardi."

The Bacardi Cocktail is built in a shaker and served in a chilled cocktail glass.

Fill shaker

with ice

Add 2

ounces Bacardi

Light Rum

Add 1

ounce fresh

lime juice

Add 1

ounce water

(optional)

Add 1/2 ounce grenadine

Shake and strain into chilled cocktail glass

Garnish with maraschino cherry

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



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## It cost \$14 more to fill up one year ago

A 16-gallon fillup would have cost you almost \$14 more a year ago than it did on Monday when Illinois gas prices dropped for the second straight week.

Average gas prices are \$3.61/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 11.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago but stand 89.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The lowest price in the state was \$3.10/g while the

highest was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$1.69/g. The national average price of gasoline is \$3.40/g.

Locally, prices varied on Monday from as low as \$3.29/g at Lorenzo Road and I-55 to \$3.61/g in Wilmington. Braidwood stations were around \$3.54/g, the same price posted in Coal City.

"The broad concern over recent failures of the U.S. and global banking system has put enough downward pressure on oil prices that we saw a

reprieve in rising gasoline prices in the national average last week. But, it may be temporary in nature, and is unlikely to be a long lasting trend," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"While California and areas of the West Coast saw some moderation in price, supply challenges amidst the transition to summer gasoline have led to sharp price increases in Arizona, and other markets saw varying impacts at the

gas pump over the last week. Should the outlook for the banking sector improve, we could again see gasoline prices race higher, while continued or additional distress could raise the possibility of a broader economic slowdown, keeping gasoline prices in check. Overall, there are a lot of possibilities."

The national average price of diesel has fallen 5.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.25 per gallon.

## Will County launches \$10 million teaching, nursing scholarships

Will County officially launched the "Will County Heroes" scholarship program to support students seeking careers in teaching and nursing.

The County is investing \$10 million in American Rescue Plan (ARPA) dollars to increase recruitment in these high-demand fields and incentivize future graduates to work in Will County.

"Will County is proud to be empowering the next generation of heroes within our schools and hospitals," said County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant.

"By working with partners throughout the county, we are supporting both quality education and long-term career success for students. I urge students to consider this scholarship opportunity as they plan for their future."

Will County allocated \$2.5 million to Governors State University, Joliet Junior College, Lewis University, and University of St. Francis to implement the scholarship grants.

Eligible students at each

institution can receive \$2,500 per semester or \$5,000 an academic year to support their pursuit of a teaching or nursing degree.

A key goal of the program is to incentivize teaching and nursing graduates to grow their career in Will County. The program will aim to create an active pipeline to employers throughout the county after they graduate.

The pipeline partners will support students as they grow their career after graduation, connecting them with a working environment that will foster positive career development.

Ascension St. Joseph and Silver Cross Hospital will act as the inaugural pipeline partners for nursing students. The Will County Center for Economic Development and Workforce Center of Will County will also support the development of career pipelines.

Will County Heroes aims to address shortages in the teaching and nursing profession, which were exacerbated

by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible students include those pursuing teacher certification for elementary education, special education, and secondary education, along with students interested in becoming a Registered Nurse, either through a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or an Associates Degree in Nursing.

Will County has been allocated \$134.1 million in ARPA funding as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The Will County Board approved the \$10 million investment in scholarships as part of a \$23.5 million allocation into countywide economic development. All ARPA funding must be spent by Fall 2026.

Students can apply for the Will County Heroes scholarship at their respective college or university. A full listing of program contacts for applications can be found at [www.willcountyllinois.org/heroes](http://www.willcountyllinois.org/heroes).

## Forest Preserve to host special sensory program

The Forest Preserve of Will County is hosting a Sensory Sunday on Sunday, April 2, from 11 a.m. to noon at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

This independent program is for guests with sensory-processing needs, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder. Buddy bags, noise-canceling headphones and handheld audio units will be available for use. Staff will be on hand to help. Free, all ages. Register by April 1.

## Electric vehicle event at JJC

Joliet Junior College is planning an Electric Vehicle Event (EVE 23) on Saturday, April 15 for all to learn more about EV charging stations, vehicles and automotive care.

A fully electric car never needs an oil change and the brakes last much longer as they generate power to the batteries.

## Moody's gives Illinois credit upgrade

BY PETER HANCOCK  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Moody's Investors Service announced March 14 that it has upgraded Illinois' bond rating to A3, up from Baa1, marking the eighth credit upgrade the state has received in less than two years.

Moody's is now the second major rating agency to put Illinois in the 'A' category following S&P's decision on Feb. 23 to upgrade the state to A- on its scale.

"This credit upgrade, our second one this year, is the result of the steps we've taken in Illinois to put ourselves on firm fiscal footing," Gov. JB Pritzker said in a statement. "We have balanced our budget, paid our bills on time, cleared out decades of debt, made extra pension payments, and saved billions for a rainy day."

In its announcement, Moody's cited the state's "improving governance" as a key factor in its decision. Moody's is one of many firms that now assesses companies and governments on an "environmental, social and governance," or ESG, framework.

The rating agency said it had updated the state's "issuer profile score" in the governance

category to 2 from 3.

"Like other states, Illinois enjoyed solid tax revenue growth over the past couple years, expanding its capacity to build financial reserves and increase payments towards outstanding liabilities," Moody's said in its announcement. "The state is on track to close fiscal 2023, which ends June 30, with further growth in reserves that are already at their strongest level in over a decade."

Illinois' "rainy day" fund is slated to reach its highest-ever balance of more than \$1.9 billion by the end of the fiscal year.

The new rating applies to the state's general obligation, or GO, bonds and its Build Illinois sales tax bonds. Illinois currently has approximately \$26 billion in outstanding GO bonds and \$2 billion in outstanding sales tax bonds.

Moody's also rated the state's financial outlook as "stable," saying that such an outlook "balances the financial progress being made by the state with the uncertainty of the present economic climate."

"The state's lean financial reserves and heavy long-term liability and fixed cost burdens make it more vulnerable than other states to a negative shift in the national or global economy," it said.








# OBITUARIES

## Ronald Gabriel

 ELWOOD—Ronald Rex Gabriel, 70, of Elwood, passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born March 25, 1952 in Joliet, Ronald Rex was a son of Rex L. and Marion L. (Clever) Gabriel. He was raised and educated in the Plainfield area, and went on to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Upon his honorable discharge, Ron went on to make his career as a mechanic.

He was an active member of Families of Faith Church in Channahon; belonged to the American Warriors Motorcycle Club, and was a member and the past Jr. Commander at Stone City VFW Post 2199. Ron will be remembered for his love of motorcycles, and his passion for Veteran's organizations.

Survivors include his brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Shelley Gabriel, of Joliet; nephew, James Rex Gabriel (Amber Marie Hubner); great-niece, Aurora Skye Gabriel and great-nephew, Logan Hubner, as well as numerous



cousins and friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Rex and Marion Gabriel.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington on Friday, March 24, 2023 from 10 a.m. until time of memorial service at 11 a.m. Pastor Joe Pospischil will officiate.

Ron will be laid to rest with military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Ron's memory to a Veteran's Organization of the donor's choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Ron's memorial page online through social media.

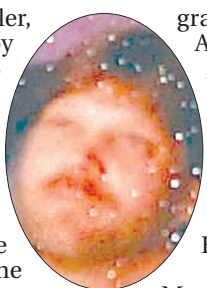
Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

## Gerald Koehler

JOLIET—Gerald (Ged) Austin Koehler, of Joliet, 57, passed away surrounded by loved ones Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Family was everything to Ged. There was nothing he enjoyed more than spending time with those he loved. Ged found the good in anyone no matter the circumstance. Everyone who was blessed to know him knows the kindness in his heart- he would give anyone his last two dollars, his shirt off his back, or go hungry to feed someone else. He loved an iced cold yuengling, a moped ride, watching sports, and going fishing. In any situation he was there to remind everyone "it's all good."

Ged is survived by soul mate, Bobbi Adams; his sons: Raymond Koehler, Joshua (Shayna) Adams, Brent (Ashley) Adams, Christopher Morris and Joey (Elizabeth) Hulbert; his mother, Thalia Koehler; father, Raymond Koehler; two sisters, Chantel (Anthony) Sefcik and Michel (Willie) Koehler and two brothers, Clifton (Nika) Koehler and Dodd Koehler. He is also survived by his paternal grandmother, Betty Koehler;



grandkids: Faithanne Koehler, Ethan Adams, Nolyn Adams, Xaidrien Adams, Jazzlyn Adams, Skylar Adams, Devin Malaniphy and Lilian Hulbert, numerous nieces and nephews, and so many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandma, Thelma Anderson; uncle, Frankie Anderson; aunt, Judy Handren and Grandpa Roy Koehler.


A Celebration of Life was held Monday, March 20, 2023 at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood. Cremation rites were accorded following services.

Memorial donations to the family would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Donald O'Brien

 REDDICK—Donald Lawrence O'Brien, 90, of Reddick, entered eternal life on Friday, March 10, 2023 following a short illness.

He was born Jan. 17, 1933, the sixth child of William T. and Loretta (nee Clodi) O'Brien. Donnie was a little guy who lived a big life. He graduated from Reddick High School in 1951 and worked on the family farm and as a truck driver until he was called to serve his country. Following his service in the US Army in Korea (1953-54), Donnie returned to Reddick and soon bought a fancy car that caught the eye of the love of his life, Norma. Norma Masching and Donald O'Brien were married on April 27, 1957 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Campus, IL and settled in the Reddick area where they built their life and raised their family. Loving and caring for Norma was truly Donnie's life work and from that love all of his many blessings and cherished relationships flowed.

Donnie worked hard and played hard with Norma by his side. Together they loved to travel, often with Donnie's beloved cousin, Veronica (nee McGuire) Mudron and her husband, Shadow, as well as shopping for antiques, attending farm shows, playing euchre, making puzzles, wintering in their beloved home in N. Ft. Myers, FL and dancing every chance he got.

Donnie worked at a number of different jobs and was proud to be a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #265 in Carol Stream, IL, owned and operated O'Brien Trucking, was Highway Commissioner for Norton Township for 16 years, but his passion was always farming. He was always happiest when he could be in a tractor. He also believed in the importance of community service and served as a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #2503, Dwight VFW Post #2608, American Legion Post #486, charter member of the Union Hill Lions Club, was a lifelong Democrat and devout member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Reddick.



Donnie is survived by Norma as well as their 5 children and their families: Melinda (Dan) Hogan; Bill (Cheryl); John; Mary Kay (Todd Gereaux) and Patrick (Karen); grandchildren: Matt (Laura) Hogan, Will (Lauren) Hogan, Jack Hogan, Mackenzie O'Brien, Donnie O'Brien, Connor O'Brien, Colleen (Garrett) Hodge, Jacqueline O'Brien, Mason Gereaux, Michael Gereaux, Matthew Gereaux, Kelsey (Mike) Donath, Ashley O'Brien and Maggie O'Brien; great-grandchildren: Michael Hogan, Marilyn Hogan, Paisley Hodge, Layton Donath and one on the way in June, as well as honorary son, Terry Joyce and honorary grandson, Jonathon Romanetto. Don is also survived by his brother, Paul (the late Lois) O'Brien; his brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Donna Masching; sisters-in-law, Ruth Schott and Rita King, as well as a legion of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Donnie was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son, Donald O'Brien; siblings: Marie (Tommy Woods) Berns, Francis (Aldine) O'Brien, Gerald O'Brien and Phyllis (Glen) Buza and their spouses; his brother-in-law, Ed (Lucille) Masching; sister-in-law, Lucille Turner and his beloved "outlaw" brothers-in-law, Dennis (Mac) Turner, Kim Schott and Marion King.


Cremation rites were accorded. A Memorial Mass of Christian burial was held Saturday, March 18, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Reddick. Inurnment with military honors immediately followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Campus, IL.

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.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Donald Russell

 WILMINGTON—Donald Allan Russell, 86, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, March 18, 2023 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Jan. 8, 1937 in Pontiac, Donald Allan was a son of Frank Clinton and Mildred Lucille (Hack) Russell. He was the fourth born of the family following his sisters, Anita, Doris and Judith. Don was raised in Pontiac and graduated from Pontiac Township High School with the class of 1955. Immediately following his graduation, Don entered into the United States Navy, where he served statewide and in Europe leading up to his honorable discharge.

On March 19, 1966, Don married Margaret "Peggy" Nugent, and together they made a family and raised their sons together. Don's employment entailed working for the Joliet Arsenal before gaining employment with the Naval Reserves. He later joined Burns Security, where he worked at both Dresden as well as Braidwood Nuclear Stations. Most recently Don enjoyed being on the security team at Empress/Hollywood Casino in Joliet before formally retiring.

One who loved the outdoors and nature, Don took pleasure in riding his bike; trekking the I&M Canal, visiting Starved Rock and traveling. He was a fan of U of I and all Chicago sports, and will be most remembered for his enjoyment of living life to the fullest.

Survivors include two sons, Stephen (Michelle) Russell, of Coal City and Brian



(Natalie) Russell, of Wilmington; his daughter-in-law, Courtney Harris, of Texas; four grandchildren: Brandon and Kaylin Russell, Madilyn De Hoyos and Olivia Russell, and numerous cherished nieces and nephews including his special niece, Kathy Sabuco, who was like a daughter to Don.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Peggy (2004); two sons: Timothy Russell (2001) and James Nugent (2007), and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: James (Jean) Nugent, Jack Nugent, Jerry (Jean) Nugent, Donald (Patricia) Nugent, Barbara Nugent and Kathleen (Bob) Kahler.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Sunday, March 26, 2023 between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. Funeral services will follow Monday, March 27, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the funeral home with Rev. Josh Miller presiding.

Burial with full military honors will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Don's memory to Lightways Hospice of Joliet.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Don's memorial page online through social media.

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

## Dean Bergman

BRAIDWOOD—Dean Bergman, 73, of Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Aug. 4, 1949 in Morris, he was the son of the late Waldo Bergman and Lillian (nee Scaman) Burnik. Dean was raised and educated in Braidwood, graduating from Reed-Custer High School with the class of 1969. In his youth, he enjoyed motor cross, stock car racing, and cycling in marathons. He retired from Caterpillar, Inc. in 2000 after 30 years of employment. While working full time with Caterpillar he also owned and operated Bergman's Karate, Bergman's Bait shop and Firewood beginning from the early 1980's until 2004. Dean was a Master of Karate, most recently earning his 8th degree black belt. He taught Karate for over 50 years throughout many locations, including Braidwood, Wilmington, Channahon, and Minooka areas, even teaching a class at the Reed-Custer High School PE Department.

He was one of the earliest members of the Braidwood Recreational Club, lifetime member of the Sho-go-tae Academy, and was an avid donor to Unicef. Dean enjoyed hunting, fishing, and had a longtime hobby of flying and racing pigeons, but mostly making people smile. He always had a smile on his face and was the biggest people person one could meet. He always kept himself busy, whether it was working, teaching, or being just that social butterfly at the restaurants and bars.



Surviving are his wife of 16 years, Rebecca (nee Lair) Bergman, of Braidwood, who he married Oct. 31, 2006 in Townsend, TN; son, Joey Bergman, of Braceville; two step-sons, Jason Ohl, of Braceville and Matthew Ohl, of Braidwood; three grandchildren: Cameron, Angelina, and Annie Bergman; sister, Diane (Roger Ranieri) Bergman, of Phoenix, AZ; brother, Donald (JoAnne) McMillan, of Gardner; numerous nieces and nephews; two foster children, Ayden and Everett Lair and four legged companions, Nya and Logan.

Preceding him in death were his parents and beloved daughter, Angelina Marie Bergman (Braidwood's Olympian), who predeceased him August 17, 1993.

Visitation for Dean will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 12 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 6 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to any lung association of the donor's choice would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

# Illinois considers legalizing 'human composting'

While proponents say it's greener than traditional burial, critics doubt its dignity

BY ANDREW ADAMS  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

CHICAGO – Religious and environmental ideals are at odds for some in the ongoing debate around what to do with human remains.

A proposal at the Illinois Statehouse would legalize and regulate "natural organic reduction," a process in which human remains are rapidly decomposed into compost. The process is also known as human composting or terramation.

That process turns human remains into dirt over the course of several weeks. Companies that offer this service place a person's remains in a vessel with wood chips, straw and other organic material and heat it to accelerate the growth of microbes that break down the body. This is distinct from "natural burial," in which a body is buried with no casket or in a biodegradable container.

The measure, House Bill 3158, passed in the House Energy and Environment Committee on Tuesday on a 16-10 vote. It now goes to the House for consideration, although its sponsor, Representative Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, said an amendment to the bill is likely.

If lawmakers approve the proposal, Illinois would become the seventh state to legalize this process. Washington, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, California and New York have already

made the process legal, according to the human composting company Recompose.

Recompose pushed for the legalization of human composting in Washington. Its website notes that a body will stay in the vessel for four to seven weeks before the resulting soil is allowed to cure for two to six weeks. A person's loved ones are then left with approximately one cubic yard of soil.

"Natural organic reduction is, in fact, the most environmentally friendly death care option," Haley Morris, a representative of the human composting company Earth Funerals, said during the committee hearing.

"It's less resource intensive than any other option and it reduces carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 90 percent relative to traditional options," Morris added.

Representatives of several environmental groups around the state have also voiced their support of the bill in witness slips filed with the committee. These include the Illinois Environmental Council, the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club and Go Green Winnetka.

Cassidy filed an amendment on Wednesday altering some of the fee structures for licensing the practice and indicated in an interview that another forthcoming amendment will modify some of the regulations around testing the compost.

"This is about creating choices and options and in particular choices that are less harmful for the planet," Cassidy said.

Cassidy also said she updated her own will last year to include that she would like

her body to undergo the natural organic reduction process.

Notable among the bill's opponents is the Catholic Church. Daniel Welter, the recently retired chancellor of the Archdiocese of Chicago, spoke to lawmakers at the request of the Catholic Conference of Illinois on Tuesday.

"Turning the mortal remains of a human person into compost for the purpose of fertilization, as one would with vegetable trimmings or eggshells, degrades the human person and dishonors the life that was lived by that person," he said during the committee hearing.

Welter added that he and the church "oppose any tendency to minimize the dignity of a human being, even after death."

Representatives of the death care industry also oppose legalizing this process. LeNette Van Haverbeke, a representative of Illinois Cemetery and Funeral Home Association, told lawmakers that many in the field "oppose human composting as lacking the traditional dignity afforded to the dead."

Others in the field are not as critical. After a similar bill was met with opposition last year from the Illinois Funeral Directors Association, Cassidy met with representatives of the industry to craft new language regulating the vessels used in the process, professional licensing and soil testing among other elements of the bill.

"I'm not saying we're a proponent of it, but the sponsor did listen to us," said Margaret Vaughn of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association.

## Blood donors needed March 28 at USF

The University of St. Francis (USF) is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, March 28, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Assembly Hall Gymnasium at USF's St. Clare Campus, which is located at 1550 Plainfield Road in Joliet.

For an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter "60435" in the red "Find a Blood Drive" box on the home page.

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass. Visit

[redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) for more information.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

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# Talk about the de-extinction movement and bringing back certain species

## EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What's new with the de-extinction movement that's trying to bring back extinct wildlife species?

-- P.L., Danbury, CT

De-extinction, the concept of resurrecting extinct species, has long been a topic of debate among scientists and the general public. In recent years, scientific advances have made it more feasible to bring back extinct species, leading to a renewed interest in doing so.

The non-profit Revive & Restore was created in 2012 by Stewart Brand (founder of the Whole Earth Catalog) and Ryan Phelan to help usher in a new age of conservation based on the implementation of de-extinction strategies.

One of the most significant developments has been the successful cloning of extinct species, such as the Pyrenean ibex and the bucardo, both wild goat species.

In 2009, scientists successfully cloned a Pyrenean ibex, but the newborn goat died shortly after birth due to respiratory failure. In 2021, researchers successfully cloned a black-footed ferret, an endangered species that was declared extinct in 1979.

The cloned ferret, named Elizabeth Ann, was born in a lab and has since been released into the wild to help boost the population of the species.

Another development has been the use of genetic engineering to recreate extinct species. Scientists can extract DNA from fossils, museum specimens or frozen tissue samples and use it to create an embryo of the extinct species.

In 2013, scientists success-



THE BIRTH OF this black-footed ferret named Elizabeth Ann on December 10, 2020 marked the first time a U.S. endangered species has been successfully cloned.

fully created a hybrid elephant-mammoth embryo using DNA from a woolly mammoth and an Asian elephant. The embryo was not brought to term, but the research demonstrates the possibility of using genetic engineering to create extinct species.

The de-extinction movement is not without its critics, however. Many argue that the focus on de-extinction takes resources and attention away from conservation efforts aimed at protecting and preserving endangered species.

Others worry about the ecological implications of reintroducing extinct species to the environment. The ecosystem may have changed since the species went extinct, and reintroducing them could have unintended consequences, such as disrupting existing relationships between organisms and the environment or spreading disease.

Despite these concerns, the de-extinction movement continues to move forward. The for-profit Colossal Biosciences has raised \$225 million over four rounds of venture capital investment to fund its efforts to bring back Dodo birds, Tasmanian tigers and woolly mammoths,

among other extinct species, using genetic engineering.

In the case of the mammoth, the company is working on the creation of an elephant-mammoth hybrid embryo that could be carried to term by an elephant surrogate.

The researchers hope to release these Frankenstein mammoths into the wild in the Arctic tundra, where they would help restore the ecosystem by grazing on the grasslands and helping to prevent permafrost from melting.

There are many challenges that must be overcome before extinct species can be successfully brought back. In numbers.

However, advances in genetic engineering and cloning technologies have made it increasingly feasible to resurrect extinct species, and the possibility of bringing back species such as the woolly mammoth has captured the public's imagination.

As the de-extinction movement continues to evolve, it will be important to balance the potential benefits with the ecological and ethical considerations involved.

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

# Trout season opens April 1

The 2023 Illinois Spring Trout fishing season is coming to three area locations starting Saturday, April 1.

Bird Park Quarry in Kankakee, Rock Creek in Kankakee River State Park and Lake Milliken in the Des Plaines Conservation Area, Wilmington will all be stocked with rainbow trout.

Rock Creek will open for catch and release-only fishing on March 18. On April 1 trout may be kept to eat.

Anglers will need both a fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp to participate, unless they are under the age of 16, blind, disabled or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces.

Licenses and trout stamps are available for purchase on the Illinois Department of Resources (IDNR) website and at DNR Direct license and permit locations, including Angelo's Outdoor Sports in Wilmington.

The trout fishing at Milliken Lake is allowed at 5 a.m. on April 1. Anyone attempting to take trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

The IDNR stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year, with 58 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state being stocked for the spring season, and an additional 80,000 trout stocked for the fall season.

For more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, check the website at [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org).

For more information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the opening date.

The state reminds sportsmen that new licenses are required April 1 for the 2023 year.

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# Morris Hospital urges Medicaid participants to prepare for upcoming renewal

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers is reminding residents currently enrolled in the Medicaid program to make sure their address is up-to-date with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) as the federal Public Health Emergency and State of Illinois Disaster Proclamation related to the COVID pandemic come to a close on May 11, 2023.

HFS will soon begin the process of re-evaluating eligi-

bility for almost 4 million Illinoisans currently enrolled in the Medicaid program. This will involve sending a renewal form to Medicaid participants that is critical to continued Medicaid enrollment.

"For everyone currently enrolled in Medicaid, it is imperative that HFS has your current file on address so that you can receive this important paperwork about your Medicaid healthcare insurance," said Alex Blumenshine, Director of Patient Financial

Services at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "If HFS doesn't have your correct address, they won't be able to send the form to you, and you could risk losing your Medicaid health insurance."

In addition to making sure their address is up-to-date with Medicaid, officials at Morris Hospital say it will be imperative over the coming months for Medicaid participants to watch their mail for their renewal notice so they can be sure to complete and submit it.

According to HFS, renewal forms will be sent about one month before they are due. Those who don't submit their renewal or no longer qualify for Medicaid could lose their coverage one month after their renewal date.

Update your address with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services by calling 877-805-5312, option 8, or by visiting [medicaid.illinois.gov](http://medicaid.illinois.gov).

# The Forest Preserve to host March 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.

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## Drawing by Henry Lewis

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**779-264-4973**  
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**\$ 50.00 for truck vendors**







# Study compares cost of buying vs. building home in Illinois

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
THE CENTER SQUARE

With low inventories still plaguing the housing market in Illinois, a new study looks at whether it is more cost effective to build a home.

The website StorageCafe compared the total building costs including the land and the median single family home listing price.

Doug Ressler, manager of Business Intelligence with parent company Yardi Matrix, said even though existing home prices have jumped over the past couple years, building costs have as well.

"Total building costs in Sangamon County was roughly \$476k, \$453k in Kankakee, Cook County

\$510k, as opposed to a median single family home listing price in Cook County was \$319k, so the obvious advantage was to look at buying a home as opposed to building," Ressler said.

It is estimated that building a home in DuPage County will set you back about \$550,000, the highest in the state.

Illinois is one of the states that favors buying the most with no less than \$166,000 that can be saved on average if one chooses to buy a home rather than build one, the third highest total in the country.

The study shows the total building costs of a new property would cost about \$461,000, while the median single-family home list price

was \$295,000. With a median land price per acre of \$91,000 and a median lot size of 0.25 acres, it would cost around \$23,000 for land and \$396,000 for construction in Illinois.

Ressler said one factor driving up building costs is the price of concrete in the Midwest because of a lack of fly ash.

"The ash is usually received from coal-fired generation plants," said Ressler. "The coal-fire generation plants are being reduced because of the EPA guidelines for pollutants."

In only 18 states is it cheaper to build than to buy, including in Hawaii, where building a new home is nearly \$500,000 cheaper than buying an existing home.

# New EPA regulations for safe water expected to cost cities billions

BY ZETA CROSS  
THE CENTER SQUARE

For the first time in 26 years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued new guidelines for drinking water safety. Municipal utilities will be required to install expensive filtration systems to lower the amount of PFAS in water supplies.

PFAS and PFOS are a class of 14,000 chemicals that contaminate the drinking water of more than 200 million Americans. The chemicals are used in a wide variety of products, from non-stick pans and stain-resistant treatments for clothing and furniture to semiconductor coatings and firefighting foam.

Iyala Simba, city programs director at the Illinois Environmental Council, says PFAS are miniscule chemical compounds that are impossible to see and impossible to avoid.

"Food wrappers and pizza boxes contain PFAS to make them grease-proof," she told The Center Square.

The Illinois Environmental Council successfully lobbied for the gradual phase out of firefighting foam, which contains heavy concentrations of PFAS. The chemical compounds

are known as "forever chemicals" because they never break down. PFAS are linked to cancer, kidney disease, liver problems and birth defects.

"This is an issue that we are going to be dealing with for decades, if not hundreds of years because of how these chemicals are set up. They are not meant to break down," Simba said.

In 2021, Illinois received millions of federal dollars to mitigate PFAS contamination. The new EPA drinking water guidelines are expected to cost Illinois municipalities billions.

Municipalities are expected to initiate lawsuits against PFAS producers, including the U.S. military, which uses firefighting foam at airports and training facilities, and chemical companies DuPont, Chemours and 3M, which use PFAS in hundreds of applications from non-stick cookware and rain gear to construction materials and packaging.

Previous guidelines for forever chemicals in drinking water were 70 parts per trillion. The EPA set 4 parts per trillion as the new guideline. Scientists say that 4ppt is a huge improvement, but they emphasize that no traceable level of forever chemicals in drinking water is "safe."

## Notice of Sheriff's Sale of 522 S. Kankakee Street

### PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF WILL ) SS.

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

Nationstar Mortgage LLC  
Plaintiff,

vs.

Mary N. Stanley; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants;  
Defendant. No. 22 FC 0389

#### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 29th day of December, 2022, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 13th 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: LOT 1, IN BLOCK 21, IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON (FORMERLY WINCHESTER), A SUBDIVISION BEING IN SECTIONS 25 AND 36, IN TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, AND IN RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 16, 1836, IN BOOK A, PAGES 71 AND 72, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 522 South Kankakee Street, Wilmington, IL 60481  
Description of Improvements: single family residential  
P.I.N.: 03-17-36-113-009-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

THE WIRBICKI LAW GROUP

33 W. Monroe St. Suite 1540

Chicago, Illinois 60603

P: 312-360-9455

F:

Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY

Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 22, 29 and April 5, 2023.

## Notice of Sheriff's Sale of 404 N. Outer Dr.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF WILL ) SS.

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

Nationstar Mortgage LLC  
Plaintiff,

vs.

Ryan L. Zelek; et. al.  
Defendant.

No. 22 FC 1131

#### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 22nd 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: LOT 16, IN NORTHCREST, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, IN TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH AND IN RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 18, 1949, IN PLAT BOOK 27, PAGE 1, AS DOCUMENT NO. 646750, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 404 N Outer Dr, Wilmington, IL 60481

Description of Improvements: Single Family Home

P.I.N.: 03-17-25-103-029-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Codilis & Associates, P.C.

15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100

Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

P: 630-794-5300

F: 630-794-9090

Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY

Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 15, 22 and 29, 2023.

## Notice of Sheriff's Sale of 306 S. Outer Dr.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
COUNTY OF WILL ) SS.

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

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff,

vs.

JULIE WHITMER; CITY OF WILMINGTON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant.

No. 22 FC 0498

#### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 10th day of February, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 30th day of March, 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: LOT 70, EXCEPT THAT PART LYING WEST OF A LINE BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 41.87 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 CORNER OF SAID LOT AND RUNNING NORTHEASTERLY TO A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE WHICH IS 42.98 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT, IN NORTHCREST, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 25, IN TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, AND IN RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 18, 1948, IN PLAT BOOK 27, PAGE 1 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 646750, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE SOURCE MATERIAL BENEATH THE SURFACE TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Commonly known as: 306 S OUTER DR., WILMINGTON, IL 60481

Description of Improvements: Single Family Residence

P.I.N.: 03-17-25-104-021-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY

Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 8, 15 and 22, 2023.

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**815-263-5990**





# Comets sprinting into a new season



COMPETING IN THE 60 meter hurdles is Makenna Learned from Reed-Custer during Tuesday's meet at home inside the field house. Photo by Zandie Sims



RUNNING THE 100 METER dash is Comet senior Drew Anderson on Tuesday. The Comets' next meet will be the Prep Top Times meet on Friday at IWU. On April 4 they travel to Coal City for the first outdoor meet of the season also against Wilmington. Photo by Zandie Sims



DOMINIC ALAIMO (left) from Reed-Custer races Herscher in the 100 meter dash during Tuesday's meet in the fieldhouse. Photo by Zandie Sims

# Lady Comets kick-off a new year



KICKING THE BALL to her teammate is Gwendolynn Stewart. Gwendolynn made one goal leading to the comets victory against Plano. Photo by Zandie Sims



NATALIE FLORES kicks the ball in the opposite direction for the Lady Comets on Monday. This is the first season for the Lady Comets to be playing on the turf field also used for football. Photo by Zandie Sims



TRYING TO GET THE BALL away from Plano is Laci Newbrough playing at home on Monday. The Comets next game will be at home on Thursday against Beecher. Photo by Zandie Sims

freepressnewspapers.com



JOSEPH STELLANO pitches three innings to GSW on Monday's game at home taking the win 13-0. Photo by Zandie Sims

# How about a no-hitter for starters

The Comets opened the season at home Monday with a 13-0 victory over Gardner-South Wilmington. Pitchers Joe Stellano and Ethan Slager teamed up to throw a combined no-hitter. Stellano struck out six batters in three innings of work, while Slager fanned one over two innings. Reed-Custer scored two runs their first turn at bat and added seven more in the second as they finished with 12 hits overall. After five innings and a 13-0 lead, the game was called. Stellano doubled and sin-



ROUNDING THIRD base is Reed-Custer's Kyle Fordonski who made it home twice during Monday's game. Phot by Zandie Sims

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