







DOUG MONEY

Commissioner of Public Property WARREN WIETTING



# OD IOURNAL!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

## Ultimate Rides set for summer grand opening in Braidwood

BY MARNEY SIMON **EDITOR** 

cially in sight.

Two and a half years after plans to move Ultimate Rides from its Coal City location to Hickory Street in Braidwood, an end date is offi-

This week, city leaders from Braidwood and the owners of Ultimate Rides held a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony for the new dealership, with plans for the building to start going up over the next few weeks. Plans for the site include 11 bays on the north side of the building, as well as a vehicle display berm visi-

The shell of the building will be put up in about two weeks," Ultimate Rides owner Nick Bulanda said. "They're going to start on it and by the end of April the whole shell should be done. We're hoping to be open and operational by mid- to late-summer."

The specialty car dealership applied for their building permit last month. Retention and infrastructure work, as well as site grading, began last year.

Bulanda said that much like other busi-

nesses, construction of the new site was delayed thanks to the pandemic.

Covid is the main reason," Bulanda said of the delay. "We really wanted to put the building up back when we got the property, but all of the bids that we received increased by about 30-40% when Covid came around. So, right when we were ready to start, everything went up almost double for material costs, and about a third in labor costs. So it just was beyond our reach to be able to afford it.

Ultimate Rides currently makes its home in Coal City, where they made about \$8.5 million in sales in 2022. The company unusually only keeps an inventory of 40 to 50 vehicles at a time, but plans to increase that inventory once in the Braidwood location

'Our anticipated revenue here will be \$12-14 million because we're going to have more room, so we're going to be able to hold double the inventory," Bulanda said. The company owns the location in Coal

City, and Bulanda said they plan to hold on to

SEE RIDES, PAGE 2



THE NEW BUILDING FOR ULTIMATE Rides in Braidwood is expected to start going up over the next few weeks. A ceremonial groundbreaking was held for the new dealership on Hickory Street on Monday, March 20. Present were (from left) Reed Township Trustee Adam Beaty, Ultimate Rides employee AJ Miller, Ultimate Rides owner Nick Bulanda, Finance Commissioner Doug Money, Mayor Bob Jones, Police Chief Todd Lyons, Public Property Commissioner Warren Wietting, and City Administrator Tony Altiery.

### Sprouting an Idea: A Seed Library

STAFF REPORT

New ideas are taking root at Fossil Ridge Public Library

Patrons can now add vegetable, fruit, and herb seeds to their list of checkouts.

"The library is comprised of life-long learners and we want to provide our patrons with new opportunities and experiences to grow," said Katelynn Clark, Adult and Teen Librarian and coordinator of the project.

This project grew with a lot of help from the communi-

Clark reached out to the local Town and Country 4-H Club in Essex, to help build and paint the structure with professional supervision.

"The kids had a blast choosing the materials, painting and designing the little seed library and even donating the first seed packets. It was amazing to see a young group of kids come together to build something which will help so many others," Clark

The seed library is designed to encourage gardening and provide the community with the ability to grow their own food. All library dis-

SE SEED, PAGE 2

### Three cheers for Thin Mints



TIME TO GRAB A BOX of everyone's favorite cookies! Local Girl Scouts are once again working on their marketing skills with this year's annual Girl Scout Cookie sales. Fifth graders Kayla Condreay, 11, from Reed-Custer, and Payden Backhoff, 10, from Stevens Intermediate School, sold cookies in front of Casey's on March 15 for Braidwood Troop 75650. Annual Girl Scout Cookie sales proceeds stay local. Through these funds, Girl Scouts across the country can pay for experiences such as camp, field trips, and community service projects. Find out more about scouting at girlscouts.org.

### School, community signs defaced in Wilmington, Braidwood, Coal City

STAFF REPORT

Local police agencies are combining efforts to find out who is responsible for spray painting crude words and anatomical images on public property.

The motive for the damage is unclear, but someone with a can of spray paint left their mark on signs across multiple towns. Given the quality of graffiti, it was not the work of a professional artist.

The Wilmington Police person responsible for the Department posted an alert regarding the vandalism to

their Facebook page on March 17. According to that post, criminal defacement took place at Wilmington High School between 1:15 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. on Friday.

The damage Wilmington was discovered on the electronic events sign at Kahler Road and Wildcat Drive, as well as a historic limestone engraved sign that is located on the high school

campus. According to reports, the

SEE VANDALS, PAGE 2

### Will County transit options could include expanded services

BY MARNEY SIMON

There are few options for folks who live in southern Will County if they need a ride to the store, the doctor's office, or anywhere around town.

But Wilmington City Administrator Jeannine Smith said discussions were in the preliminary stage to expand the county's dial-a-ride program, with potential for local towns to be added to the list.

bility during the March 14 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole, after what she

Smith discussed the possi-

**SEE TRANSIT, PAGE 2** 











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.

price included That \$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



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 side, including business 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

Surface, Inc.—the parent company of Ultimate Ridespaid 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

"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 pick-up 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 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

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 digitial sign in front of the high school was vandalized with foul language, which was quickly addressed by crews.

Braidwood 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-

### 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 Braidwood

to rides in town, the service can take riders to Morris, Joliet, or Bourbonnais. But while that program

Wilmington, and in addition

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 pro-

gram 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.

dial-a-ride program to southern Will County could also help in creating a service to allow transportation options for workers in local warehous-

Smith said expanding

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.

#### Seed trict 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 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 dona-

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.

#### efforts in initiating a collaboration between Town and Country 4-Hers and the Fossil Ridge Public Library.

tion of building materials, and

a special thank you to Judge

Mary Kay O'Brien for her

### Fossil Ridge Public Library District News and Events

consists of therapeutic Tai Chi chair exercises, full body stretching, and a basic 9

Tai Chi, 3:45-4:45 p.m. every Tuesday. gram is designed to assist households options for protecting your identity Designed for all fitness levels. This class with low incomes to help, through finan-online?

cial aid, meet their energy needs. March 28-Identity Theft and form Tai Chi set-all with focus on balance Protection, 6-7 p.m. With technology grams. For more information call 815-458-

March 24-LIHEAP, 1-3 p.m. This pro- to keep up. Are you up to date on the best

Registration is required for all proand mobility with time for contemplation. advancing so fast it's often times difficult 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 STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF WILL

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

William S. Allen; et. al. No. 22 FC 1024

M&T Bank

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 THE EAST LINE OF THE LAND CONVEYED BY DOCUMENT NOS. R7/-32088 AND R84-8808; SAID TRACT DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THAT PART OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7 IN THE CHICAGO, WILMINGTON AND VERMILLION COAL COMPANY'S RESUBDIVISION OF LOTS 6 AND 7, IN BLOCK 15, IN THE CHICAGO AND WILMINGTON COAL COMPANY'S SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTH HALF OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT OF SAID RESUBDIVISION RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4 (PART 1), PAGE 24 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO WIT: COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 1, SE SEET WEST OF THE NORTHLEAST COB 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 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, EVECTIVE THE SUBSTACE. EXCEPTING THEREFROM COAL AND OTHER MINERALS BENEATH THE SURFACE THEREOF AN ALSO EXCEPTING ALL MINING RIGHTS PERTAINING THERETO, IN

WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Commonly known as: 265 E 1St Street, Braidwood, IL 60408
Description of Improvements: Residential
P.I.N.: 02-24-08-405-034-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residen-tial real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment credi-tor, 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

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

MIKE KELLEY F: 630-794-9090 iff's Attorney
Sheriff of Will County
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, March 15, 22 and 29, 2023. Plaintiff's Attorn

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

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,

Kristina Khachatryan petitions for name change

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

WELF IN 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. KRISTINA MOULE 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 Khachatrvan

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

www.edwardjones.com

Life doesn't stop changing. Let's partner so you can enjoy all of it.



Dean A Shepherd, AAMS® Financial Advisor 311 W Baltimore St

Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-6856

Edward **Jones**°

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. 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,



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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?

here, but before you leave "Time the Was" school, there is the dreaded pop quiz. Scoring: 1 - 2

right, you are a really bad guesser, - 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.

The definition of a

A. an event held to raise

Spring break is almost money for a particular cause B. a gathering of friends to

Sandy Vasko

greet the new people on the block C. a party given at a private home to which exclusive guests are invited D. a gam-

2. The first baseball team in Braidwood was named:

bling party

A. The Dead Heads B. The Comets

C. The Black Diamonds

coal company: A. Diamond

were held is:

B. Coal City

C. Braidwood D. Carbon Hill

D. The Young Tigers

place where those arrested

A. The jailhouse

B. The penitentiary

C. The calaboose

3. The name for the local

d. The adult detention

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

4. The following town was been falsely accused of what NOT laid out and platted by a crime? A. Espionage

B. Body Snatching C. Being a member of a

terrorist group D. Lying about his source

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

A. 20

B. 5 C. 50

8. Custer Park became a 6. Henri Le Caron has well known place for shipping what commodity?

A. Coal

B. Wheat C. Prairie chickens

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**

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 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

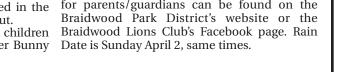
• 4-6 years at the north boys baseball field. If necessary, one parent or guardian may walk with the child as the children pick up the eggs. 7-9 years at the south girls softball field.
 Parents/guardians will NOT be allowed in the

grass area where the eggs are spread out. Treat bags will be given out for all children (while supplies last). Mr. & Mrs. Easter Bunny

The Braidwood Park District's Annual 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

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



### Wilmington to add user fees for firing range

BY MARNEY SIMON

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

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.

### 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

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!

> 10' B' D 9. B 8. D 7. D 6. B 5. A, C ₫. C 3. C 5. B I' Y' B' C' D

"We're up to 94 days out of the expected to approve the fee year where outside agencies are coming in and using our facility. We're happy to have the committee with a status 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 Pedestrian/Suspicious Stop 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 out-

door range, it is covered and there is a portable toilet avail-

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, Channahon, Crestwood, and Braidwood, as well as the Illinois Secretary of State Police, the United States reports. 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 review/charges from the State's

The City Council was

this week, effective May 1.

Meanwhile, Zink provided report for the WPD for the month of February.

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

• 112 Business (Walk and Talk) Checks

• 8,076 Premise Checks checking cursory (officer checks of businesses after

Seven misdemeanor

and/or warrant arrests One felony arrest

77 written traffic cita-

tions (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 Additionally, 24 trucks

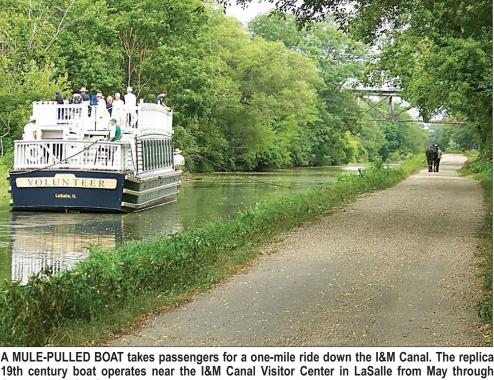
were weighed by officers based on a suspicion of being overweight, with seven trucks fined accordingly plus an additional speeding fine, for a total of

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

Closed 16 cases

Four cases are awaiting

Five new cases added



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 procla-mation 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

The I&M Canal opened in 1848 as a water highway

and transportation corridor. The canal does not conEast and Midwest to the

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. in 1984. Many of the canal towns nect Michigan and Illinois, were built specifically to declares April 2023 to April

ing up a waterway from the 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-

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

proclamation but rather, Lake Michigan support canal operations, as 2024 as the Year of the I&M and the Illinois River, open-segments needed to only be Canal.

Paid for by Chris Earley

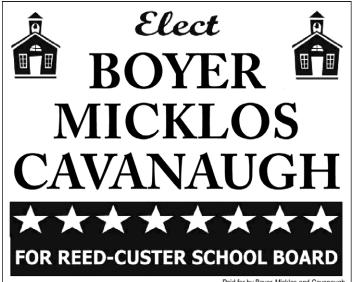
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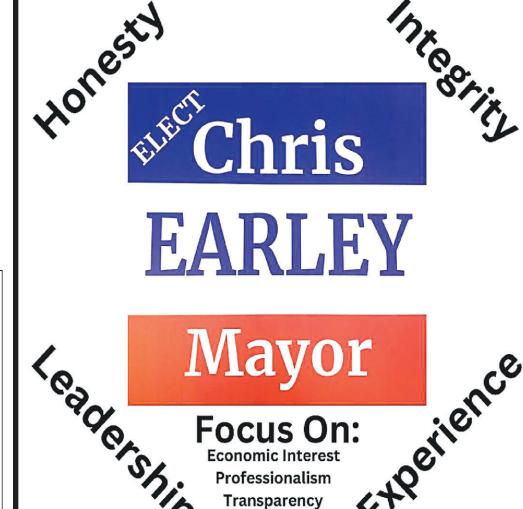
### Parade entries sought for Carbon Hill Homecoming

The village of Carbon Hill is gearing up for its 72nd annual Homecoming celebration and is inviting community businesses and organizations to be a part of its annual parade.

The parade will step off from the corner Rathburn [McArdle Road] and Carbon Hill Road at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 26. The parade is 10 blocks long traditionally lined with resi-

Parade applications are due by June 17 and can be obtained at the village hall or completed on-line though the link located on the village's new website at villageofcarbonhill-il.gov.





Communication

# Free Press Newspapers readers

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

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

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

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

N.C.A.A. Brackets

BANK BAILOUTS

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

(NEEDS CASH AND AID)

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

### 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

#### 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

### 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

#### 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 for-

### 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 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 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.

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

### 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

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

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.

### Not standing up

BRAIDWOOD—I think 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

### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Influential American political family
- Chantilly,
- 11. Within 12. Pleasure seekers
- 16. Computer manufacturer 17. Home to college sports'
- Flyers Fungal disease
- 19. Sleepwalk 24. Spielberg sci-fi film
- 25. Seasonable
- 26. Taxis 27. Radio direction
- finder (abbr.) 28. Thin, narrow piece of wood
- 29. "Mystic River" actor Sean
- 30. Ingenuous
- 31. Musical composition
- 33. Turkish surname
- 34. High or hilly area 38. Wilco frontman
- 40. Electric car company
- 45. Sign of healing
- 49. Boy 50. Protein-rich liquid
- 53. Individual portion of
- 54. Thought over
- 56. Scads
- 58. News agency
- 60. Deadlock
- 64. Removed

35. A low wall

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Large, dangerous animals 2. Straighten out
- 3. Family tree
- 5. European river fish 6. Cut down in size
- 10. Male parent
- 14. Demeaned oneself to
- 20. Yankovic is a "weird" one
- 22. Path
- 23. Airborne (abbr.)
- 30. Born of
- Large stinging paper wasp

7. Denotes past

- 8. Larry and Curly's partner 9. Samoyedic ethnic group
- 13. Specific gravity
- 15. Rigidly
- 21. Belonging to me
- 27. Level

32. Northeastern bank

- 29. Atomic #94
- 31. Midway between northeast and east

- 39. Pour it on pasta
- 43. Sea eagle
- 44. Walk with difficulty
- 51. Washington city
  - TV series (abbr.)
- 59. Standard
- 63. Pre-Columbian empire
- 65. French commune

- 33. Defunct airline 34. Having no purpose
- 36. Swedish city 37. Earn a perfect score
- 38. Atomic #81
- 40. Beginner 41. Give off
- 42. Incorrect letters 44. Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- 45. Idyllic 46. Popular beer 47. A way to fine
- 48. Evildoer 50. More withered
- 51. Seventh note of a major scale 52. Commercial 54. Abnormal breathing
- 55. Moved more quickly
- 57. City of Angels 61. Partner to Pa
- 62. Equally

### Pritzker touts higher education plan BY NIKA SCHOONOVER CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

most impor

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 Iunior College.

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

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 outof-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

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

allow most community college 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 short-

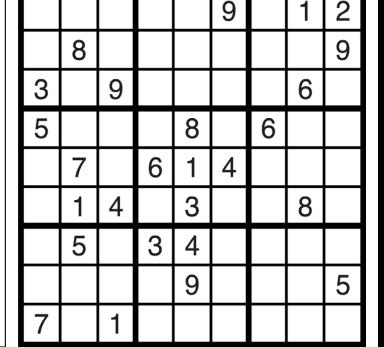
### Palm Sunday pancake breakfast

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-topeer payment apps, such as Venmo and PayPal. This can make it harder for scammers to take over your accounts.



# A big Thank You! to the staff at **Skinner Animal** Clinic!

From the Kuecher-Cockers

Browser, Karson & Toby

Fresh

## **Check Out These Fresh Deals From Berkot's!**



# If you enjoy Barcardi try this cocktail

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 Despite the influx of



**Brian Rung** 

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

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

in the rafters of the first distillery. It was

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

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

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 liter-

Colonial planters were swimming in the the famous cocktail. 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 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

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

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

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 ounces Bacardi Light Rum Add ounce

lime juice Àdd water ounce (optional)

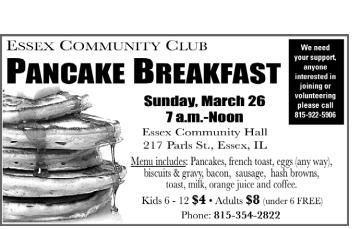
Garnish with maraschino cherry

Add 1/2 ounce grenadine Shake and strain into chilled cocktail glass Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



# Dr. William M. White New patients - Emergency visits welcome







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

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.

ence of \$1.69/g.The national average price of gasoline is

at Lorenzo Road and I-55 to petroleum \$3.61/g in Wilmington. Braidwood stations were posted in Coal City.

"The broad concern over The lowest price in the enough downward pressure on es in Arizona, and other marstate was \$3.10/g while the oil prices that we saw a kets saw varying impacts at the

A 16-gallon fillup would highest was \$4.79/g, a differ- reprieve in rising gasoline prices in the national average last week. But, it may be temporary in nature, and is unlike-Locally, prices varied on ly to be a long lasting trend," Monday from as low as \$3.29/g said Patrick De Haan, head of analysis

> "While California and around \$3.54/g, the same price areas of the West Coast saw some moderation in price, supply challenges amidst the recent failures of the U.S. and transition to summer gasoline global banking system has put have led to sharp price increas-

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 possi-

the last week and stands at \$4.25 per gallon.

of diesel has fallen 5.6 cents in

The national average price

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

launched the "Will County to support students seeking careers in teaching and nurs-

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 qualcareer 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.

Will County officially institution can receive \$2,500 ed by the COVID-19 panper semester or \$5,000 an Heroes" scholarship program academic year to support their pursuit of a teaching or nursing degree.

A key goal of the pro-

The County is investing gram is to incentivize teach-Rescue Plan (ARPA) dollars to grow their career in Will 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 ity education and long-term Silver Cross Hospital will act as the inaugural pipeline partners for nursing students. The Will County Economic Center for 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 profes-Eligible students at each sion, which were exacerbat-

demic.

Eligible students include those pursuing teacher certification for elementary education, special education, and secondary education. \$10 million in American ing and nursing graduates to along with students interested in becoming a Registered increase recruitment in these County. The program will Nurse, either through a high-demand fields and aim to create an active Bachelor of Science in incentivize future graduates pipeline to employers 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.willcountyillinois.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 Channahon.

This independent program is for guests with sensory-processing needs, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder. Buddy bags, noisecanceling 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



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on Select Mattresses

Showroom Open Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.



### 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 approxi mately \$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.

# Madigan, ComEd's patronage history on trial

ComEd has long been a source of political patronage. The compa-Deferred Prosecution Agreement with federal prosecutors even references how former House Speaker Michael Madigan's "old-fashioned patronage system' obtained ComEd meter reader jobs

for its precinct workers. Madigan's wasn't the only patronage network to do this. It was a widespread practice and, as old-timers tell it, became even more important Mayor Washington, Chicago's first Black mayor, cut some prominent White politicians out of

the city's patronage spoils. Madigan came up through a city ward system that was fed by patronage. But his people would always say that because he started his career as an employee of the Illinois Commerce Commission, he didn't much care for utility companies. So, when ComEd did things like fire a bunch of his Statehouse lobbyist allies during a 2007 battle with Senate President Emil Jones and Gov. Rod Blagojevich, he liked them even less.

After Blagojevich and Jones departed the scene, Madigan was left as the unrivaled Statehouse king. ComEd bent over backward to get into his good graces and Madigan seemed, at least from a dis-



Madigan's members complained at the time that the company's services had deteriorated and that ComEd wasn't respecting them when they complained. Madigan couldn't have squeezed company if his

members loved ComEd. The company eventually got much of what it wanted, but it always had to jump through Madigan's many hoops, even more so than other interests did. Eventually, those hoops included things like funding no-show contracts for Madigan cronies through various folks in Madigan's cir-

ComEd wasn't alone, of course. Madigan's crew put the arm on plenty of special interests. He would often bring hand-written lists of people he wanted taken care of to his Madigan's demands became meetings with governors. He was running a small army, and his soldiers required suste-

ComEd stood out partly because it often needed things, and because of its patronage history and because it had so many jobs and so much money for contracts. It was the old Willie Sutton story. When the notorious criminal was asked why he robbed banks, he reportedly said, "Because that's where the money is.'

And Madigan's top lieu-It tenant Mike McClain made sure ComEd's key executives own never forgot that Madigan could turn on them at any moment and the company would go right back into the penalty box. They complied mainly because they didn't want any trouble, and when that compliance led to legislative successes, that, in turn, helped their own careers.

It was likely no accident that, after working closely with Madigan and McClain, ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore was being paid \$2.7 million a year, according to Crain's Chicago Business. Pramaggiore is now on trial in the "ComEd 4" bribery case, along with McClain and lobbyists Jay Doherty and John Hooker, a former ComEd official.

The federal government claims that their behavior crossed numerous boundaries. The defendants claim, in part, that this was simply the way things were always done.

But times changed, and ever-more voracious while the feds were listening in. It was almost like making a U-Turn in front of a police squad car. They're gonna get you for that.

If McClain had any doubt that the feds were looking at both him and Madigan, it should've been confirmed when he decided to cooperate with their investigation into a fraudulent scheme involving a federal immigration program that granted visas to millionaire foreign investors. The feds

instance, why he used code words when speaking or writing emails about Madigan. 'McClain admitteď that he

'referred to Madigan as 'our friend' in e-mails and in public conversations because people might be listening to or reading McClain's conversations,' the government claimed in a court filing last month. The defendants also claim

that the federal government essentially shoe-horned whatever they found into a vast criminal conspiracy case. They saw what they wanted to see, McClain's défense attorney Patrick Cotter told jurors.

But the prosecution claims that Madigan could kill any bill he wanted to kill. So, Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Streicker told jurors last week, according to the Chicago Tribune, "The defendants

asked him at the time, for bribed him, and they did so by paying Madigan's associates through jobs and contracts at

And he did indeed get a com.

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







**Gerald Gresham** 863 Center Ct., Unit B Shorewood, IL 60404 teamgresham@amfam.com Email: ggresham@amfam.com





### Boating safety course to start April 12 in Bradley

Maximize boating enjoyment with expert instruction from America's Boating Club (the United States Power Squadrons). class begins The

Wednesday April 12 at the North Extension Center of Kankakee Community College (KCC) in Bradley.

You'll gain the skills to make your boating adventures safer and more rewarding. You may also get a reduction in your boat insurance costs.

Those who complete the course will receive a certificate and card required by many states to operate a power boat. This course meets the educational requirements for Illinois boaters born after Jan 1, 1998 to operate a craft with an engine over 10 h.p.

Boating America's Course® (ABC) covers safety equipment (including the new life jacket labels and new the fire extinguisher requirements) navigation aids, light and sound signals, anchoring, ture to attend.

communications afloat, handling adverse conditions, water sports safety, trailering, personal water craft safety, federal and state regulations, as well as knots and

Register using the form in the KCC catalog or on-line at https://www.enrole.com/kcc/j sp/course.jsp?categoryId=BF7 5E808&courseId=SAFE-9001

The ABC class is recognized by the US Coast Guard. It is taught by certified United Power Squadrons instructors.

The class is from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. on five successive Wednesday Students should come at 6:15 p.m. the first night to receive

Costs: \$12 to KCC; in addition, the materials cost \$55 (pay the instructor at the first class). However, members of the same household may share materials for \$10 per person. Minors need parental signa-

### Rain barrel, compost bins to be available in Wilmington

Will County is teaming up The Conservation Foundation to offer compost bins and rain barrels this

Order them on-line by April 30 and pick them up in Wilmington on Saturday, May

A rain barrel will capture 70-90% of a typical rain fall, allowing some overflow to cascade across your lawn to storm drains in the street or swales in some subdivisions.

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

To place an order go to the event calendar at willcountygreen.com

### 2,100+ WINNERS SHARING CHECK-IN IN CASH & PRIZES **CHECK-IN TO WIN AT** Wee-Sip Liquors 1099 S. Water St., Wilmington We'll help you sign up for players rewards on our new kiosk! **\$1 million** scratch off Lottery Ticket sold here in December! **SCAN TO DOWNLOAD** THE AE PLAYER APP TO CHECK IN AND VIEW THIS MONTH'S PRIZES!

### New law would ban Zooming while driving

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias will prohibit the use of Zoom calls while driv-

As more people have begun working from home since the pandemic, the popularity of applications like Zoom, FaceTime, Teams and WebEx has grown substantially, leading many motorists to conduct videoconference calls from their driver's seat.

"We need to take steps to change the culture surrounding distracted driving, which will lead to more responsible drivers and ultimately save

lives," Giannoulias said.
"Zooming takes hands, eyes and minds off the focus of driving. Our goal is that a combination of increased education, stronger laws and tougher enforcement encourage drivers to change

bad behaviors for the better.' House Bill 2431 would make it illegal to use a cell phone or other device to watch

### First Presbyterian Church to host annual Spring scrap-a-thon

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood will be holding a Spring Scrap-A-Thon on Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For just \$40 you can have fun filled day of scrapping, door prizes, raffles and food. To reserve your spot please call or text Elizabeth Bell at 1-405-820-5944.

A new proposal from or participate in video confer- only if they use a hands-free encing, streaming videos or device and if its video is turned accessing any social media off.

> videos or are otherwise engaged in distracted driving pose a serious threat to other drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, first responders and construction workers.

Under the proposal, license suspension. motorists would still be able to Last year, 12,7 participate in video confer- were convicted of distracted ence calls while driving but driving.

Violating the law would Drivers who Zoom, watch result in a moving violation ticket and a maximum fine of \$75, \$100 on the second offense, \$125 on the third offense and \$150 for all future offenses. Three moving violations in a year will result in a

Last year, 12,700 drivers



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### Ronald Gabriel \_\_\_\_

ELWOOD—Ronald Gabriel, 70, of Elwood, passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 at Lightways Hospice

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-inlaw, Jerry and Shelley Gabriel, of Joliet; nephew, James Řex Gabriel (Amber Marie Hubner); great-niece, Aurora Skye Gabriel and greatnephew, 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 to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Ron's memorial page online through social

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 Ŵednesday, March 15, 2023 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center

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

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 fol-

Memorial donations to the family would be

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

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

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 Ö'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 Doni

ents, 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 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.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory,

401 E. Main St., Braidwood, was entrusted with the arrangements.

### 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.

1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733or visit redcross blood.org and enter "60435" in the red "Find a Blood Drive" box on the home page.

You can save up to 15 blood by using RapidPass. Visit component.

For an appointment, call 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 minutes when you donate commonly transfused blood

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### **Donald Russell**

WILMINGTON—Donald 86, Allan Russell, 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 dis-

Ŏn 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 for-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.

(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 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

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

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 to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Don's memorial page online through social Funeral services and arrangements have

Survivors include two sons, Stephen been made under the direction and care of (Michelle) Russell, of Coal City and Brian 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

He was one of the earliest members of the Braidwood Recreational Club, lifetime member of the Sho-go-tae Academy, and was an avid donator 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 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 serv-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.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on

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

### 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.

Illinois would proposal, become the seventh state to process. this Washington, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, California updated her own will last year and New York have already to include that she would like

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

"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, Moris 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

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

Cassidy also said she

made the process legal, 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 rep-Illinois resentative of 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 process, professional licensing and soil testing among other elements of the

"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.

### THANK YOU FOR READING Local journalism can't survive without readers

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



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 deextinction 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 respifailure. In 2021, ratory 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

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-



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

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. 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 woolly mammoths.

among other extinct species, using genetic engineering.

In the case of the mammoth, the company is working on the creation of an elephantmammoth 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

However, advances in genetic engineering cloning technologies 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 continues movement 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-

## 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

Rock Creek will open for catch and releaseonly fishing on March 18. On April 1 trout may

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

For more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, check the website at www.ifishillinois.org.

trout stocked for the fall season.

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

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

Hospital Healthcare Centers is remindresidents 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.

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 their address is up-to-date imperative that HFS has your current file on address so that you can receive this important paperwork about Medicaid healthcare insur-HFS will soon begin the ance," said Alex Blumenshine, their renewal notice so they Director of Patient Financial

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

Services at Morris Hospital &

with Medicaid, officials at Morris Hospital say it will be imperative over the coming your months for Medicaid participants to watch their mail for

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 Illinois Department of Healthcare Family and Services by calling 877-805-5312, option 8, or by visiting medicaid.illinois. gov.

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



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

### **Drawing by Henry Lewis**



**Help us express kindness! Create!** 

### 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.

# THANK YOU



For building our homes, schools, hospitals and more by working hard every day

But don't forget about yourself.

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





207 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-7635

### REVITALIZING HUMANITY

Our Mission: We are committed to positively transforming neighborhoods and lives in Kankakee County, Illinois. Our mission is to enhance dignity and a quality of life, through the power of work and education to those while reaching their full potential and becoming responsible, productive and



### Join us in our fundraiser endeavor:

April 1, 2023 For a vendors pop up Ralph J Bailey Community Center 7219 East Chicago St.

Sunriver Terrace, IL 60964 A variety of vendors to choose from

- Food truck vendors
  - Free admission 9 AM to 5 PM
- Covid 19 Regulations (Mask Optional) For more information or to register contact:

**Anthia Winslow** 404-858-3233

FOOD TRUCK

Email:anthiawinslow@yahoo.com **Christine McCarty** 779-264-4973

Email:mccartylegacyfoundation@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to: The McCarty Legacy Foundation 875 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901

Cash App: \$McCartyLF \$ 40.00 for tables (1 table per inside vendor, minimum 12 feet) and \$ 50.00 for truck vendors

## CLASSIFIEDS

SHERIFF'S

### **CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**

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

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

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

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details. The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate

<u>Cost</u>

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30) 1 wk.- \$15; 2 wks.- \$19; 3 wks.- \$22; 4 wks.-\$25 \$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

reclining

kitchen

loveseat, gray, like new, \$250; solid oak

Keller Tressle dining ta-

ble with two leaves,

w/chairs, needs a little

Hall Rental - Available

for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100

full

available. If interested

call New Hope Presby-

TLC, \$400 obo.

meetings.

people.

815-476-2972. cr10-12

#### **APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

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

#### **FOR FREE**

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

#### **GARAGE SALE**

Braceville - Fri., March 24 & Sat.. March 25 8am-3pm at Braceville Methodist United Church, 106 W. Gould St., Braceville. No food. Funds will be used for Christmas Angels, ch12

#### **HELP WANTED**

Ridge Course is looking for part-time help, must be 21. Pick up an application in the Pro Shop 8am-12pm, 815-476-4000. cc12-15

hard working; honest with a positive attitude; cooks; drivers & bartenders. Apply at Rachetti's Cafe & zeria, 375 S. Broadway, Coal City. cc12-15

Office help needed at a local sportsmen's club. Seasonal part time Experience with hours. computers and knowledge of Excel and Access preferred. Please inquiries send wcsc1946@gmail.com cc2-13

Part Time office help. Saturday's required 50lbs. Apply in person at Culligan of Coal City, 75 W. Chestnut Coal City. cc12-15

The Coal City Public Li-

brary District is seeking part-time hours/week) Youth Services Librarian Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in the field of teaching or librarianship. Must be creative, service oriented have communication good skills with children and adults. Must be able to work evenings and Sat-Starting pay ur. Please urdays. \$18.90/hour. attach a resume to the application, which available at the library. ch12

(815)

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#### **HELP WANTED**

tion Club is hiring for the 2023 Season. Concession Stand - Must be at least 16 years old. hours Operating from Memorial weekend to Labor Dav. Open daily 10:30am to 6:00pm, 7 days per days week. Must be willing to work flexible hours and duties include stocking, cleaning, and customer service. Shifts will be approximately 5 hours each Custodians Must be at least 16 years old and be open to a flexible schedule. Certified Lifeguards All applicants must be and Lifequard Certified and be at least 16 years of age. Proof of certification must be provided at time of application. Gate Guards -Average 5 hour shifts. Applications can printed off the club

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

website (on Club Docu-

braidwoodrecclub.com

and emailed or picked

up at the office. Please

with

815-458-2150. ch9-12

page)

questions

ments

call

### **HOMES FOR RENT**

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

### **LOST & FOUND**

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

Lost - Female German Shepherd; 9 years old; black & tan. Lost near Dresden Power Plant on Feb. 25. Her name is Meeka and she is 815-942-9253 friendly.

ca12-13

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Braidwood Recrea-Day

terian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch FOR SALE Use Happy Jack® Skin Balm® on cats & dogs to treat hot spots & skin allergies without steroids! At Tractor Supply®

> Large Selection of Dog accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts. gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for cards Critters Pet Treats New! Brew and Chew Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Balti-

**PETS** 

#### **SERVICE &** REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing,

slewis@trinity-

services.org. ch22b-tfn

Wilmington.,

815-476-5104

re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. INSULATION. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roof-

ing. lic # 104.007296.

815-730-1303.

ck34-33

Mike

ck17b-16b Gas Fireplace Repair 40 years experience Licensed, insured & honded Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedan appointment. ule brands. Weekends available. Thank you.

#### **SERVICE & REPAIRS**

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

**GOT GRASS Lawn Care** Jim Baudino 815-342-6394 cc9-24

#### **SPORTING GOODS FIREARMS**

Beretta semi 3.75 inch barrel, 3 mag, black \$725: Ruger Lc9s 9mm 3.12 inch black semi. barrel, \$425. 815-838-9466.

#### **STORAGE**



**WANTED** 

### WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

99% Customer

**Satisfaction** 

Rating

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### OREGON GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS Oregon, IL Antique Show OVER 40 DEALERS FROM THE MIDWEST March 25th & 26th, 2023

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Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2022 By Grundy County Offices.

**SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT** 

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**CENTURY 21.** 

Entry \$6 • \$1 Discount for 1 person with this ad

BLACKHAWK CENTER 1101 W. Jefferson St., Oregon, IL 61061

Street, Braidwood, IL (Residential) the 6th day of April, to be held at 12:00 the Will County Court house Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under **Bank** Plaintiff V. William S. Allen; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1024 in the Circuit Court of the County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable the Sheriff of Will County In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS THIS dance with 735 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the

pay the assessments and legal fees required by sub-divisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, following application then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the procee ing 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 Informa-Codilis & Associates.

P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT ADVISED TH DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT-TO COLLECT A
AND ANY INFOR-MATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspa-pers on Wednesday, March 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

#### **REAL ESTATE**

than

ESTATE of 306 S R DR., WILMING-REAL ESTATI TON, IL 60481 Family Residence). (Single On the 30th day of March, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Court-house Annex, 57 N. Ot-tawa Street, Room 201, at the house Annes, tawa Street, Room tawa Street, Room taliet, IL 60432, under Title: LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Plaintiff V. JULIE WHITMER; CITY OF WILMINGTON; UNKNOWN OWN-CLAIMANTS; Defendant.
Case No. 22 FC 0498 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and 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 tial real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. the event up, condominium, in with 735 In the event the property is 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other

purchaser of the unit, other

than a mortgagee, shall

SALE

SHERIFF'S

mortgagee, shall the assessments and legal fees required by sub-divisions (g)(1) and (g)(4)of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact:

AN-SELMO LINDBERG OLIVER LLC. 1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120 P: 630-453-6960

NAPERVILLE, 60563 F: 630-428-4620

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

**REAL ESTATE** 

REAL ESTATE of 522 South Kankakee Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 (single family residential). of April 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff V. Mary N. Stanley; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants; Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 0389 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, the Iwelth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residen-tial 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) (H-2), 765 (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 of Section 9 and the asor 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 plus following application

SHERIFF'S

SALE

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 proceedamount 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 Informa-THE WIRBICKI LAW

33 W. Monroe St. Suite 1540 Chicago, Illinois 60603 P: 312-360-9455

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT-COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A
DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL
BE USED FOR THAT
PURPOSE. Published in
the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., March 22,
29 and April 5, 2023.

mortgagee acquiring tle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after con-

plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are ad-

#### **REAL ESTATE**

13TH JUDICIAL GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLI-THE COUNTY -NOIS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC

SHIRRFLL HALL et al

Defendant

2022 FC 59

NOTICE OF SALE **PUBLIC** NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause March 9, 2023, an Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on April 2023. at at the Courthouse, 111 the Grundy County Courthouse, 111
East Washington Street front door entrance, MOR-II 60450 sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below. the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1093 BLACK DIAMOND DR, COAL CITY, IL 60416 Index 23 The Property Inc 09-02-356-023 estate is improved with a 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to

The Judicial Sales Corpo-

checks will be accepted

No third party

The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the the residential real estate pur-suant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the resi-dential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, speassessments, or spe-taxes levied against said real estate and is of-fered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and withrecourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the pur-chaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will enti-

The property will NOT be open for inspection and

court file to verify all infor-mation. If this property is a condominium unit, the pur-chaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium erty Act, 765 605/18.5(q-1). IF 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO RE-IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN AC-CORDANCE WITH SEC-TION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE You will need a photo identification issued by a gov-ernment agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure For information, ex-the court file, COamine the court file, CO-DILIS & ASSOCIATES, DILIS P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDI-SALES CORPORA-One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

monished to check the

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at

www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending CODILIS & ASSOCIATES,

. . . . 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100

BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-06330 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2022 FC 59 TJSC#: 43-1050 NOTE Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act,

you are advised that Plain-tiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and information obtained will be used for that pur-Case # 2022 FC 59 I3216169 Published in the

Free Press Newspapers on Wed., March 22, 29 & April

### **REAL ESTATE**

SHERIFF'S legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the as-REAL ESTATE of 404 N Outer Dr, Wilmington, IL Family 60481 sessments required subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condo-On the 6th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, minium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff V. Ryan L. Zelek; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1131 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate purtion Please Contact: suant to its credit bid at the Codilis & Associates, sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the resi-15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 dential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is DEBT PRACTICES

plus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceed-ing 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 Informa-Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR

COLLECTION ACT YOU ADVISED LAW FI THAT ARE ARE ADVISED THAT
THIS LAW FIRM IS
DEEMED TO BE A DEBT
COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A
DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL
BE LISED FOR THAT

605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall PURPOSE. Published ... the Free Press Newspa-on Wednesday, pay the assessments and **Broadband** Connect Further, Faster.

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

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### 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 build-

ing a home in DuPage County will set you back about \$550,000, the highest in the 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

The study shows the total building costs of a new propwould 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

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 nonstick 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 STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF WILL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS Nationstar Mortgage LLC

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 single family residential 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

tal real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash of certified range 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

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

MIKE KELLEY

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 STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF WILL

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

Nationstar Mortgage LLC

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 residen tial real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds

payable to the Sheriff of Will 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

Plaintiffs Attorney
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 STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF WILL

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

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 NORTHEASTELY 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, II PLAT BOOK 27, PAGE 1 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 646750, EXCEPTING THERE FROM 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

PLN 103.17.25.104.21.0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twentyfour (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 plus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

ANSELMO LINDBERG OLIVER LLC.1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563 F: 630-428-4620

Plaintiff's Attorney Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 8, 15 and 22, 2023



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Janet Fisher-Schatz

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.

## **COMET SPORTS**

## 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.



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



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

### How about a no-hitter for starters

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 Reed-Custer scored two runs their first turn at bat and

hits overall. After five innings and a 13-

added seven more in the sec-

ond as they finished with 12

0 lead, the game was called. Stellano doubled and sin-

The Comets opened the gled for three RBIs while scoring two runs. Connor Esparza smacked a pair of doubles to finish 2-for-2 with two runs scored.

McPherson Jake Brady Tyree also had two hits each. Cameron Smith, Colin Esparza, Cole Goodwin, and Landon Jankus added a hit a

piece. The Comets will host Grant Park Thursday (weather permitting) and El Paso at 10 a.m. to noon for a double header. On Monday they travel to Herscher for the first conference game of the season.

## Lady Comets kick-off a new year





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



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.



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.

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