



Surviving the great horse plague

Lady Comets end losing streak



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A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Earley wins hotly contested mayoral race in Braidwood

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The City of Braidwood has a new City Council, with life long Braidwood resident Chris Earley winning the mayoral seat during Tuesday's election.

Earley defeated his challengers, current Finance Commissioner Doug Money and newcomer Matthew Beard, earning 626 votes. Votes for Money totaled 569, and Beard earned 62.

The total represents 1,257 votes cast for mayor on election day, April 4, as well as early voting results and mail in votes received prior to election day.

Earley is currently the President of the Braidwood Park District. He has previously worked for the city as an inspector and code enforcer, is a con-

tractor and retired Union carpenter, and is an active member of the Braidwood Lions Club.

Earley said one of his goals for the city includes economic development, and the potential to add an Economic Development director to city staff.

Earley also pledged transparency in his campaign, stating that copies of bills, paperwork, finances, ordinances, and status reports would be made public at City Council meetings and on the city's website.

Earley has balked at claims that he would replace Police Chief Todd Lyons or consider selling the city's water plant. Earley said rumors that he would do either began with statements he made during a meet the candidates night in March that were misconstrued, and once those

rumors hit social media they spread like wildfire.

"I already worked that out," Earley said in a phone call with the *Braidwood Journal* after the election. "Todd is staying and the wastewater plant is not for sale."

Earley said his initial statements were spun inappropriately. He said he always planned to retain Lyons, but said he didn't articulate his point as well as he could have during the first meet the candidates night. He said during a second night at Shadow Lakes, he reiterated that he planned to keep the chief.

When it comes to the wastewater plant, Earley said he had only stated the pros and cons from other municipalities that had sold off their plants.

"I'm a man of integrity and a man of honesty, and I'm going to protect



both of them," Earley said. "I had to make it clear, those two things got spun around. So I tried to make sure I cleared the air on that."

Earley also posted to his campaign's social media channels his

desire to keep Chief Lyons, and to address maintenance and upgrades both with city infrastructure and at the water and wastewater treatment plants.

Earley will be joined on the City Council by the four newly elected commissioners:

- Karen Hart, Finance
- Warren Wietting, Public Property
- James Mikel, Public Health & Safety
- Dale Walsh, Streets

In those individual commissioner races, Hart earned 64% of the vote over Sue Grygiel, Wietting earned 61% over Jeff Saltzman, and Walsh defeated Jim Vehrs with 68% of the votes. Mikel was unopposed.

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 2

A bright spot for the community



Photo by Marney Simon

THE MURAL AT 465 E. Reed Street is slowly starting to take shape. The mural was commissioned by the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC), whose offices are located at the site, and facing the BAHCC community garden. Coalition members said they hope both projects will progress now that spring weather seems to have officially arrived. Anyone wishing to help out with projects such as the community garden, including weeding, planting, upkeep, and harvesting, can contact the coalition at 390-5024. Harvests from the community garden are shared both with the Community Care Center pantry in Braidwood, as well as at the share station in front of the garden.

BAHCC members hope Narcan availability can help save lives

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

A life saving drug that can neutralize the effects of an opioid overdose will soon be available without a prescription.

Last month, the FDA approved Narcan (4 mg naloxone hydrochloride) nasal spray for over-the-counter nonpre-

scription use, the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription.

Sprayed into the nose, Narcan rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the standard treatment for opioid poisoning.

The approval means the medication can be sold direct-

SEE NARCAN, PAGE 2

Spring has sprung!



Photo by Marney Simon

SPRING ARRIVED IN A hurry over the past few days, with local temperatures into the low 70s just in time for Easter Sunday. As usual, the season arrives from the ground up. At Old Smokey City Park, the daffodils are in bloom at the Butterfly Garden along the entrance at Third Street. But as is Mother Nature's modus operandi in Spring in the Midwest, don't put those jackets and coats away just yet. According to the National Weather Service, the summery temperatures will stick around until Saturday, when a cold front is expected to bring rain and cooler temperatures, with highs in the mid-50s expected early next week. Temperatures are expected to warm up back into the mid- to upper-60s by the end of next week.



Local pantries are here to help

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

There's no such thing as a season of need.

Local food pantries have been working hard to get the word out that food and supplies are available at their doors, as thousands of residents of the State of Illinois are now working with rolled back food assistance benefits.

Last month, about 2 million people in the state saw their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits decrease, after a federal emergency order to increase those benefits during

the pandemic expired.

After Covid hit, the federal government issued emergency supplemental benefits to SNAP, otherwise known in Illinois as LINK or EBT. Over the past three years, families and individuals who received SNAP benefits received their regular monthly benefit plus a separate emergency SNAP benefit, which was processed after the 21st of each month.

But, those emergency benefits ceased in February, reducing the benefit back to previous levels as of last month.

The result is that SNAP participants have seen their

benefits cut anywhere from \$55 to \$255 per person per month, depending on household size and income. The average one-person household saw a reduction of \$82 per month.

"During Covid is when everyone got maximum benefits for SNAP. So, regardless of what your income was, if you were already on SNAP benefits, you got the maximum amount based on how many were in your household. March 1 is when everyone got brought back down to regular levels," explained Heather Hobbs, director of Kuzma Care Cottage in Wilmington,

which is located next to St. Rose school.

"So, those max levels were removed and everyone went to their regular levels. So, for example, a single household which many of our seniors are were getting maximum benefits of \$250. Now they might only be getting \$17. Couple that with rent increases... now SNAP benefits, and people are already strapped with medical bills, prescriptions, you name it. Prices are going up. So, we have seen just in the last few weeks just a huge increase."

SEE PANTRY, PAGE 2

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Election

Unlike other municipalities that operate with aldermen or trustees, the city of Braidwood differs by utilizing a commission form of government. Rather than aldermen or trustees who represent a ward or an at-large seat, each member of the council is in charge of a commission.

The city of Braidwood runs on a Commission form of government. That means rather than elect members at large or within geographical districts, as seen with aldermen or trustees, each elected official runs a commission, which oversees a department of the city.

The duties of each commission includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- Mayor — Chief executive officer of the city and commissioner of public affairs

as well as liquor commissioner, the mayor appoints, with the advice and consent of the city council, the city clerk, the city attorney, the city administrator, the chief of police, and members of the board of fire and police commissioners, zoning board of appeals, and the planning commission. The mayor also supervises those appointees.

• Commissioner of accounts and finances — Serves as vice president of the Council, hires and supervises the city treasurer/finance department employees, and supervises the financial operations of the city including all tax increment financing districts.

• Commissioner of public health and safety — Supervises the conduct and operation of the police department, emergency dispatching and telecommunications, code enforcement, animal control, and health regulations, and oversees employ-

ees who exercise duties for the police department, code enforcement, animal control, and health regulations except those employees under the jurisdiction of the board of fire and police commissioners.

• Commissioner of streets and public improvements — Acts as the superintendent of the street department and all matters pertaining to the city streets, alleys, sidewalks, drainage, storm sewer system, and roadways, and is ex-officio commissioner of public works. Oversees all employees in the streets department, and provides for the annual streets department budget.

• Commissioner of public property — Acts as the superintendent of the department of public property, supervises the conduct of the water and sanitary sewer departments, all real estate, including the city hall, and all personal property which is not used by a specific department, appoints, with the advice and

consent of the city council, the water and sewer plant operator, and oversees water/sewer employees.

The newly elected mayor and commissioners will be sworn in during the regular meeting of the Braidwood City Council on Tuesday, April 25.

At Reed-Custer School District, incumbents Greg Boyer and Chris Cavanaugh and newcomer Melissa Micklos won the three available seats on the board. Each will serve a four year term.

Across the three precincts in Reed Township and one in Custer Township, total votes were 866 for Boyer, 886 for Micklos, 956 for Cavanaugh, and 537 for Guistat.

Voter turnout in Braidwood far surpassed the countywide totals.

In the three precincts of Reed Township, of a total of 4,704 registered voters, 1,332 cast a ballot last week, a voter turnout of 28.31%

That includes 251 votes

that were cast at Braidwood City Hall during early voting in the weeks leading up to the election.

Countywide, voter turnout was 15.64%, with a total of 71,140 ballots cast throughout Will County.

In neighboring Wilmington, voter turnout was just 7.58%.

Additional race results include:

• Braidwood Park District — Commissioners Scott Howard and Rob Grivetti, who both ran unopposed, will remain in their seats

• Fossil Ridge Public Library District — Kathleen Price and Teri Jones will fill the seats on the Fossil Ridge Library Board of Trustees.

• Braidwood Fire Protection District — Michael Dillon earned another term as a trustee on the board.

One of the tightest races locally, however, was the mayor of Godley contest. With votes cast in both Will and

Grundy County, the unofficial vote totals show 35 votes for incumbent Jennifer Uehling, and 36 votes for challenger Cheryl Schott.

Six people ran for six seats on the Godley Board of Trustees, rounding out the board with Jennifer Hoffman, James Peters, and William Cody Brocket each winning an unexpired 2-year term, and Kim Hall, Daniel Butler, and Elaine Belawske each elected to a full 4-year term.

Election results can be found on the Will County Clerk's website, www.will-countyclerk.gov.

Voting results are not final. Provisional ballots cast on election day and a remaining vote by mail ballots that are postmarked by April 4 will be counted by provisional count on Tuesday, April 18. Results will be official after canvassing on Tuesday, April 25.

Narcan

ly to consumers at pharmacies, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as online.

For those who work in the field of substance use and misuse, having Narcan more readily available means that more lives can be saved.

Danita Morgan is a peer recovery specialist inter who works with the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC), and has works with the Rapid Response Team through the Will County Substance Use Initiative. As part of the Substance Use Initiative, Morgan helps to distribute Narcan, including during drug takeback days, at food pantries, and during any event where the county or coalition have a booth set up, such as Summerfest in

Braidwood. Will County provides that Narcan, as well as Narcan training, free of charge.

But the new FDA approval means folks can get their hands on Narcan a little easier.

"It is helping to get the word out about Narcan," Morgan told members of the BAHCC this week. "We want to piggy back on that a little bit... I'm hoping it will actually help us get more Narcan out there with the community and to understand how important it is to have it, even if you don't know anybody who has an issue."

Morgan said she suggests that everyone has Narcan on hand, because the opioid crisis affects every small town and major city.

So far in 2023, the Will County Coroner's office has reported 16 cases of death due to heroin/fentanyl poisoning, including one death in Braidwood and one in Elwood. Both

of those deaths occurred in February.

In 2022, the coroner's office reported a total of 112 cases of death due to opioid poisoning countywide, including one in Braidwood, one in Elwood, two in Wilmington, and one in rural Wilmington Township.

Last summer, the Coroner's office issued a community safety alert after more than two dozen deaths occurred between June and August due to drug toxicity.

According to the FDA, opioid poisoning continues to be a major public health issue, with more than 101,750 reported fatal overdoses occurring in the 12-month period ending in October 2022, primarily driven by synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

"The FDA remains committed to addressing the evolving complexities of the overdose crisis. As part of this work, the agency has used its regulatory authority to facilitate greater

access to naloxone by encouraging the development of and approving an over-the-counter naloxone product to address the dire public health need," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "[The] approval of OTC naloxone nasal spray will help improve access to naloxone, increase the number of locations where it's available and help reduce opioid overdose deaths throughout the country. We encourage the manufacturer to make accessibility to the product a priority by making it available as soon as possible and at an affordable price."

Narcan nasal spray was first approved by the FDA in 2015 as a prescription drug. In accordance with a process to change the status of a drug from prescription to nonprescription, the manufacturer provided data demonstrating that the drug is safe and effective for use as directed in its proposed labeling. The manu-

facturer also showed that consumers can understand how to use the drug safely and effectively without the supervision of a healthcare professional. The application to approve Narcan nasal spray for OTC use was granted priority review status and was the subject of an advisory committee meeting in February 2023, where committee members voted unanimously to recommend it be approved for marketing without a prescription.

The timeline for availability and expected cost for over the counter Narcan will be determined by the manufacturer, and switching from prescription to over the counter status is expected to take several months. In the meantime, information on Will County's Narcan Distribution Program can be found online at www.willcountyillinois.com, under the "County Offices" tab in Special Services.

Pantry

Hobbs said there is a growing need for food assistance, but it's not limited to those who are already on benefits.

"Right now, we're seeing an increase in visits," she said. "Even though there are many jobs out there to be had, there are still people getting laid off. Families are panicking and they don't know what to do right now. Come see us. Come see what we can provide for you, and then go spend your SNAP benefits or whatever you have in your personal budget."

Pantries work with their municipalities, local churches, libraries, civic groups, and schools to get the word out that help is there.

"We're just trying to keep

the message out there that we're here. If your food budget is tight then come see us, and we'll see what we can do," Hobbs said. "Hunger knows no season. It doesn't know the weather. It's always out there, and that's why we're always trying to reach out to people through different avenues to let them know that we're here. You don't have to be on food stamps to come see us. And, some people think if they're on food stamps then they can't see us."

Food pantries do try to stay within their own region, but generally speaking, will help out anyone who comes through the door, then make sure they have all the proper information to visit the pantry local to them.

In Wilmington, Kuzma Care assists those who live in the 60481 zip code. In Braidwood, patrons at Community Care Center

should be residents of Braidwood, Braceville, Essex, Godley, and Bookwalter Woods.

Each pantry operates thanks to assistance from volunteers, who do everything from help patrons register and get their food and supplies to unloading trucks.

"We have 100-plus volunteers here who love being able to help people," Hobbs said. "If there is food out there, we get it. Our garage is always full because as soon as we have an empty spot we're filling it with something good to give to our people. We want people to come here. At some point in our lives, all of us, I don't care how rich or poor you are right now, at some point in our lives we've probably lived paycheck to paycheck. And, one bump in the road, one car repair, one medical bill can throw you off kilter and make you think, how am I going to put food on my table for my family. All of our volunteers love doing what they do. We don't need to know your story, just come here and say you need food and we'll walk you through the process. It's super easy. Just come in."

Kuzma started a pull

up/drop off line at the back porch during Covid, but it was a process that worked well, so they're still utilizing that. Patrons just pull up to the back door and someone is there to help.

Braidwood's Community Care Center is able to help patrons both inside the building as well as through the well stocked garage at the rear of the center behind City Hall.

One thing that has gotten a little easier for pantries is food availability.

"Back in September and October we were kind of panicked because we weren't able to get even canned corn from the food bank," Hobbs said. "There was such a shortage of food all of a sudden when prices increased. So, we were asking for actual food donations. But, now we're back to where we can get food easily through retailers and the food bank."

By partnering with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Kuzma Care and the Community Care Pantry are able to secure food at a reduced cost. For every \$1 spent on that food, pantries can secure \$8 worth of food. Foods include fresh milk and

eggs, along with bread, proteins, produce, and canned goods.

"We're really trying to focus on healthier options for our families. Sometimes those healthier options are the ones most costly in the store," Hobbs noted.

Hobbs said one of the most important messages for the community is that hunger is a solvable problem.

"There's so much food to be had," Hobbs said.

In fact, it was just this past February when a truck driver at a truck stop off I-57 suddenly found himself with an undeliverable load of frozen chicken. The driver was able to connect to Kuzma Care via a local minister who knew about Kuzma through Sharefest. Volunteers drove to the truck driver to pick up the load, which otherwise would have been tossed.

"There is so much food, and otherwise, that truck driver would have had to throw it all away," she said. "He was told to throw it all away, and he said... no, I'm going to find a food pantry. That's ridiculous, I'm not throwing this all away."

Hobbs said that while

asking for help isn't always easy, she encouraged everyone who finds themselves down on their luck to reach out to their local pantries.

"I know it's hard. Hunger studies show it takes an average of seven times for someone to actually get out of their car and knock on a pantry door. I know it's hard, but we try to make it easier," Hobbs said. "I encourage people to just come. It may be just temporary, it may just be for a month or two. But, use us so you can pay for whatever other responsibilities you have."

In Wilmington, Kuzma Care Cottage is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and well as the second Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Kuzma Care also provides a home delivery option.

In Braidwood, the Community Care Center is open on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

Anyone needed assistance outside of regular hours can contact their local pantry.

PERSONAL INJURY

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WORKERS COMPENSATION

Driver killed after fleeing police

STAFF REPORT

An Aurora man was killed Monday after crashing his vehicle nearly head-on into a ComEd truck while attempting to void routine traffic stop.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office said a deputy attempted a traffic stop in the area of Route 47 and Route 113 at approximately 12:35 p.m. on Monday, April 10.

The offending vehicle, a Dodge Durango being driven by James L. Pheal, 44 of Aurora, turned east on Route 113 and just east of Higgins Road attempted to pass another vehicle when it struck a westbound utility truck owned by ComEd.

Grundy County Coroner John Callahan said after the collision the Durango rolled several times before coming to rest on its side in the south ditch about one quarter mile west of Campbell Road. Police were immediately on the scene and the Coal City Fire Protection District was dispatched to the crash at 12:38 p.m. A medical helicopter was requested, but was called off and the coroner sent to the scene where they pronounced Pheal deceased.

The driver of the ComEd truck was transported to the hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. A power line was taken

down as a result of the crash and the utility was called in as well.

Route 113 between Higgins and Campbell roads was shut down for several hours for investigation and cleanup

The crash remains under investigation by the Illinois State Police and Grundy County Coroner's Office.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Here comes the feared epizootic, what shall we do?

It is hard to describe how truly dependent people in the 19th century were on the horse and its relation the mule. Every aspect of life somehow involved the horse. It is no wonder then that when the ugly epizootic appeared in 1872 it had a devastating effect on the economy of the nation.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

primary surgeons, the animal should be removed to the stable and properly cared for.

Medicine should be given with caution, as in most cases the disease will run its course within ten days, and the animal recover, or properly fed and kept from work."

Four days later the Epizootic, or horse distemper has not ignored our city, in its "swing around the circle." Quite a number of cases are reported, though none have as yet been attended with fatality.

At Brophy's livery stables about 10 horses are afflicted, but all are doing well under the skillful treatment of the proprietor. Mr. Gurney has, in all, some 33 horses on the sick list. The disease ever, however assumes a mild form and fair progress is being made in its cure, by good treatment.

The dray and express wagon horses are also seized with this species of indisposition. Stewart & Quinn, coal dealers have adopted the Chicago plan and yoked up a pair of oxen to their delivery wagon. We hope to report our city free from the epidemic in a few weeks at farthest."

On the 19th the Joliet Signal reported, "There is no abatement of the epizootic in this city, since our last issue. The epidemic has not only spread amongst the horses throughout the city, but has extended to the surrounding country, and hundreds of farm horses are afflicted with it.

And, what is remarkable,



A DRAWING of what life was like without horses during the great horse plague in the late 1800s.

numerous horses have the malady that have not been exposed, showing that it is more of an epidemic than a contagion."

"The effect of the epizootic upon the business of the city is very depressing. Our streets are comparatively deserted, and difficulty is experienced in getting hauling of any kind done. The livery stables are closed, and omnibuses ceased running a week ago."

Finally on November 20 the Advocate reported, "The horse plague has made its appearance among the horses of Braidwood, and several horses have taken the disease. But one case has proved fatal thus far."

All of this lead to speculation as to exactly what caused the disease. "It is now claimed that the epizootic is caused by a bug or insect in the hay which the animal eats."

Or, "The best authorities agree in the statement that the

epizootic is not a contagious disease, and no amount of care to prevent exposure will make any difference, nor will the exposure to it make them any more liable to take it. It is supposed to be of a malarial character, and that the poison that causes it is inhaled from the air."

And finally, "It is a queer thing, the epizootic. The mules down in the coal mines at Braidwood, 69 feet underground, and who have not, of course, come in contact with any other specimens of the equine race, have it just as severely as horses or mules that are on the surface and in daily contact with the others of their kind."

In general 1 to 5 percent of the equines died from the disease, the remainder recovering full strength in about two weeks. However, while it raged Braidwood and other surrounding towns were practically shut down.



A DRAWING from the great horse plague of New York city with people pulled the street cars.



A FUNNY DRAWING of a horse with his feet in hot water during the great horse plague.

Bean earns Scholar Attitude Award

EIGHTH GRADER Logan Bean was nominated for the very competitive and prestigious IESA Scholar Attitude Award. He has excelled in a myriad of activities in his career at RCMS, as well as maintaining a 4.23 GPA. Only 5 students across the state win the award.

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs
 April 13-Illinois storm Chasers, 6-7:30 p.m. Hear epic stories about close encounters from the Illinois Storm Chasers and learn how to forecast weather patterns while discussing how to plan for dangerous weather before the next storm rolls in.
 April 17-Hardwear: Jewelry from a Toolbox, 5-7 p.m. Time to clean out the junk drawer and join us in making fashionable jewelry using basic nuts, guitar wires, washers, and leather.
 April 18-Cook the Book, 6-7 p.m. Join us every third Thursday of the month for our cookbook meets potluck where each member chooses a recipe from the same cookbook and brings it to the next meeting.

Teen Programs
 April 18-Teen Sharpie Mugs, 5-6 p.m. Let's spice up your plain and boring mugs with sharpies. Personalize them and tell us how much you can't talk until you've had your cup of coffee.

Child Programs
 Toddler Time, every Thursday, 10:30- 11 a.m. Bring your toddlers and explore with various toys and sensory materials each week. They'll improve their gross and fine motor skills, as well as their social interaction and language skills.
 April 17-TWEEN Tie Dye T-Shirts, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Color your world, your galaxy, and your T-Shirts at our Tween Tie Dye event. We'll supply the shirts and help with patterns, all you need to bring is your creativity.
 April 18-Play-Doh Playdates, 10:30-11 a.m. It's time for some Play-Doh fun. We have the Play-Doh and tools; all you need to bring is your imagination.
 April 19-Half-day Movie Matinee, Superpets 2022, 1-3 p.m., PG, 1 hr. 45 minutes. When the Justice League are captured by Lex Luthor; Superman's dog, Krypto, forms a team of shelter-pets who were given super-powers. Light refreshments provided.
 April 20-Kids Can Cook Spring Edition, 5:30-6:30 p.m. This instructor lead program introduces children to the basic skills of food preparation and cooking, while also teaching them the joys of cooking nutritious and delicious food.

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

The Village Christian Church to hold mobile food pantry

The Village Christian Church is partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank to host a Mobile Food Pantry at the Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Dr. in Braidwood on Monday, April 17, at 5 p.m.

Families in Braidwood and surrounding communities will be able to get enough groceries (bread, dairy, meats, veggies) for a week or two. Distribution will be first come, first served. There is no registration, proof of income or I.D. required.

Future Mobile Food Pantry dates:
 • Monday, April 24, 5 p.m. at Seneca Grade School South Campus, 410 S. Main St.
 • Monday, May 22, 5 p.m. at Minooka Village Campus, 8965 S. Bell Rd.
 • Sunday, June 5, 5 p.m. at Seneca Grade School South Campus, 410 S. Main St.
 • Monday, June 12, 5 p.m. at Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Dr, Braidwood.
 Learn more about The Village at: thevillagechristianchurch.com.

Godley Park District files Budget & Appropriation ordinance

PUBLIC NOTICE
 LEGAL NOTICE
 The Tentative Combined Budget & Appropriation Ordinance for the Godley Park District for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending on April 30, 2024, has been placed on file for public inspection for a period of 30 days beginning on April 12, 2023.
 Said Ordinance may be inspected at the Godley Park District Administrative Office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 /s/ Karl DeMarse, Secretary
 Godley Park District Board of Commissioners
 Published in the Braidwood Journal, April 12, 2023.

Coffee & Newspapers
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Notice of Sheriff's sale of 840 N English St, Braidwood

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

Fifth Third Bank, National Association
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 Thomas J. Derrico; et. al.
 Defendant.

No. 22 FC 1015

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
 Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 11th day of January, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 27th 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:
THE NORTH 72.81 FEET OF THE SOUTH 132.81 FEET OF LOT 5 IN THE TOWNS OF BRAIDWOOD PHASE I, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 AND PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JULY 15, 2005, AS DOCUMENT NO. R2005-119361, ALL IN THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
 Commonly known as: 840 N English St, Braidwood, IL 60408
 Description of Improvements: Residential
 P.I.N.: 02-24-06-303-029-0000

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

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

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

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
 Codrills & Associates, P.C.
 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100
 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527
 P: 630-794-5300
 F: 630-794-9090

MIKE KELLEY
 Sheriff of Will County
 Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 5, 12 and 19, 2023.

Notice of Sheriff's sale of 390 E. Janet Dr., Braidwood

PUBLIC NOTICE
 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
 COUNTY OF WILL)
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 Thomas M. Brown
 Defendant.

No. 22 FC 1019

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
 Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 26th day of April, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 27th 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:
fk a 02-24-17-201-046 LOT 9 IN COMET ESTATES SUBDIVISION FIFTH ADDITION, PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AND A RESUBDIVISION OF PART OF LOT 1 OF COMET ESTATES SUBDIVISION FIRST ADDITION AND PART OF OUTLOT "A" OF COMET ESTATES SUBDIVISION THIRD ADDITION TO BRAIDWOOD WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 1, 1995 AS DOCUMENT NO. R95-027831
 Commonly known as: 390 E. Janet Dr., Braidwood, IL 60408
 Description of Improvements: Single Family
 P.I.N.: 02-24-17-201-046-0000

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

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

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

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
 Heavner Beyers and Mihar LLC
 111 E. Main Street,
 Decatur, Illinois 62523
 P: 217-422-1719
 F: 217-422-1754

MIKE KELLEY
 Sheriff of Will County
 Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 5, 12 and 19, 2023.

Notice of Sheriff's sale of 128 N. Countryside, Braidwood

PUBLIC NOTICE
 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
 COUNTY OF WILL)
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Freedom Mortgage Corporation
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 Bryon Baine; Bridgette Huffman; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants
 Defendant.

No. 22 FC 0406

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
 Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 12th day of January, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 27th 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:
LEGAL DESCRIPTION LOT 7 IN COUNTRYSIDE MEADOWS FIRST ADDITION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF BLOCK 11, IN EUREKA COAL COMPANY'S ADDITION TO BRAIDWOOD, IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED NOVEMBER 2, 1979, AS DOCUMENT NO. R79-40915, (EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS BENEATH THE SURFACE AND THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE SAME), IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
 Commonly known as: 128 N COUNTRYSIDE CT BRAIDWOOD, IL 60408
 Commonly known as: 128 N Countryside Ct, Braidwood, IL 60408
 Description of Improvements: N/A
 P.I.N.: 02-24-07-308-020-0000

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

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

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

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
 10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170
 DULUTH, GA 30097
 P: 708-668-4410 X 52109

MIKE KELLEY
 Sheriff of Will County
 Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 5, 12 and 19, 2023.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

Golf cart crossing

BRAIDWOOD—Warmer weather is now upon us and the golf carts are out in full force on our city streets. Please remember that it is against the law to drive a golf cart down state roadways such as Rt. 113 (includes all of Main Street east of Division St.), Rt. 53 (aka. Front St.) and Rt. 129 (aka. Washington St.). If you need to get to a location on the opposite side of the railroad tracks, the only legal way to get there on a golf cart is to cross Rt. 129 & Rt. 53 at the Center St. railroad crossing and then continue down Center St. to Smiley Road and then back up Comet Drive. It's quite the detour but it's the only way to legally get from one side of town to the other. Illinois State Police have issued citations before so don't be surprised if you get caught and ticketed. They don't care that Braidwood is a golf cart community, against the law is against the law. They also need to be operated by licensed drivers in a safe manner. The Braidwood Police Department needs to step up enforcement of these issues to ensure that nobody gets hurt, or worse killed.

The pollution solution

COAL CITY—To the caller from Braidwood complaining about all the trash along I-55 between here and I-80. I agree it is a disgrace. IDOT tells us the solution is to not litter in the first place. While that may be true, in this case there is more to the problem. If you look at all that trash, and I do every time I drive to work, the litter is mostly plastic grocery bags and wrapping. They blow out of the semi-trucks hauling trash from Chicago to Pontiac, ending up in the trees, ditches and roads. Illinois needs to ban all plastic bags from stores. Sure it will be inconvenient when we shop but force everyone to use cloth bags. Until then, the trash will continue

Crazy politics

WILMINGTON—Some random political thoughts. 1) Marjorie Taylor Greene said this past week that "Liars are toxic and poisonous to everything they touch." Let's see. She says Jewish space lasers cause fires. And if her quote is true, look what her idol does on a daily basis. 2) Tennessee Republican House members said their decision to expel two black lawmakers for protesting against gun violence was not racist. But the white female lawmaker who protested with the two black lawmakers was not expelled. Racism or sexism? Marjorie? What do you think?

Halloween long over

COAL CITY—Why should neighbors have to put up with seeing Halloween skeletons all year round? Is there not an ordinance to follow up on this eyesore?

Bigger concerns

MORRIS—From day one, the Democrats have been after President Trump. Plain evil politics! We've put up with President Kennedy's women affairs, Nixon's Watergate, Bill Clinton's Paula Jones and Monica Lewinsky affairs. They all lived or are living nicely on presidential pensions. Yet the Democrats seem terrorized about the possibility President Trump could become President again. We're on the verge of World War III, banks are failing, inflation is out of control, half the country works while the other half collects sitting on their duffs. All news casts are about Ex. President Donald Trump, while violence is out of control, illegal immigration is up to .7 million into the U.S.A. Are we becoming a Banana Republic?

\$108 billion

I read deposits at U.S. banks outside the largest 25 fell by \$108 billion in the week ending March 15 following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. That's a sign that Americans are losing confidence in our country's banking system.

Cost of housing migrants

New York City has converted 100 hotels and other facilities into housing 50,000 illegal immigrants whom have been bused from southern borders. Housing migrants could cost \$4 billion over the next two years. Same thing is going on in Chicago. Thanks, Joe Biden.

Arm our teachers

BRAIDWOOD—It's time for Illinois to even the game with school shooters. Do like Indiana and three other states, let teachers be trained to carry a gun into the classroom. Indiana had 60 teachers take the training the first year. Doesn't mean they all are carrying but at least they get the chance to fight back. Don't hear of any Indiana school shootings either.

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

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-

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

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com. -> Submit Sound-off 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.

Peer hysteria

BRAIDWOOD—Hysteria. Thanks to media we had and have the chance to hear the hysteria as the young entered the school demanding gun control. I realized that peer hysteria could make an influence on peers whose hysteria is to shoot or kill. It could cushion the kill with thought that would change the kill to thought and not kill. I laugh at my thought, but there is a chance the glass is half full, not half empty. Just hysteria is hysteria.

Just obey

DIAMOND—Our president is still refusing to close the border which violates his oath to office to protect the American citizens. While he gives more tax payers funds to people from foreign lands and he wants to remove all weapons from the American citizens while the politicians throughout the U.S.A. are protected with taxpayer funds like babies in a crib. But no protection for the American citizens is the main model of the Democratic leaders and make sure the American citizens lose everything and have no protection to save their lives. It does not matter to the Democratic leaders whose political party you honor as long as you obey.

Missing in Mexico

WILMINGTON—More than 550 Americans are reported missing in Mexico, according to Mexican government records, up from 324 in 2020, almost certainly an undercount. All told 112,150 people have gone missing in Mexico amid an on going plague of drug cartel killings and abductions.

Infringing on others

WILMINGTON—Constitutional rights should never show preference to any individual race, color or creed and they should never infringe on another's.

Parents deserve to know

DIAMOND—House passes Parents Bill of Rights Act, HR5. Which passed the House of Representatives in a 213-208 party line vote. This bill is aimed at insuring that parents know what's going on in their children's classroom. During Covid-19 restrictions that forced the U.S. population be homebound, it also closed schools. The parents got a better glimpse of their children's education and found the far-left ideology being pushed in schools. The bill would require schools to publicly disclose contents of curriculum and library materials to parents. Also it would require schools to show expenditure; ensure parents are not only notified but give consent to any medical procedure performed on their child on school grounds. Parents should also be notified of any violent activity on school grounds. Why would any member of the House or Senate not want parents to know about their children's education? Sharon.

Cut their wages

COAL CITY—It was on the news that the leaders in Washington, D.C. had a congressional bill passed under a Democratic controlled congress that is waiting to be enforced that will cut 24% of funds from Social Security for every American citizen which will cause a lack of funds for all Social Security recipients when there are no cuts to any public servants wages. No cuts in giving money to people in the U.S.A. illegally or the foreign governments. So it seems our leaders in Washington, D.C. should honor their oath to each American. Contact Washington, D.C. and tell them to cut their wages and all the wasteful spending before any more tax increases or cuts, with a strict statement that all elected public servants produce a list of all their assets and every source of their income. But guess what type of answer the American citizens would receive from some members of congress about their income. Chuck Schumer stated that no one is above the law but what he meant was no one except the Democrats.

Favors the rich

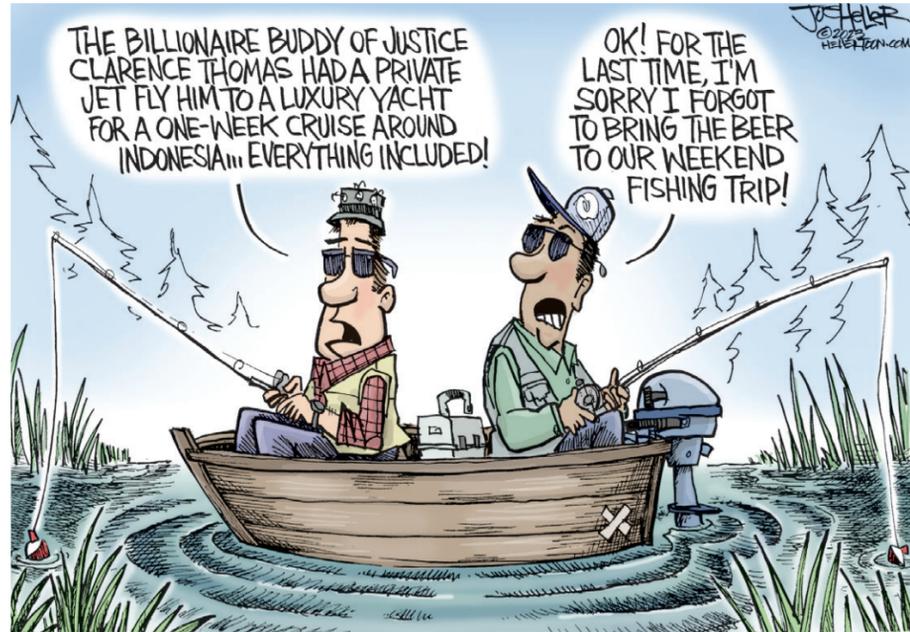
WILMINGTON—The problem with justice in America is that favors the rich and guilty over the poor and innocent.

A good thing

WILMINGTON—I don't know what the caller from Coal City was referring to about WOKE but I recently read in The Sun Times over 60% of Americans think WOKE is a good thing.

Buying protection

MORRIS—According to the Wall Street Journal, Mayor Lightfoot lost her second term as mayor of Chicago. Paul Vallas, the former



CEO of Chicago school had the top vote in the primary. But 40-year-old Brandon Johnson, a former union organizer, won the two-man election April 4. Mr. Johnson received \$931,308 from the Chicago Teachers Union as well as \$1,557,846 from the Illinois Federation of Teachers and American Federation of Teachers. The Chicago teachers union has become a political colossus focused on wielding progressive power instead of improving educational outcomes in city schools. Four fifths of high school students in Chicago Public Schools are not performing at grade level yet the system keeps graduating them. Some can't read at grade level for the grade schools. Our future!

The last attack

WILMINGTON—Hey Margo, that was a Christian school that was attacked. Where was your God then

Hardship for us

BRAIDWOOD—My family lives in Braidwood and we just got done paying our state, federal income tax and Will County tax. We would like to know why the Braidwood Police don't pay state income tax. It's a hardship for us but we pay the state income tax. Why don't they have to pay it? I know this is true. Just go onto the Illinois Municipal Retirement fund and ask the question. The Braidwood Police needs to pay state income tax like everyone else.

Lives of children

WILMINGTON—I was glad to see the Tennessee General Assembly expel those two members who said that the lives of children are more important than guns.

Until proven guilty

DIAMOND—This is in response to the Wilmington article "Sealed charges." I can say Trump is innocent whatever is in the indictment because the Constitution tells us all citizens of America are innocent until proven guilty. Even Trump - yes, even you.

It was good advice

DIAMOND—Whatever town or village you enter search for some worthy person there and stay at his home until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it. If it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. I am sending you out like sheep among wolves, therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard against men, they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their council rooms. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witness to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you do not worry about what to say or how you say it for it will not be you speaking but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Matthew 10:11-21. The Gospel of the Apostle Matthew as part of the Bible is called The Living Word for good reason. It is still as profound and applies today as the day it was written over 2,000 years ago. Sharon

Honored for years

WILMINGTON—Even though I am a member, from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank every member of the Wilmington Area Historical Society who voted to give a scholarship in memory of my partner and my beloved Roger Mayne. I was not at the meeting when the subject was brought up. It was brought to a vote and it was a unanimous decision. When I received the phone call that this was happening, for the first time in 2 1/2 years

I finally cried tears of happiness, not tears of sadness. There are no words to describe how much this means to me and I know Roger would be very honored and in a way embarrassed. Roger was a very humble man. He would do anything for anybody. He would give the shirt off his back to help anybody. It means so much that his legacy and what he gave to the museum will be honored for years and years and I hope whoever the student is who received this scholarship will embrace and be grateful for this gift. Once again thanks to the Historical Society. You don't know how much this means to me and I am honored and blessed to be a member of the museum. I pray all the negative comments and criticisms that have been said in Sound-off have finally come to an end. It has been a very long and difficult year for me and I was about at the point to having a nervous breakdown because of being judged and criticized by certain members of the museum, but it's over and done with and now it's time to move forward. May God bless you all and this amazing town of Wilmington. Roger loved this town and the 21 years I have lived here I love it as well. Sherri Michaels

The government's job

SHADOW LAKES—Why is it we need all these Veterans organizations that support disabled Veterans when the government calls the war? Should not the government and the VA be taking care of everybody? After all, they did call the war. Dan Hill

It's only April

WILMINGTON—It's only April and there have been 140 mass killings in the United States so the score stands guns 140, thoughts and prayers 0.

Who's to blame?

SHADOW LAKES—Now \$4.10 a gallon for gas. Who will Biden blame this time? Trump? Putin? White supremacists? Let me help you out it's the people that voted for you. Eddie

America first

SHADOW LAKES—Gas will be \$4 a gallon by the end of April. Why? Because OPEC controls our energy. The drug cartels control the southern border and China controls our economy. Biden answer is MAGA Republicans, white supremacists and gay rights. If we had any leadership we would produce oil at record amounts that would bankrupt Putin and the Ukraine war and lower our energy prices. I don't care who the next president is as long as they put America first. Eddie

Unnaturally winning.

SHADOW LAKES—Answer this question: According to all the transgender people, you can be what you like, male or female. We see in the news males changing their sex to female. These people then, participate in women's sports. Unnaturally winning. If this is true, then, why females who are trans to males, enter all male sports?

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

More harm than good

BRAIDWOOD—Now that the election is over, the ones who did not win need to take a hard look at just what pushed voters away from them. There were a few supporters of certain candidates who were extremely vocal and nasty on social media by bullying others and becoming very confrontational when others spoke their mind or didn't agree with their views, opinions or self-proclaimed facts. Perhaps this type of rhetoric actually did more harm than good to the candidates they were supporting. To those who fit the bill, think about your actions and how you treated or replied to people. Maybe you are part of the reason your backed candidate lost.

Study shows Illinois with one of the highest tax burdens in the country

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

A study reveals that Illinois is in the top 10 in the country for the highest tax burden on its residents.

The personal finance website WalletHub reports Illinois has the 9th highest overall tax burden at a 9.3% share of personal income.

"We are not only looking at the actual tax rate by state, property, individual income and excise taxes, but we're comparing that to the personal income in the state," analyst Jill Gonzalez said.

Illinois is 10th in the country for the highest property tax burden, and in the top half of states for individual income tax and total sales and excise tax burden.

Republican lawmakers recently introduced measures to ease the tax burden on Illinoisans. State Sen. Don DeWitte, R-St. Charles, would like to permanently get rid of the state sales tax on groceries, prescription drugs and medical devices.

"We are letting struggling Illinois families know that we hear them, we understand them and we are attempting to

respond to their pleas for help," DeWitte said.

In the Midwest, Wisconsin is at number 17 followed by Indiana at 18th, according to the study. Missouri has the 42nd highest tax burden with just over a 7% share of personal income.

The states with the highest tax burdens on their citizens included New York, Hawaii and Maine. The three states with the lowest burden are Alaska, Delaware and New Hampshire.

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KABOBS ARE BACK! See Pg. 2

USDA CHOICE USDA Choice Angus "Lean & Tender" Boneless Top Sirloin Steaks **\$7.99** PER LB



99¢ EACH WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 4*

Whole White Mushrooms- 8 oz

\$4.99 EACH WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 2*

Super Sweet Florida Watermelons

2 FOR \$1

Farm Fresh Cucumbers

69¢ PER LB

Farm Fresh Zucchini

69¢ PER LB

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99¢ PER LB

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Censea JUMBO Raw Peeled Shrimp 16-20 ct - Sold in 1 lb bag **\$8.99** LB

Berkot's Famous Country Bacon (7 lbs or more) **\$4.99** LB

All Natural Fresh Pork no artificial ingredients & non-hormone promoted

Fresh, All-Natural Cryovac Baby Back Ribs- 2 pk **\$2.99** PER LB

USDA CHOICE

\$6.99 PER LB

USDA Choice Angus Tri-Tip

USDA Choice

\$1.99 PER LB

Berkot's Farm Fresh Boneless Chicken Thighs Family Pack

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\$4.99 PER LB

Berkot's Famous Heat & Eat Meatballs

Great Grocery Deals to Fill Your Basket!

Blue Ribbon Classics Ice Cream 128 oz

Novelties 8-20 ct

\$4.99 EACH

Gatorade Thirst Quencher 28 oz

GFit 13.54-16.9 oz

Propel 24 oz

4 FOR \$5

69¢ PER LB

Yellow Squash

Yoplait Yogurt 4-6 oz

10 FOR \$5

Best Choice Shredded or Chunk Cheese 8 oz

\$1.99 EACH

Brownberry Wide Pan Breads 24 oz

\$2.29 EACH WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 1*

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Berkot's Party Pack Italian Beef

BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

\$7 EACH

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Garden Club to talk about hydrangeas

The Wilmington Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St. Special guest will be Sandy Ascot from Muddy Paws Nursery on Highway 113, in Custer Park. Ascot will be describing the cultivators of Hydrangeas, including 15 different varieties and how to care for them. She will give insight into how best to prune them. Like to garden? Then come sit in a Garden Club meeting and bring a friend. For more information call Carol at 815-476-2469.

The Sunday Cocktail runs dry

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

If you turned to this page expecting to read the next recipe for the "Sunday Cocktail," you'll be disappointed to know that the column written by Brian Rung will no longer be published. Seven years ago I got an email from Brian who is a nephew to my wife Janet. I was skeptical in his interest in writing a column about cocktails. As a successful pharmaceutical rep., Brian impressed me as a young man with entrepreneurial spirit who was always doing something constructive with his spare time. He taught himself guitar, played in bands, wrote his own music, even cut his own album and was part of the music scene in Austin, Tx. What did he know about journalism? At the time the internet was exploding with food recipe videos with little fanfare given to cocktails. He explained that his column would be more about the history behind the cocktail and simple enough to be made

behind the home bar. He wanted people to know the background behind the drink so that if and when they did order one when dining out, they'd have a better appreciation for the cultural and regional influence of a drink. My response was he could send at least two samples and I would share them with my editors. By the next day there were three submissions in my inbox. I liked what I read, we had space, so I reasoned that a trial run would be made over one month to gauge reader response. Few comments came in that first month although on our website the visitors to his column grew. Rung did a good job of taking readers to far-away places to order Mai Tai's in Florida, margaritas in Mexico, mint juleps during the Kentucky Derby or a good old-fashion at a supper club in Wisconsin. He explained well the simplicity of a good martini and with variations if you wanted it sweet or dry. One reader recently suggested we discontinue the column because we were encouraging people to drink. I doubted that as every day and average person is

exposed to around 10,000 advertisements and we've become immune to all those influences. I recall a phone conversation with an elderly reader who was renewing her subscription when she offered that she doesn't drink but she sure enjoyed reading The Sunday Cocktail. "That young man writes so well and you can tell he really does his research," she said. "Tell him I like his column." I agreed. But after seven years and 360 or so cocktails later, the Sunday Cocktail has ended. Brian has taken a new job with little free time. I hope one day my wife and I can visit him to thank him in person. He contributed to this newspaper something few newspapers had. It was personable, light hearted news that brought a better appreciation for drink and food. I know I will miss reading it. Cheers! *Subscribers to our digital editions can read past Sunday Cocktail columns at www.freepressnewspapers.com*

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Gas hits \$4 and climbing

If there is any consolation with last week's jump in prices at the pump, a year ago we were paying \$4.34/g. Area prices topped \$4/g on Monday morning as average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 11.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.94/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. "The national average price of gasoline has continued its relatively slow climb, with 44 states seeing average gasoline prices climb over the last week. Prices are being pulled up not only due to continued increases in demand as temperatures warm, but also pressure from oil prices, which have risen over 20% in the last month, primarily driven by OPEC's surprise decision a week ago to cut oil production," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. Prices in Illinois are 31.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 39.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.15 per gallon. The cheapest station in the area Monday was Mohsen at Lorenzo Road, Wilmington at \$3.58/g. The most expensive was one Braidwood station priced at \$4.08/g. Coal City stations were averaging \$3.90/g; while in Wilmington it was \$3.95/g average. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.29/g. in Champaign while the most expensive was \$4.97/g. "Expect the upward trend to continue through much of the rest of spring, but once the transition to summer gasoline and refinery maintenance are behind us, April and May jumps could bring June slumps. However, for diesel, the news continues to be good, with the national average price of diesel continuing to drop, now at its narrowest difference to gasoline in over 13 months."

IDENTITY THEFT TIP
Carefully and regularly review credit card and bank statements, whether you get them in the mail or online. Check for unauthorized transactions and dispute them with your bank immediately. Sign up for free fraud alerts fro

WHS Class of '80 planning reunion

Save the date as the Wilmington High School Class of '80 Reunion will take place June 24, at the Holiday Inn & Suites at 1471 Rock Creek Blvd., Joliet. It will start at 4:30 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. Admissions will be \$65 for single and \$125 for couple.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and there will be a DJ and cash bar. If you have any questions call Lyn Reese-Allot at (815) 999-2121 or email LREESE1962@yahoo.com or contact Dawn Hansen-Norris at dawnnorris@comcast.net.

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Red Carpet Corridor Festival Craft show and flea market

Wilmington, IL • Saturday, May 6

Become a vendor in the craft show and flea market planned for Saturday, May 6, in downtown Wilmington during the Red Carpet Corridor festivities, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A non-refundable permit fee for a 10x10 space is \$35 on or before April 22; \$50 postmarked April 24-29. Do not mail after April 29. For vendors who make payment the day of show the fee will be \$65 (first come, first served). Must arrive by 8 a.m. to set-up. Even non-profit organizations must pay for a spot. For fresh food vendors (for all who prepare food on site): \$100 fee for a 10x20 space and contract must be postmarked by April 29; \$130 fee if space is paid for after April 29. Set-up can begin as early as 6:30 a.m. Arrive by 8 a.m. and remove all vehicles by 8:40 a.m. Check in will be at the north end of Water St. Unfortunately, no electricity will be available. Complete the contract below and return it with a check made payable to "Women of Wilmington" to: Women of Wilmington, c/o Brenda Craig-Cherveney, 1235 Chesson Court, Wilmington, IL 60481. Questions can be directed to Cherveney by emailing brenniej@aol.com. The Red Carpet Event Committee and Women of Wilmington will not assume liability for any losses, damages or injuries sustained by exhibitors or spectators.

Craft Show and Flea Market Application

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New battery could offer 1,000 miles driving

BY JOSEPH E. HARMON
ARGONNE NATIONAL LAB

New safer battery, tested for a thousand cycles in a test cell, can store far more energy than today's common lithium-ion batteries.

Many owners of electric cars have wished for a battery pack that could power their vehicle for more than 1,000 miles on a single charge. Researchers at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory have developed a lithium-air battery that could make that dream a reality.

The team's new battery design could also one day power domestic airplanes and long-haul trucks.

The main new component in this lithium-air battery is a solid electrolyte instead of the

usual liquid variety. Batteries with solid electrolytes are not subject to the safety issue with the liquid electrolytes used in lithium-ion and other battery types, which can overheat and catch fire.

"The lithium-air battery has the highest projected energy density of any battery technology being considered for the next generation of batteries beyond lithium ion." — Larry Curtiss, Argonne Distinguished Fellow

More importantly, the team's battery chemistry with the solid electrolyte can potentially boost the energy density by as much as four times above lithium-ion batteries, which translates into longer driving range.

"For over a decade, scientists at Argonne and elsewhere have been working overtime to develop a lithium battery that makes use of the oxygen in air,"

said Larry Curtiss, an Argonne Distinguished Fellow. "The lithium-air battery has the highest projected energy density of any battery technology being considered for the next generation of batteries beyond lithium-ion."

The team's new solid electrolyte is composed of a ceramic polymer made from relatively inexpensive elements. This new solid enables chemical reactions that produce lithium oxide (Li₂O) on discharge.

"The chemical reaction for lithium superoxide or peroxide only involves one or two electrons stored per oxygen molecule, whereas that for lithium oxide involves four electrons," said Argonne chemist Rachid Amine. More electrons stored means higher energy density.

The team's lithium-air design is the first lithium-air

battery that has achieved a four-electron reaction at room temperature. It also operates with oxygen supplied by air from the surrounding environment. The capability to run with air avoids the need for oxygen tanks to operate, a problem with earlier designs.

Another plus is this new battery could potentially use sodium in place of lithium, which is in limited supply and costly to mine. Sodium can be found just about everywhere on planet earth.

Past lithium-air test cells suffered from very short cycle lives. The team established that this shortcoming is not the case for their new battery design by building and operating a test cell for 1000 cycles, demonstrating its stability over repeated charge and discharge.

"With further development, we expect our new design for the lithium-air battery to also reach a record energy density of 1200 watt-hours per kilogram," said Curtiss. "That is nearly four times better than lithium-ion batteries."

This research was published in a recent issue of Science.

Spaghetti dinner planned for April 15

The Wilmington Knights of Columbus will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Saturday, April 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the St. Rose Hall, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

balls, garlic bread, salad, desserts and drink will be served. Carry-outs will be available.

Cost is a free-will offering to help the Knights with community service projects throughout the year.

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KRISTI SEITZ

St. Rose names CCW woman of the year

THE ST. ROSE Council of Catholic Women in Wilmington is pleased to announce that Kristi Seitz was unanimously chosen as their 2023 Woman of the Year. Kristi is a newer member and parishioner and has brought her talents, fresh ideas, enthusiasm and contagious energy not only to the CCW but to the

parish as well. She and her husband Dean regularly attend the 7:00 a.m. Sunday Mass where Kristi also serves as lector. Kristi will join other CCW honorees at a special Mass at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet on Saturday, April 22. The theme for this celebration is "Touched by the Spirit".

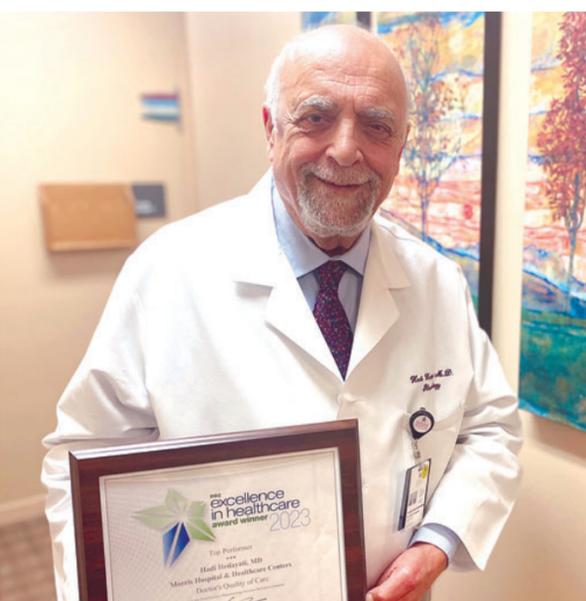
Morris Hospital and local rheumatologist earn awards for Excellence in Healthcare

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has been recognized by Professional Research Consultants with 11, 5-Star Excellence in Healthcare Awards. The awards are based on the percentage of patients who rate their overall quality of care "excellent" on the patient surveys.

In addition, Dr. Hadi Hedayati, a rheumatologist with Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, received a Top Performer award in the Provider-Rheumatology Services "Doctor's Quality of Care" category based on the percentage of patients who rated Dr. Hedayati as "excellent" for overall quality of doctor care. The score that Dr. Hedayati received placed him at or above the 100th percentile when compared to other rheumatologists across the country who use the same patient survey tool.

Dr. Hedayati has served on the Morris Hospital Medical Staff since 1997 and sees patients at the Morris Healthcare Center on Edwards Street, located on the east side of the hospital campus.

The majority of Morris Hospital's 5-Star Excellence awards were in the Outpatient Clinic - Primary Care Services category, with recipients including the Gardner Healthcare Center, Marseilles Healthcare Center, Mazon Healthcare Center, Minooka Healthcare Center-Ridge Road, Morris Healthcare Center-Lakewood Drive, Morris Healthcare Center - Pediatrics, and Newark Healthcare Center. Morris Hospital Allergy Specialists



Courtesy photo

DR. HADI HEDAYATI, a rheumatologist at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, was recognized with a Top Performer award for doctor's quality of care by Professional Research Consultants, the firm that conducts Morris Hospital's patient surveys.

received a 5-Star Excellence Award in the Outpatient Clinic-Specialty Care Services category.

In the Inpatient Medical/Surgical Services category, Morris Hospital received a 5-Star Excellence Award for 2 East Medical/Surgical. 5-Star awards also went to Morris Hospital's Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Therapy Services in the Outpatient Therapy Services category and to Endoscopy-Outpatient in

the Outpatient Surgery category.

"It is an honor to recognize Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers for their deserving work," said Joe M. Inguanzo, Ph.D., President and CEO of Professional Research Consultants. "It takes true dedication and determination to achieve this level of excellence in healthcare, and Morris Hospital has shown their commitment to making their hospital a better place for patients to be treated."

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OBITUARIES

Jacob Countryman

MORRIS—Jacob William Countryman "J.C.," 28, of Morris, and formerly of Braidwood passed away Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at his home. He was born on July 6, 1994 in Joliet to Jason and Beth (nee Countryman) Fields. J.C. had a long-time girlfriend, Megan, who he loved very much. A gifted free-style rapper, he enjoyed all music. He enjoyed gaming with his life-long best friends. More than anything he loved his kids dearly and loved spending time with them and all of his family.

Surviving are his sons, Keegan Paul Countryman and Kaycee Rae Countryman; step-son, Karter Brown; parents, Jason and Beth Fields, of Morris; sister, Ashley Fields, of Braidwood; grandparents, Paul and Georgia Countryman and JoAnne Fields, all of Braidwood; long-time girlfriend, Megan; aunts, Kellie Prindiville, of Braidwood; Amanda



Countryman, of Custer Park and Julie (Donald) Rhodes, of Braidwood; uncle, Jeremy Fields, of Braidwood; honorary big brother, Charlie Prindiville as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding him in death was his grandfather, Bob Fields and uncle, Jody Fields.

Funeral services were held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Cremation rites were accorded following services.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood were in charge of arrangements.

Harold T. Hibler



BRAIDWOOD—Harold T. Hibler, 94, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully Friday, April 7, 2023.

He was born in Greenfield Township, Grundy County, on June 9, 1928 to George and Cenka Hibler. Harold was a 1946 graduate of Reddick High School. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood and was a past Grand Knight of the Braidwood Council Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the Braidwood American Legion Koca Post #39 and the Joliet Moose Lodge. He also served as former Commissioner of Public Buildings and Property for the city of Braidwood. Harold was a 50 year member and retiree of the Laborers' Local #75. He enjoyed dancing, card playing, fishing and hunting.

Harold married Elena (Bergman) Hibler on Jan. 11, 1958. He is the father of two children, Dr. Starla Hibler Raley (Michael), of Madison, IN and Kevin M. Hibler (Julie), of Myakka City, FL. He is also survived by a sister, Emma Schultz (James) and brother, James Hibler (Diane).

He was predeceased by his parents, George and Cenka Hibler and brothers: George Hibler



(Josephine), John Hibler (Marcella) and Frank Hibler (Mildred) and sisters: Mame Hibler; Loretta Sukley (Roman), Julia Halpin (William) and Dorothy Slejko (Leon).

Visitation for Harold will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services will be from the funeral home on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. to go in procession to the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Interment with military honors will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the Braidwood Area Historical Society, Immaculate Conception Church, or the Braidwood Fire Department.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Passafiume

BRAIDWOOD— Mary Kathryn Passafiume (nee Pearson), 80, of Braidwood, passed away on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

She was born on May 4, 1942 in Joliet, to Margaret (nee Perino) and William Pearson. She married the love of her life and best friend, James Leo Passafiume Jr. on May 12, 1967 in Joliet. Together they made their home and raised their six children and many beloved dogs in Braidwood, where she was a lifelong resident. In September of 1970, Mary Kay became the mother of the first surviving triplets to be born at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Joliet. This was not only a major blessing for their family, but also brought a tremendous outreach of support from the members of their parish, Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Braidwood, as well as the surrounding communities to help Mary Kay and James welcome these three babies into their home.

She grew up playing cards, making homemade ravioli and baking with her many cousins who also lived in the area. Mary Kay was an avid reader and loved doing word searches. In her favorite season, summer, she could be found at the Braidwood Recreation Club enjoying the sun and sand. She was a wonderful mother, but she was born to be a grandmother. The "late into the night" games of Yatzee and Rummy will be fondly remembered by all her grandchildren. She was the best, most caring, spoiling, and loving grandmother anyone could be blessed to have. Anything that enabled her to be with her family is what she loved most. In her later years, she enjoyed playing the slot machines with her husband. All who knew her



will remember her with a smile the next time they have a strawberry milkshake, a McDonald's Diet Coke or a seasonal Little Debbie's snowball and when they hear an Elvis song. She will be greatly missed and always loved beyond words.

Surviving is her husband, James; three daughters: Jill (Michael) Panko, of Cary, IL and their children: Michael Jr., Matthew (Maxine), Sarah (Matt) Neumann, Rachel and Francis; Mary (Craig) Farrell, of Washington and their children, Anthony (Natasha) and Charles; Sylvia Johnson, of Braidwood and son, Blake; three sons: John, of Channahon and children, Jessica (Patrick) and Hope; James (Amanda), of Channahon and children, Brayden (Marie) and Joshua and Paul (Nicole Medina), of Plainfield. Also surviving are six great-grandchildren, sister-in-law, Anna Pearson; special niece, Lisa Novy and her daughter, Madison.

Preceding her in death were her parents, mother-in-law, Mary Berta; brother, William Pearson; sister, Betty Ann Majesky; daughter-in-law, Lois Passafiume and brother-in-law, Jasper Thompson.

The visitation will be at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Thursday, April 13, 2023 from 3-7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood. Interment will follow at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery in Braceville.

Memorial donations may be directed to The Giving Door or Uplifted Care.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Donna W. Ward

WILMINGTON—Donna W. Ward, 75, of Wilmington and formerly of Braidwood, passed away April 9, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Nov. 15, 1947 in Effingham, IL, Donna was a daughter of Donald and Virginia (Taylor) Evans. She was raised in Braidwood and graduated from Reed-Custer High School with the class of 1965. On Dec. 20, 1967, Donna married Charles E. Ward in the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington and together they made a home in Braidwood before settling in Wilmington to raise their family.

Donna attended Beauty School in Kankakee and worked as a hairdresser locally, as well as out of her home prior to gaining employment with McDonald's in Wilmington. She later went to work for Tom and Sandy Welsh at the Wilmington Cleaners until her retirement. She was a member of Braidwood Recreation Club, and took pleasure in embroidery. Donna was an amazing cook, loved flowers, particularly yellow tulips, and took great pleasure working inside her home, cleaning and maintaining the family residence. She will be remembered for her love of family and spending holidays with those near and dear to her. One who was strong willed, Donna leaves behind a truly caring and loving legacy which includes her children, grandchildren and great-grandson.

Survivors include her three daughters: Anita Ward, of Wilmington; Jill Zacha, of Braidwood and Dawna Ward, of Wilmington; grandchildren: Ashlee (Alex) Clubb, of Morris and Jace Zacha, of Braidwood; one great-grandson, Parker Clubb; one sister, Brenda (Paul)



Bumpous, of Braidwood; her sister-in-law, Susie Evans, of Wilmington; nephews and nieces: William "Bopper" (Shawn) Welsh III, of Wilmington; Jake (Alyssa) Evans, of Shorewood and John Harvey, of Braidwood; great-nieces and great-nephews: D.J., Whitney, Marcus, Zach and Isla and great-great-nephews: Bentley, Bryson and Beckham, as well as her uncle, Wallace Taylor, of Mattoon, IL.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Virginia Evans; husband, Charles Ward (2021); brother, Wally Evans and niece, Melissa (Welsh) Harvey.

Per Donna's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 1 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington. A procession will depart at 1:30 p.m. to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood for 2 p.m. committal services. Donna will be laid to rest with her late husband, Charles in the columbarium.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Donna's memory to a Veteran's organization of the donor's choosing or 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 Donna's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Wavel Needy

GARDNER— Wavel Needy (nee Meyer), 90, of Gardner, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

She was born on June 17, 1932 in Chicago, to Louis and Viola (nee Philbrick) Meyer. Wavel was a full time loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. Family was very important to her. She lived in Lockport, IL for 33 years and moved to Gardner in 1990. In her spare time, she was a Girl Scout Leader, Sunday School Teacher, was her husband's unpaid secretary during his time as a teacher, a member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church Altar Guild, an active member and officer of the Gardner Senior Citizen Group, and a board member of the Gardner Prairie Cemetery.

Wavel was known for her annual tomato garden. She loved feeding the birds and squirrels. She also enjoyed sewing, embroidering, and puzzles. She had a special fondness for ice cream.

She is survived by her two daughters, Dawn (Ken) Luzbetak, of Bremerton, WA and Sharon Bernico, of Braidwood; son-in-law, Mark (Diane) King, of Buchanan, GA; eight grandchildren; Sarah (Steve) Myers, of Mystic, CT; Karen (Andy) Luzbetak, of Bremerton, WA; Jennifer



(Brian) Nesselroad, of Vancouver, BC, Canada; Timothy (Tracy) Bernico Jr., of Braidwood; Alex Bernico, of San Francisco, CA; Secilanne (Mark) Amlotte, of Wilmington, NC; Erin (Neal) Humphreys, of Lawrenceville, GA and Gail (Bill) Brewer, of Rockmart, GA; 16 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wavel was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 70 years, Raymond Needy; daughter, Alice King and sister, Althea (Sylvester) Servin.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at the United Lutheran Church in Gardner. Pastor Greg Olson officiated. Interment followed in Gardner Prairie Cemetery.

Memorial donations in Wavel's name may be directed to the United Lutheran Church, 309 E. Jefferson St., Gardner, IL 60424.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood was in charge of arrangements.

Bill "Earl" Roge



SOUTH WILMINGTON— Bill "Earl" Roge, 75, of South Wilmington, formerly of Montgomery, IL, passed away Thursday, April 6, 2023 at his home.

Born Dec. 5, 1947 in Hinsdale, IL, William Wayne was a son of William and Oceana (Smith) Roge. He was raised and educated in Lisle, and graduated from Lisle High School with the class of 1965. Bill attended junior college until he was drafted into the United States Army, with whom he would serve in the airborne infantry as a paratrooper in the Vietnam War, until his honorable discharge in 1970. After his military service, he met the love of his life on a first date, Suzanne Irene Haggis, who he married on Aug. 7, 1970. Together, they would live together and raise their family in Montgomery, until relocating to South Wilmington for the past 16 years.

Bill worked as a lineman for Commonwealth Edison for 37 years, and was a member of the Montgomery VFW Post 7452. He was an avid fisherman and found great peace in being outdoors. Bill's home away from home was the Ceco Recreational Club in Coal City, where he served on the board and worked diligently on maintaining the roadways and installing electric hookups for recreational vehicles. He was a kindhearted man, with a great



sense of humor, who loved spending time with his friends having a drink and going fishing.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Sue Roge, of South Wilmington; three children: Timothy Roge, of Aurora; Andrew Roge, of Crown Point, IN and Kelly (Kiley) Goodman, of Ottawa; six grandchildren: Alexander, Ayden, Audrey, Evan, Elias, and Eleanor; one brother, Stephen Roge; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Judy Roge, Will Haggis and Lisa (Steve) Wroblewski; several nieces and nephews, and his best friend, Terrance Zdeb, of South Wilmington.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother, Ralph Roge; two aunts, Dell and Etola; and his good friend, Earl Young.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City. Burial with full military honors followed the funeral service at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Memorials may be made as gifts in Bill's memory to the Shriners Children's Hospital.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Bill's memorial page via social media.

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

Rosella Votta

BRAIDWOOD— Rosella Votta, 90 of Braidwood, died unexpectedly on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at Miller Rehabilitation Center in Kankakee, Illinois.

Born April 2, 1932 in Carbon Hill, Rosella Marie was a daughter of John and Angela (DePratt) Bonucci. She was raised in Carbon Hill, attended Carbon Hill High School, and graduated from Coal City High School with the Class of 1950. On June 5, 1954, Rosella married the true love of her life, Joseph Votta at Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City, and together they would eventually live and make their home in Braidwood.

Due to her father's untimely death at Rosella's tender age of 5, she learned a strong work ethic from an early age and gained employment in the local garment factories as soon as she was old enough to work. Her career later began at the Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency (APSA), where she worked for many years until gaining employment as the office manager at her cousin, Dr. Richard Tarizzo's physician office in Joliet. She retired at the age of 55.

Rosella was a past member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood and Saint Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church in Essex, and belonged to the Women of the Moose. She loved to play card games, especially Euchre, and looked forward to her regular card club which she participated in for 40 years. Rosella also enjoyed playing Bingo and had a "green thumb" for flower gardening. She was an avid sports fan and was the biggest supporter of her granddaughters' various sporting and school events. Watching the girls excel gave her great joy, and both she and Joe never missed the opportunity to be in attendance to see the grandkids whenever possible. Over the years, Rosella and Joe also participated in local bowling leagues in Wilmington, and they enjoyed golfing together not just locally, but also in Florida where they would spend their winters.

Rosella's greatest memories were made with her family. She cherished her three granddaughters, but her heart was overfilled with the

addition of her three great granddaughters who were precious to her. Rosella and Joe were inseparable, and in addition to celebrating 69 years of marriage this year, the two lived without regret living their best life for 45 years of retirement.

Rosella devoted her life to putting family first and being a wonderful caregiver to those she knew and loved. She will be remembered as one who never complained, and leaves behind the legacy of being a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to all who knew her.

Survivors include her husband, Joe Votta of Braidwood; one son, Greg (Kim) Votta of Essex; three granddaughters: Kate (Erick) De La Rosa of Northridge, CA, Rebecca Votta (fiancé Edward Charleson-Gallacher) of Los Angeles, CA, and Georgia Votta of East Lansing, MI; three great granddaughters: Sofia, Alba, and Luna De La Rosa; one sister-in-law: Marie (the late Ernie) Swanson of Coal City, and Al (Wilma) Votta of Alabama; and nieces and nephews: Denise (Dave) Stybr, Tiffany Votta, Joshua Votta, and Ronnie Votta.

Rosella was preceded in death by her parents, one sister: Elvira (Bob) Smith.

Per her wishes, cremation rites were accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington from 5 to 7 p.m.

A private memorial service will be held, and Rosella will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Rosella's memory to Susan G. Komen For the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation.

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

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Distraction driving deadly

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 32,000 people died in distraction-affected crashes from 2011 to 2020.

In 2020, there were 3,142 deaths linked to driver distraction, or 8% of all traffic fatalities. Illinois law prohibits the use of hand-held electronic communication devices while driving unless using hands-free mode.

"Last year, the Illinois State Police issued more than

7,200 citations and almost 10,500 warnings for distracting driving. We've already issued more than 1,300 citations and 1,900 warnings this year," said ISP Division of Patrol Deputy Director Col. Margert McGreal.

"The most common distracted driving offenses include talking or texting on the phone. Don't put yourself and others in danger while driving. Buckle up and put the phone down."

To keep your attention on

the road, remember these tips:

- If you are expecting a text or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location.

- Ask your passenger to be your "designated texter."

- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.

- Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone's "Do Not Disturb" feature.

Mayor-elect won with soft-on-crime approach

A couple of Chicago mayoral race polling results from last month have been stuck in my head ever since they were released.

The BSP Research poll taken March 15-23 for Northwestern University's Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy found the two mayoral runoff candidates were running neck and neck. The poll was almost universally ignored by the city's news media, yet it might've possibly contained an important nugget which could help explain at least part of Brandon Johnson's win and Paul Vallas' loss.

The poll found that 82 percent of Chicagoans supported the idea of increasing the number of police on the force. OK, no surprise there.

Immediately after answering that question, however, 63 percent said they supported the idea of decreasing police funding and investing in addressing root causes of crime. According to the poll, 68 percent of Black people, 66 percent of Latinos and 59 percent of Whites supported that idea.

"If that second result is even close to accurate, it upends everything we're supposed to believe about this contest," I wrote at the time.

Vallas heavily outspent Johnson on television ads, warning voters for weeks that Johnson wanted to "defund the police." According to Vallas, Chicago crime was "out of control" and Johnson would only make things worse.

Almost Vallas' entire platform centered around both hiring more police officers, which is something that Chicago voters of all persuasions clearly said they wanted, and ridiculing Johnson for his



Rich Miller
CAPITOL FACTS

past remarks on the topic of policed funding. Johnson soft-pedaled his past remarks, but insisted that crime prevention and solving crimes should be at the top of the priority list.

I've often declared that voters "don't do nuance," but it's been clear that pundits and many political reporters are the ones who've been far less nuanced about crime than voters over the past year in this state, and particularly in the Chicago metro area.

As we saw in 2022, polls showed that suburban and Downstate voters simply did not view the crime problem as the over-arching issue portrayed by the news media and Republican political operatives.

Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin spent tens of millions of Ken Griffin's dollars to use the crime issue in a spectacularly failed effort to capture the Republican gubernatorial nomination and prove his questionable Republican bona fides.

The Chicago Fraternal Order of Police aggressively attacked Sen. Rob Martwick (D-Chicago) over his support for the SAFE-T Act in an attempt to nominate a candidate with Republican affiliations in a Democratic primary. That also failed miserably.

And then, of course, there were the endless TV ads from Dan Proft's People Who Play by the Rules PAC last year designed to depress the Democrats' Chicago base and hurt Gov. JB Pritzker and wound Democrats in the suburbs. Nope.

A GQR poll released the day after Chicago's mayoral election found similar results.

Likely Chicago voters were asked if they preferred 1) "Doing more to get tough

on crime, like having stricter sentences for people convicted of violent crimes, maintaining strong bail laws to keep potentially dangerous people in jail, and giving police more support and resources"; or 2) "Fully fund things that are proven to create safe communities and improve people's quality of life, like good schools, a living wage, and affordable housing, and do more to prevent crime by increasing treatment for mental health and drug addiction and cracking down on illegal gun sales."

By a 58-39 margin, respondents chose the prevention angle over the tough on crime angle.

At least in this state, the Bill Clinton era sure appears to be over. Ginning up fears about crime and promising to throw more money at the police just aren't enough by themselves any longer to win races.

In that bygone time, Vallas would've likely easily defeated Johnson with the message he used this spring, despite his affiliations with the far right in the recent past (including the ultra-radical Awake Illinois and Dan Proft). Today's voters here want far more than just "lock 'em up" rhetoric.

Not all of Clinton's lessons are now passe, however. Vallas, who will turn 70 in June, constantly surrounded himself with older Democrats like former Secretary of State Jesse White, former Senate President Emil Jones, former US Rep. Bobby Rush and US Sen. Dick Durbin.

But that ignored one of Clinton's most valuable and enduring political lessons: Don't offer to be a bridge to the past; promise instead that you will build a bridge to the future. Brandon Johnson did that, Vallas did not.

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

I-55 bridge work starts

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that work is underway on the Interstate 55 bridges crossing Rooks Creek in Livingston County. The work zone is located 3 miles southwest of Pontiac.

Work includes expansion joint replacement, deck repairs and the installation of a latex overlay on the structures. One lane will be closed in each direction during the \$1.9 million project, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

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Pritzker: 'Devil's in the details' when considering lifting ban on new nuclear

BY JERRY NOWICKI & NIKA SCHOONOVER
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - Lawmakers went on a two-week spring break last week with more than 700 bills already passed in at least one chamber of the General Assembly.

They will return to Springfield on April 18 for a final one-month stretch in which the measures can be amended, defeated or sent to the governor.

Among the bills to successfully move to the other chamber are a measure to lift the state's 1987 moratorium on nuclear power plant construction, a bill that would create statewide building codes and another requiring retail establishments to accept cash payments within certain hours.

Gov. JB Pritzker noted last week that he's generally supportive of the concept of lifting the nuclear construction ban, although he didn't commit to signing the proposal contained in Senate Bill 76, which passed on a 39-13 bipartisan roll call.

Pritzker said he is supportive of allowing for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors, which are small-scale generators that could be used to power indi-

vidual factories or for other uses.

He said he didn't think doing so would be contradictory to the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that he signed in 2021. Some environmentalists have opposed lifting the nuclear ban due to the dangers associated with nuclear waste.

"These are smaller, less prone to an accident, more likely for us to be able to maintain them for a long period of time, that's something that's worthy of consideration," Pritzker said. "Now the devil's in the details and we want to make sure that we're not just opening this up to nuclear everywhere or any type of nuclear."

SB 76, as written, would allow any type of nuclear construction, including the large-scale projects.

"I don't know where that bill will go this session, but I'm not opposed to it as if I'm, you know, just dead set against any nuclear," he said. "I just want, if we're going to consider it, it's got to be safe."

Statewide building codes

Beginning in 2025, Illinois could have statewide building codes for new or substantially renovated commercial and residential construction under a

bill that passed the Senate before break.

Sponsored by Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, Senate Bill 2368 allows the state's Capital Development Board to prohibit occupation of such a facility until it is inspected. The building would have to be compliant with several state or federal building codes for electricity, energy efficiency, accessibility, and plumbing, as well as the Fire Investigation Act.

"Basically, what this does is establishes a statewide building code as a minimum standard," Koehler said during floor debate. "Now most communities are going to have well above the minimum standard. But the reason that this is important is because Illinois is one of only six states in the union that does not have a statewide building code."

Koehler said when Illinois has a natural disaster and applies for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state has to check a box noting it doesn't currently have such a code.

The bill would require municipalities with existing building codes to adopt at least the newly created statewide minimum standard and submit their plans to the state. A homeowner renovating a resi-

dential property in a jurisdiction without a building code would have to adopt the code of any jurisdiction within 100 miles of the construction in the contract with their builder.

Otherwise, it would have to comply with the new statewide standards, which apply to new construction and any renovations that increase the property's value by 50 percent or more.

Republicans questioned whether a statewide code would be enforceable in smaller towns.

"It's up to a municipality as to how they want to enforce it," Koehler said.

Senator Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, used a small town in his district as an example to speak against the bill.

"In Metcalf, Illinois, they don't have anybody to mow the lawn, okay, let alone inspect a house," Rose said. "But more importantly, you're telling an awful lot of people who couldn't afford to repair and maintain their home in the first place that we just doubled or tripled the bill. And there may or may not be some guy from the (Capital Development Board) knocking on their door."

The measure passed 34-18 with one present vote and it awaits action in the House.

Coming soon...

Our Graduation Pages

These folks congratulate the Wilmington High School Class of 2021

A Salute to 2023 Seniors
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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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BUSINESS PROPERTIES FOR RENT

Wilmington - Commercial space. 101 E. Chicago St., Unit 2. Call 815-693-6030. Available May 1. ca15-18

GARAGE SALE

Braidwood - 878 W. Kennedy Rd. Saturday, April 15 & Sunday, April 16 from 9am-5pm. Antique gas pumps, fishing equipment, tools, Budweiser beer steins, other misc items. ca15

ONE DAY SALE!!

Braidwood - 279 North Division Street. Saturday, April 22 from 9am-3pm. Tools, full size 10 inch table saw, bikes, furniture, Zenith console radio circa 1948, scooter, speakers, rods & reels, misc. cc15-16

HELP WANTED

ABM is hiring at the Braidwood Constellation Station. Formerly known as Exelon. We have temporary day and evening positions available for the Spring Refueling Outage. We may also have full time positions as well. You can apply online at Indeed.com. Search for "Outage Cleaner in Braceville, IL." Must pass all required training and testing for Constellation. Starting rate is \$18-\$19 an hour. Benefits and vacation time are included with full time employment. Please contact our Braidwood office with any further questions. (815)417-2293. cc13-16

HELP WANTED

South Wilmington Grade School is in need of a part-time bookkeeper for approximately 10-20 hours per month. The candidate should have knowledge and experience with payroll, accounts payable, and bank reconciliation. Knowledge of QuickBooks is helpful. Interested candidates should submit a resume to South Wilmington Grade School, 375 Fifth St., P.O. Box 459, South Wilmington, IL 60474 or email chrhistensen@swil74.org. Questions can be directed to Superintendent Cindy Christensen at 815-237-2281.

HELP WANTED

South Wilmington Grade School is seeking applicants for the following positions for the 2023-2024 School Year. Certified Paraprofessional-Full Time: Preference given to applicants with a BA and qualify to hold a substitute license. Middle School Language Arts Teacher: Full time starting with the 2023-2024 school year. For all positions, send letter of interest and resumé along with a copy of certification and endorsements if applicable to Mrs. Cynthia Christensen, Superintendent, P.O. Box 459, South Wilmington, IL 60474 or email cchristensen@swil74.org. Please indicate in the heading the position of interest. Start Date for all positions will be August 14, 2023. cc13-18

NOW HIRING

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

Full-time Painter

needed. 2-3 years experience preferred. Must have valid driver's license, own transportation and trade tools. Email resume to: quardtopaint@aol.com or call 815-458-1005. cc15-16

HELP WANTED

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

Part Time office help.

Saturday's required. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Apply in person at Culligan of Coal City, 75 W. Chestnut St. Coal City. cc12-15

Part-time Seasonal

Lawn Maintenance Worker. The Village of Diamond is seeking a part-time summer lawn maintenance worker. Duties include but not limited to mowing and weed trimming. 20-25 hour work week. Rate of pay: \$17.00 per hour. Must be min. 18 yrs. of age and possess a valid driver's license. Mandatory drug screen, physical and background check required. Applications can be obtained online or in person. Application deadline date is May 5, 2023. Submit applications to: Village of Diamond 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL www.villageofdiamond.org ch15-16

HOMES FOR RENT

Braidwood area - 3BR, 2 bath, stove; refrigerator; C/A; W/D hookup; storage shed. Large lot & deck, 169 N Vernon Dr., Godley. \$1,250/mo. 1st, last, security, credit check. 815-476-6462. cc15-18

Braidwood area - 3BR,

2BA, stove; refrigerator; C/A; washer/dryer; storage shed. Large lot. 1st, last & security. Credit check required. 745 E. Mary Ln., Godley. \$1,250/month. 815-476-6462. cc15-18

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Godley - 1BR, small trailer. Recently remodeled. \$700/month, 1 yr lease & 1st, last & security required. Gas & electric not included. No smoking, no pets. 815-263-8597. cc14-17

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 840 N English St, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Residential). On the 27th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Court-house Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Fifth Third Bank, National Association** Plaintiff V. **Thomas J. Derrico; et al.** Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 1015** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall

pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Codilis & Associates, P.C.** 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., April 5, 12 & 19, 2023.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 390 E. Janet Dr., Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family). On the 27th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Court-house Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust** Plaintiff V. **Thomas M. Brown** Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 1019** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in 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: **Heavner Beyers and Millar LLC** 111 E. Main Street, Decatur, Illinois 62523 P: 217-422-1719 F: 217-422-1754 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., April 5, 12 & 19, 2023.

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 128 N Countryside Ct, Braidwood, IL 60408 (N/A). On the 27th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Court-house Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Freedom Mortgage Corporation** Plaintiff V. **Bryon Baine; Bridgette Huffman; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants** Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 0406** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in 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: **ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC** 10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170 DULUTH, GA 30097 P: 708-668-4410 X 52109 F: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., April 5, 12 & 19, 2023



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NEW LISTING MORRIS \$269,000 Well maintained 4 BR, 3 BA Victorian with 2.5 car garage in a great location near Stratton Park. Shawm 815-474-6670. IH628	NEW LISTING GARDNER \$188,900 Well kept 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA ranch home with a full basement and huge 1/3 acre fenced yard. Call 815-942-9190. PW217	SOLD COALCITY \$449,500 Well maintained, 3 acres, 3020 sq. ft., 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 30x48 pole bldg, bsmt, sunrm, RV prkg, CCSchls. Rod 815-674-2583. MG5180	SOLD MAZON \$398,000 3 BR, 2 full & 2 half BA. Brick home w/geothermal heating and cooling for low utility bills. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. WM12	SOLD MAZON \$349,500 New roof, 2354 sq. ft. 0.4A lot adj to city park/pond. 3 BR, 2.5BA, 3 car gar, cvrd porch, cc patio. Rod Baudino 674-2583. PS904
SOLD GARDNER \$239,900 4 BR, 3 BA home is completely renovated and just waiting for you to move in and make it yours. JR407	GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER (815) 942-9190 SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2022 By Grundy County Offices.	SOLD GARDNER \$225,000 Truly exceptional 3 BR, 2 BA home w/2 big garages 20x30 and 24x24 on a double lot. MS211	SOLD MAZON \$225,000 Adorable & cozy 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home which has been completely remodeled! Call Kelly 815-823-6147. HRI113	SOLD S.WILMINGTON \$198,000 3 BR, 2 BA brick ranch home with two car garage is located on a large corner lot. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. LC75
SOLD BRAIDWOOD \$164,900 Look no further! Affordable 2BR, 1 BA, 1 car garage on crawl. Be your own landlord. Call Tami 815-325-0550. NC318	SOLD MAZON \$119,000 2BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large corner lot. 24x24 det. grg, 12x12 shed, 27 ft. above ground pool. Crawl. Della 258-6467. HL411	SOLD VERONA \$108,000 2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. Lg. rooms/yrd. Call Della 815-258-6467. AO432	SOLD COALCITY \$39,900 Here is your opportunity to own a great lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes! Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PP62	

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Electronics dropoff event Thursday in Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, April 13 from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders,

portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Because it's your right to know

Butler Mobile Notary & Fingerprint files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Certificate 34791 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on March 23, 2023 wherein the business firm of Butler Mobile Notary & Fingerprint, located at 240 Oakridge Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning, conducting or transacting the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Shelonda Lynn Butler
Owner Address: 240 Oakridge Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal on this 23rd day of March, 2023.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 29, April 5 and 12, 2023.

Triangle Mini Storage gives notice of possible sale and disposal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Triangle Mini Storage NOTICE OF POSSIBLE SALE AND DISPOSAL
To: Alexis Smith
Notice is hereby given that a possible sale or disposal of personal property will take place as allowed by the IL Self Storage Facility Act 770 ILCS 95.

This property includes household goods. It is in space 323 at Triangle Mini Storage, 24700 W Stripmine Rd, Wilmington, IL 60481.
Potential sale will take place online.
Listing Date: April 14, 2023 12:00 p.m.
Ending Date: April 28, 2023 12:00 p.m.
Location: selfstorageauction.com Auction ID 316451

This notice is being given by Anthony Miceli of Triangle Mini Storage.
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 12 and 19, 2023.

Dodson 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 KRISTEN MARIE DODSON, CASE NO.: 2023MR0000113

LEGAL NOTICE
On May 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held on the Request of KRISTEN MARIE DODSON to change her name to KRISTEN MARIE KLOVER CHEEK. This hearing will be held before The Honorable Judge Anderson, Room 905, of the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, via Zoom ID: 930 2919 0133; PIN: 236236.

Frank J. Meents
Attorney for Petitioner
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney No: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Nasra petitions to change name of minor child

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 BROCK MATTHEW BEVER to the new name of BROCK MATTHEW NASRA, Case No. 2023 MR000108

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the request of: Joanne Adel Nasra to change the name of minor Brock Matthew Bever, who shall appear in the Will County Court, Room 905, 100 W. Jefferson, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of June, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Brock Matthew Bever be changed to Brock Matthew Nasra.

/s/ Joanne Adel Nasra
Petitioner
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 5, 12, and 19, 2023.

Illinois reallocates \$30 million for classroom air purifiers

BY ZETA CROSS
THE CENTER SQUARE

Around \$30 million has been designated to distribute 60,000 HEPA air purifiers in more than 3,000 Illinois schools across the state.

Mike Claffey, of the Illinois Department of Public Health, said the agency and the governor have designated taxpayer resources from the federal Inflation Reduction Act that had been set aside for COVID-19 testing to fund the distribution of air purifiers instead. The pandemic taught the importance of good ventilation in classrooms, Claffey said.

"Cleaner air in classrooms can reduce absentee rates by preventing the circulation of respiratory viruses—including COVID," Claffey told The Center Square. "Studies have shown that better air quality improves students' ability to think, to learn, to read and to solve problems."

Now that it has been three years since the COVID-19 lockdowns, the demand for COVID-19 testing in schools has dropped dramatically. IDPH decided that using the testing funds for classroom air purifiers was a more effective

use of the money.

"With the [U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's] approval, we have allocated the money toward air purifiers," Claffey said.

IDPH is working with the Illinois State Board of Education to identify schools with lower income populations and schools in areas where air quality is a problem.

"Any school in an area that has relatively high air pollution levels is also eligible," Claffey said.

Air purifiers will be delivered to 68% of the state's schools, including schools in Cook County — but not in Chicago, he said. Chicago schools will get air purifiers under a separate federal program.

"We've had a lot of positive feedback from the schools," Claffey said. "Hundreds of applications have already been submitted."

The air purifiers could also help prevent asthma attacks.

"Asthma is the most common chronic disease found in children today. Air purification reduces the presence of asthma triggers in schools," Claffey said.

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How many solar panels would your house need?

Dear EarthTalk: How do I figure out how many solar panels I would need on my two-story, 2,500 square foot house in Seattle to meet my electricity consumption needs?
 -- Paul O., Seattle, WA

While everyone's situation is different, a typical 2,500 square foot American home would require a solar panel array that can output 6-10 kilowatts (kW) of power. Assuming that the panels have a wattage of 320 watts (W) each, a 6-kW system would require around 19 solar panels while a 10-kW system would need as many as 31 panels up top to supply 100 percent of the typical electricity

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment



A TYPICAL AMERICAN home would need 19-31 solar panels to meet 100% of its electricity needs.

needs for a home this size. However, the exact number of panels you'll need varies depending on factors including where you live, your roof's orientation and shading, the type of solar panels you choose, and your average monthly electricity usage. To get a more accurate estimate tailored to your exact situation, check out Google's Project Sunroof, a free website that takes your address and analyzes your roof shape and local weather patterns to create a personalized solar plan. You can adjust your electric bill to fine-tune your savings estimate and the recommended number of solar panels for your home, and then even compare loan, lease and purchase options for your solar panels based on your results.

(In some cases, based on electrical costs in your region and the amount of sunlight your house will get, Project Sunroof's algorithm might suggest not going solar.) Once you have an estimate of the number of panels you need, you can start shopping for solar panels. There are a number of different types of solar panels on the market, so it's important to do your research and compare prices before making a purchase. You should also make sure

that the solar panels you choose are compatible with your roof and that they have a warranty. Also, traditional photovoltaic panels aren't the only option anymore. Thin-film solar cells are a newer technology that can be incorporated into roofing materials or other surfaces, blending into the roofline unobtrusively. They are made of lightweight, flexible materials and can be easier to install than traditional photovoltaic panels. And if you need to replace an old roof or are building a new house, consider using

solar roof shingles, which not only protect your home from the elements but generate electricity in the process without the need for bulky panels on top of them. These newer technologies tend to be 15-20 percent more expensive than traditional photovoltaic panels but may be right for you depending on your situation. And remember that the federal government offers a tax credit on 30 percent of the cost of your new solar system as long as it's installed by the end of 2032. You can also look for additional local and/or state incentives for going solar via the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online resource that lists all kinds of renewable energy incentives coast-to-coast. Installing solar panels is a big decision, but it can be a great way to save money on your electricity bills and reduce your environmental impact. If you're thinking about going solar, be sure to do your research and get multiple estimates before making a purchase. EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

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Thank you note from the **Scott Allison Family:**

We would like to thank everyone for their support at this most difficult time, for kind words, flowers, a card, a donation of money, food or whatever your contribution might have been, it was very generous of you. Thanks to Lightways (Hospice) of Joliet for all their help. And a special thank you to Patterson's Funeral Home and all their employees. Please accept our gratitude.

The Family of **Elaine Testa**

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CLUES ACROSS

- Atomic mass unit
- Criticize mightily
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Stand in for
- Everyone has one
- Brew
- Rectify
- Popular Dodge truck model
- Beef or chicken intestine
- Satisfy
- Of a particular people or localized region
- Movements in quick tempos
- Able to pay one's debts
- Fleshy bird beak covering
- Dueling sword
- Helps
- Court is in it
- Touch lightly
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Of one
- Baked good
- Jai __, sport
- About aviation
- Low oval mound
- Rugged mountain ranges
- Compel to do something
- A way to carve
- Sao __, city in Brazil
- Mustachioed actor Elliott
- American Idol runner-up Clay
- A way to soak
- Car mechanics group
- Born of
- Time zone
- Sea eagle
- Even's opposite

CLUES DOWN

- Sharp mountain ridge
- Thin, fibrous cartilages
- Provides new details
- Muscular weaknesses
- Ottoman military title
- Banes
- Horse-riding seats
- Arms of a shirt
- Narrow path along a road edge
- Viper
- Disfigure
- Variety of Chinese language
- Portray in a show
- Wrongful act
- No (slang)
- State of agitation
- __ Diego
- One point east of due south
- 007's creator
- The NBA's Toppin
- Midway between north and northeast
- Examples
- __ Gould, actor
- The habitat of wild animals
- Artful subtlety
- Infielders
- Keep under control
- Herb
- Distressed
- A way to go down
- Type of acid
- Take by force
- Collected fallen leaves
- Shout of welcome or farewell
- Monetary unit
- Swiss river

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to financial literacy. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = E)

A. 18 5 23 12 21
 Clue: Currency

B. 4 6 6 5 2 23 13
 Clue: Banking relationship

C. 14 4 22 4 23 6 12
 Clue: Make even

D. 20 12 14 16 13
 Clue: Payment made or owed

Answers: A. money B. account C. balance D. debit

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to finance.

CDTIRE

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Credit

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New York on April 12, 1979. I made my film debut in 1994 in an adaptation of a book about women. My popular TV series about teenage angst only lasted one season, but I've had a successful career nonetheless.

Answer: Claire Danes

MONEY & FINANCE WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ACCOUNTING
 APPLICATION
 BANK
 BANKRUPTCY
 CHECKING
 CREDIT
 DEBIT
 DEBT
 DEPOSIT
 FINANCE
 INQUIRY
 INTEREST
 INVESTMENT
 LOSS
 MONEY
 PAPERWORK
 PROFIT
 RATES
 RECONCILE
 SALARY
 SAVINGS
 SOLUTION
 STATEMENT
 WITHDRAWAL

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

COMET SPORTS

McPherson homers, throws no-hitter for Comet win

The Comets improved to 8-2 overall after beating Lisle, 3-0, on Monday.

Reed-Custer senior Jake McPherson fired a no-hitter, striking out 14 with no walks. McPherson also added a pair of hits at the plate, including a 2-run homer in the bottom of the third inning to take a 2-0 lead.

Joe Bembenek had a pair of hits as well, while Connor Esparza, Joe Stellano, Cameron Smith, and Cole Goodwin had a hit a piece.

All told the Comets ended up with eight hits while Lisle had none. All but one of their 10 batters struck out at least once against McPherson's pinpoint pitching.

Hurt by errors

Errors proved costly for the Reed-Custer boys baseball team on Saturday when they let an early lead slip away in a 11-7 loss to Canton.

The Comets came out swinging, scoring three runs their first turn at bat and three more in the second to go up 6-4 after two.

They stayed in front 6-5 through four innings when Canton scored four runs, capitalizing on five Comet errors and adding a couple of insurance runs in the end.

"Joe Bembenek was our tough-luck loser, throwing 5 innings and striking out three, while allowing three earned runs," said Reed-Custer coach Jake Evans. "Bembenek also paced our offense with three hits and a pair of RBIs."

Comet senior Jake McPherson had a pair of hits including a home run. Kyle Fordonski doubled in a run. Connor Esparza, Joe Stellano, Cameron Smith, Cole Goodwin and Brady Tyree had one hit each.

Early lead

On Saturday the Comets beat Pontiac, 7-3, thanks to a pair of home runs and some timely hitting which brought on an early lead.

Reed-Custer scored one run in the first and another in the second before pulling ahead 5-2 after three. They added two insurance runs in the fourth but they were not needed as pitcher Kyle Fordonski earned the win, throwing all 7 innings, while scattering four hits, one ER, and striking out four.

McPherson and Goodwin both homered. Joe Bembenek had a hit and a pair of RBIs. Esparza, Stellano (double), Tyree were all credited with hits. Ethan Slager had a pair of walks and scored a run.

Tame the Mustangs

On Thursday the Comets garnered 10 hits while giving up seven to Yorkville Christian to beat the Mustangs, 8-6.

Stellano allowed one run on two hits, while striking out six over four innings as the Comets built a 5-1 lead

Offensively, the Comets were paced by Jake McPherson, Cameron Smith, Brady Tyree, and Wesley Shats, who all had two

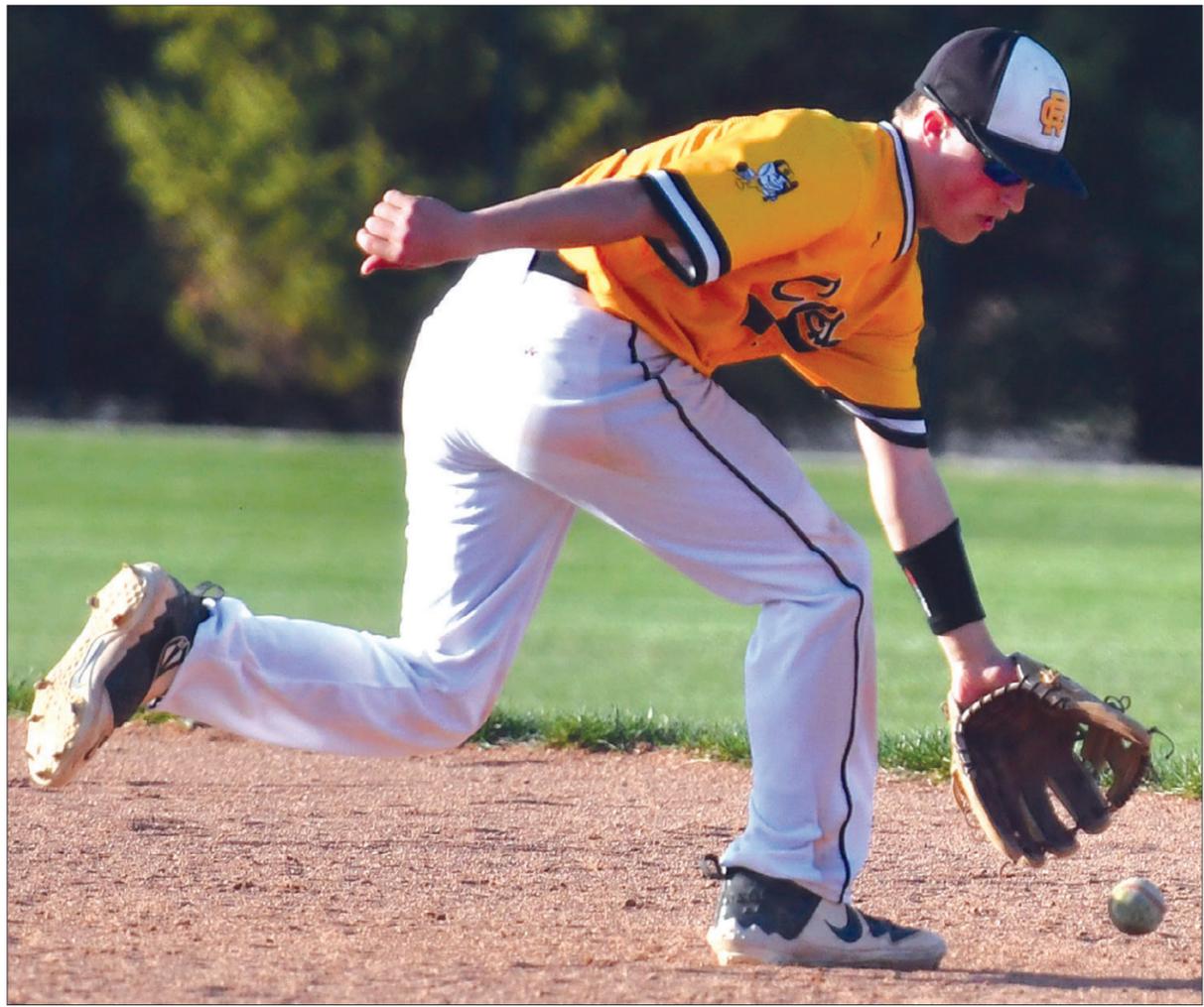


Photo by Zandie Sims

CONNOR ESPARZA chases down a ground hit to second base on Monday against Lisle. The Comets next game will be away at Beecher on Thursday.

hits each. Joe Bembenek and Cole Goodwin added a hit a piece. Yorkville threatened in the bottom of the seventh, scoring one run, before Fordonski retired the side.

Reed-Custer plays at Beecher Thursday before hosting Clifton Central on Friday. On Monday they will play at Peotone before hosting the Blue Devils Tuesday.



Photo by Zandie Sims

PITCHER JAKE MCPHERSON throws the ball to first for the force out on Monday. He threw a no-hitter, striking out 14, and hit a home run.



Photo by Zandie Sims

RUNNING TO FIRST IS Joseph Stellano he had one hit on Monday's game.

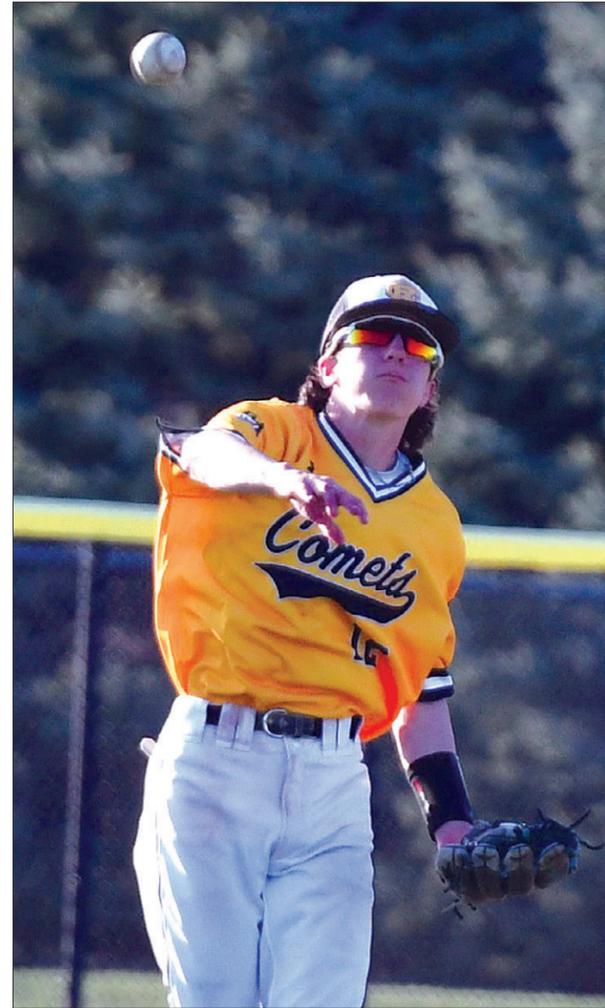


Photo by Zandie Sims

JOE BENBENEK throws the ball to first base during Monday's game against Lisle.

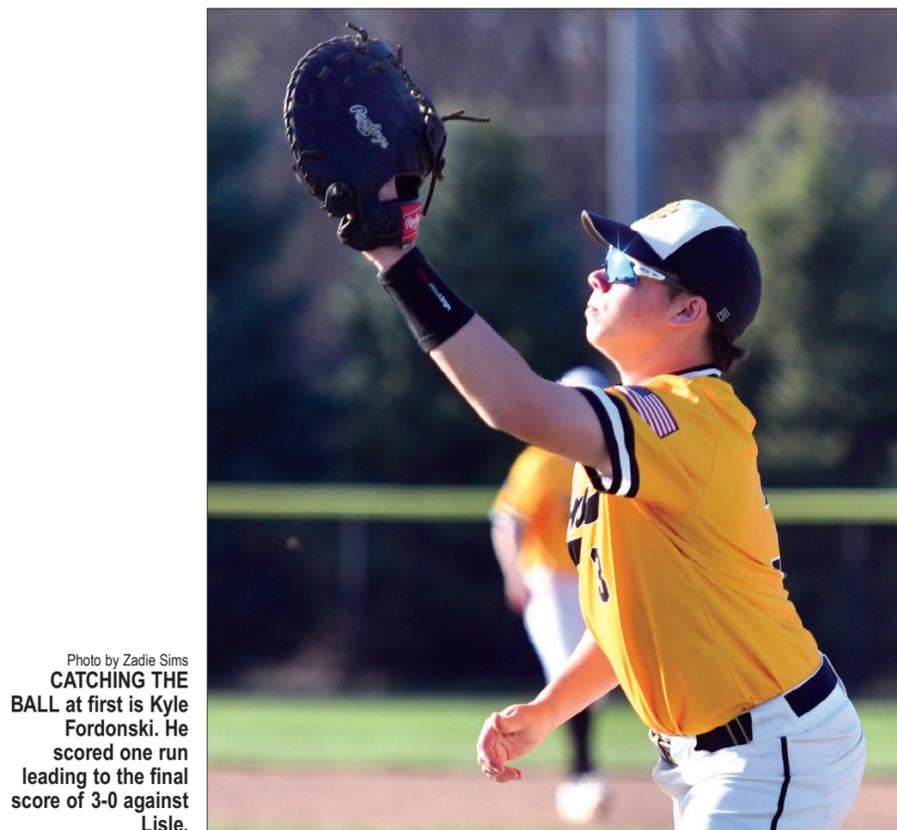


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CATCHING THE BALL at first is Kyle Fordonski. He scored one run leading to the final score of 3-0 against Lisle.

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CELEBRATING THE lead against Lisle is #60 Jessica Janopoulos, #8 Abby Sunday, #15 Halie LaGrange, and #38 Grace Cavanaugh. The Comets took the win with the final score being 11-1.

Lady Comets back to winning

Lady Comets softball team broke a seven loss streak on Monday, upending Lisle 11-1 in a win called in the bottom of the fifth inning due to the mercy rule.

Reed-Custer gave up one run in the top of the first as Lisle's Caturara hit a home run.

Lady Comet pitcher Addison Brown did a good job of brushing it off the rest of the way as she earned the win over five innings by striking out 12, walking only one and giving up three hits.

Halie LaGrange went 3-for-3 including a double to lead RCHS. Sydnee Billingsley had two hits including a double, while Grace Cavanaugh and Mya Beard each had an in-the-park home run and two RBIs.

The Lady Comets ended up with nine hits total and took advantage of six Lion errors. It also helped they played an error-free game.

Double header

The Reed-Custer softball team squeezed in a pair of games Saturday against Class 3A teams, knowing the best way to better yourself is to play the best.

"Both teams were solid 3A teams," said RC coach Nick Arndt. "It was good experience for us, even though we lost."

They battled Pontiac, then Normal West, losing both contests to fall to 1-6 overall.

Pontiac managed to score one run in the first as the Lady Comets stayed with striking distance through three innings. In the fourth Pontiac added two runs before erupting for five in the fifth to take a commanding lead.

Addison Brown pitched all six innings for Reed-Custer, striking out five and walking two while getting tagged four nine hits and 10 runs (three earned).

The Comets ended up with three hits including a pair of singles by Halie LaGrange and a single by Grace Cavanaugh. They both ended up with a stolen base.

The Lady Comets lost the nightcap to Normal West, 11-1.

LaGrange was in the circle for five innings, giving up 11 runs off 11 hits while walking one. The Comets collected four hits including a solo home run by Mya Beard in the fifth inning while, Halie LaGrange, Sydnee Billingsley and Jessica Janopoulos each had a hit. Mya Beard hit a solo home run in the 5th inning. Other hits were recorded by

At Manteno

Reed-Custer lost a conference game 4-1 to Manteno last Tuesday.

The Lady Comets couldn't get anything started until the seventh inning when they scored one. By then the damage was already done with the hosts in front 4-0.

Manteno took advantage of 10 hits and two errors while the Lady Comets had hits from Cavanaugh and Janopoulos who doubled a run. Ten Reed-Custer batters struck out.

LaGrange threw six innings, giving up four runs (two earned) off 10 hits while striking out one.

The Lady Comets play at Streator Woodlawn Wednesday, host Dwight Thursday and travel to Peotone Monday.



Photo by Zadie Sims

RUNNING HOME IS Halie LaGrange during Monday's game against Lisle. The Comets' next game will be at home on Thursday against Dwight.



Photo by Zadie Sims

RUNNING TO FIRST IS Mya Beard. Mya and Grace Cavanaugh both hit a home run on Monday.



Photo by Zadie Sims

ADDISON BROWN PITCHES the ball to Lisle. Addison pitched the whole game on Monday.