



senior spotlight

Esparza is in the Senior Spotlight

R-C falls in the battle of Comets vs. Comets



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Photo courtesy Braidwood ESDA

STORM CLOUDS ROLLING IN! Members of Braidwood ESDA track storms and keep the public informed during severe weather events. ESDA officials noted that 2023 has already seen an active severe weather season get underway, and remind the public to be prepared for severe weather that is common this time of year.

Stay alert during severe weather season

Spring 2023 has already shown to be a busy season for severe weather. While Severe Weather Preparedness month falls each year in March, people in the Midwest should always be aware of the watches and warnings that could affect them, and have a plan to take action when April showers—not to mention May, June, July, and the rest of the year—gets a little nasty.

“This has been a very active start to the severe weather season and with the events which occurred a couple of weeks ago it sends a reminder that Mother Nature can be very unpredictable,” Josh Bolatto, Coordinator for Braidwood Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA), explained. “It is unusual to see a level 4 or 5 severe weather forecast issued by the Storm Prediction Center for our area and only happens maybe once or twice a year, if that. With both events, we were placed under a level 4 with a level 5 just out to the west of us, so that is something worth keeping in mind. Even though people associate the severe weather season with spring, summer and into the fall, it has been proven that severe thunderstorms can occur at any time of the year, even during the winter months. Severe weather preparedness is extremely important.”

In an effort to get the word out on the importance of preparing for severe weather throughout the year, *Free Press Newspapers* asked Bolatto to answer some storm prep questions. Here are some of those important tips and tricks for staying safe when the weather turns bad:

What should people know about watches, warnings, and how they differ?

When a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch is issued, it means that all the conditions are right for the potential development of severe storms or tornadoes. When a watch is issued, that is the time to make sure you are ready in case things start to develop and conditions become worse. Making sure you know where to go if you need to shelter, your emergency kits are ready and your multiple ways to receive weather warnings are in place.

In our area, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings or Tornado Warnings are issued by our local NWS forecast office located in Romeoville and means that Severe

Thunderstorms or Tornadoes are impacting or will soon be impacting a certain area.

My favorite way to remember the difference between the two is with the meme “Taco Watch and Taco Warning.” Taco Watch means that we have all the ingredients that we need to make tacos. Taco Warning means that we are having tacos... right now. There’s all sorts of different memes out there but that one is my favorite.

What kind of severe weather is most common to this area?

The Midwest seem to get quite the mixed bag of severe weather. From high winds, heavy rains and large hail to tornadoes and microbursts. That’s just one of those things that comes along with living in an area that sees the types of climate variations that we have to deal with. Luckily for us here in town, we haven’t really seen any major impacts from tornadoes like our neighbors to the west have. We’ve come close a few times, but nothing like what they’ve seen in the Coal City and Diamond communities. We did have some impacts from the 2013 and 2015 tornadoes, but not like they did.

According to some statistics from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Illinois ranks fourth in the United States for the most tornadoes per square mile. The majority of Illinois tornadoes have occurred between April 1 and June 30 and between the hours of 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. However, tornadoes have occurred every month of the year at all hours of the day. Nearly 20% of all tornadoes in Illinois occur after dark and on average, 53 tornadoes occur each year in Illinois. In Illinois since 1950, 78% of tornadoes have been weak with wind estimated less than 110 mph, and 21% of tornadoes have been strong with wind estimated between 110-167 mph.

Severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes, damaging winds, lightning, hail and/or heavy rain. Wind gusts from severe thunderstorms can do as much or more damage than many tornadoes. Extended power outages, downed trees and extensive damage to roofs, doors and windows can occur from straight line wind gusts or downbursts of wind.

If there was a “number one” rule of severe weather preparedness, what would it be?

Always have multiple ways to receive severe weather alerts. Some people may not like all the bells and whistles going off at the same time, but it is necessary in order to ensure that you are able to receive the alert in the event that one of those methods are down.

Multiple ways to receive severe weather alerts include

- A weather alert radio with a battery backup, a tone-alert feature and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology that automatically alerts you when a watch or warning is issued for your county. Make sure you know the name of the county you live in, and the counties you travel through along with knowing your geographical location.

- Text or weather app alerts to your phone

- Wireless Emergency Alert System (WEAS) notifications (must be enabled on a cellular device in order to receive notifications)

- Facebook posts (good for following storm development but not the number one way of receiving a warning)

- Local media coverage (Power outages can disrupt this)

How should families plan for severe weather, ie, what should they keep in their basements or in their cars?

Being prepared is half the battle when it comes to recovery from severe weather impacts. The better prepared you are before a storm, the better you will be able to deal with the impacts. Whether it’s at home or work, knowing how you need to react in a situation is key. For severe weather, knowing where you will be able to seek shelter is very important and ensuring that all members of your family or your co-workers know where to go is also vital.

A disaster of any kind may interfere with normal supplies of food, water, heat and other day-to-day necessities. It is important to keep a stock of emergency supplies on hand that will be sufficient to meet your family’s needs for at least a three-day period. It is important to update your kit regularly. You should replace the water supply and any food that may have reached its use by or expiration date. An easy way to remember is

SEE WEATHER, PAGE 2

Braidwood to start process for replacing aging trucks

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Braidwood’s Public Property Commissioner said plans to start replacing some of the trucks in Braidwood’s aging public works fleet are underway.

Commissioner Warren Wietting told the members of the City Council back in February that he has been working on an inventory of all property owned by the city. As commissioner of public property, Wietting is charged with overseeing all the city’s property, including City Hall, the wastewater treatment plant and water plant, all real estate, and any property which is not used by a specific department.

“Several of the trucks that we have inventoried need replacement, so, we want to put out to bid the replacement of one truck,” Wietting said. “Five different places we called... said they were hard to come by and out of stock. We did get a quote from D’Orazio Ford for \$65,972.26 with a plow attached to it for \$9,815, total would be \$75,000 for a late model city truck. I think it’s a good deal, we’re still looking at it. I just wanted to bring it up that we’re checking into that and we’ll be looking at the rest of the trucks as we go on to see what’s needed for replacement next.”

SEE REPAIRS, PAGE 2

Custer Fire has a busy week



Courtesy photo

RESPONDING TO A STRUCTURE fire at a pole barn in Custer Township was just one of eight calls the Custer Fire Protection District took during the six day stretch of April 9 through April 15. Engine 29, Chief 29 and Chief 28 all responded within minutes from the fire station on Route 113 and found a pole barn heavily involved with fire. Tender 29 and Utility 29 followed a short time later, as well as several mutual aid, companies from surrounding communities to assist with putting out the flames. District officials said personnel, who work both in the fire house on Route 113 as well as on call, responded to eight calls for service over that six day period earlier this month, which included two motor vehicle accidents, one medical call, two brush fires, one police assist, and a call to assist the Braidwood Fire Protection District on a house fire. Custer Fire typically responds to three calls per week. District officials thanked the members of the fire service for their assistance, and reminded the public to stay safe.

Braidwood PD swears in newest officer

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Braidwood has a new police officer.

Last week, Officer Victor Gastelum was sworn in as the city’s newest hire, after approval by the police and fire board.

Public Health and Safety Commissioner James Mikel updated members of the City Council on the new hire during the April 11 regular meeting of the mayor and commissioners.

Mikel said Gastelum will replace a retiring full-time

officer. Gastelum will begin a 16-week training course with the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy on May 1.

The Braidwood Police Department operates with a full time Chief of Polcie, 12 Full-Time officers, and six Part-Time officers.

In other business before the City Council on April 11:

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2



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Weather

to use Daylight Savings Time, so that when you change your clocks, you also update your kits.

IEMA recommends that an emergency supply kit should include the following:

- A battery-powered radio, weather alert radio and flashlights, with extra batteries
- Bottled drinking water: one gallon per day per person with at least a three-day supply for each person in your household
- At least a three-day supply of canned or sealed foods that do not require refrigeration or cooking
- First-aid kit and manual
- Non-electric can opener and utility knife
- Mess kits or other basic eating and cooking utensils
- Paper towels, toilet paper, soap and detergent
- Household laundry bleach (unscented)
- A blanket or sleeping bag for each member of the family
- One change of clothing and footwear per person
- Fire extinguisher
- Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water
- Signal flare, matches and whistle
- Cell phone and car charger
- An extra set of car keys, credit card and cash
- A list of family physicians
- Medications or special foods needed by family mem-

bers, such as insulin, heart medication, dietetic food and baby food. Do not store these items in your kit for a long period of time but add at the last minute.

- If needed, formula, diapers and bottles
 - Denture needs, extra eye glasses and contact lens supplies
 - You can store additional water by filling bathtubs and sinks with water if an emergency is declared. Clean water is also available in toilet tanks, presuming chemicals and other cleaning agents are not used in the water tank.
 - Face Mask for each member of your family
 - Hand Sanitizer
- If you have pets, include the following items in your kit:
- Identification collar and rabies tag
 - Pet carrier or cage
 - Leash
 - Medications
 - Newspaper, litter and trash bags for waste
 - Two-week supply of food and water
 - Veterinary records (necessary if your pet has to go to a shelter)

If I don't have a basement, what do I do in the event of a tornado warning?

Determine the best location in your home and workplace to seek shelter when threatened by a tornado. A basement or cellar will usually afford the best protection. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest level. The best areas are closets, small interior hallways and bathrooms without win-



Photo courtesy Braidwood ESDA

SPRING IS THE TIME for severe weather. Local emergency services through local municipalities, as well as county and state officials, remind the public to steer clear of fallen trees and limbs. Local ESDA agencies track severe weather and put alerts out to the public for when to take action.

dows. If you live in a mobile home, identify a safe shelter outside of your mobile home such as a neighbor or friend's house or a nearby public building. Half of all tornado fatalities occur in mobile homes, even though they only account for about seven percent of all residences. Conduct periodic tornado safety drills at home and work. Decide how and where everyone will gather prior to and after the

storm.

What are the best ways to stay up to date on severe weather?

It is critical that someone at home, work or wherever people gather monitors weather conditions, regardless of the time of day. Monitor watches and warnings in your areas using a weather alert radio, cell phone app, local TV, local radio or the Internet. If it is safe to do so, contact family

members and friends when you become aware of a severe thunderstorm and/or lightning that may threaten them. Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended outdoor periods and postpone plans if severe weather is imminent.

What are the top things to keep in mind when riding out severe weather (ie, don't go check it out when the sirens start, something midwestern-

ers really love to do)?
Yes, it's true...
Midwesterners do have a tendency to do the exact opposite of what they should be doing when outdoor warning sirens go off.
When the outdoor warning sirens go off, go immediately to your predetermined shelter, such as a storm cellar, basement or the lowest level of the building. In a basement, go under the stairs, under a heavy piece of furniture or a work bench. Stay there until the danger has passed. If in a mobile home, get out and seek shelter elsewhere, well before the storm arrives as a mobile home can overturn very easily. If there is not a substantial shelter nearby, go to a low-lying area and shield your head with your hands. If there is no basement, go to an interior hallway or a small interior room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet. Stay away from outside windows and walls as they may be penetrated by high speed, wind-borne debris. Get under a piece of sturdy furniture, such as a workbench or heavy table, and hold onto it. If sturdy furniture is not available, make yourself the smallest target possible. Squat low to the ground. Put your head down and cover your head and neck with your hands. Use pillows, mattresses or cushions to protect your head and neck.
Editor's Note — This is the first of a two-part series on severe weather safety. Thanks to Josh Bolatto and his thorough discussion on severe weather safety.

No injuries reported in School Street fire

STAFF REPORT

No one was injured when fire swept through a Braidwood home last week.

On Wednesday, April 12, around 7:42 p.m., the Braidwood Fire Protection District responded to a structure fire at 163 S. School St., across from Reed-Custer Elementary School.

According to a release issued by the department, fire personnel discovered a

single story residence with heavy smoke and visible fire from the back of the structure when they arrived at the scene.

Firefighters made entry into the home and discovered the fire had progressed into the attic. Firefighters were able to get the fire under control and extinguished.

The two occupants of the home were assessed by ambulance crews but were not transported to the hospital, and there

were no injuries reported from the fire.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Braidwood Fire Protection District and the MABAS Division 15 Fire Investigative Scene.

Braidwood Fire was assisted on the scene by the fire protection districts of Wilmington, Coal City, Troy, Channahon, Morris, Custer, Braceville, Gardner, Braidwood ESDA, Braidwood Police, and MABAS 15.

Repairs

Wietting also said the city is working on upgrades and repairs at the water plant.

"I was over at the plant today, we got a new chlorinator. That project will be complete by the end of the week and then it's just the final hookups with the electronics," he said. "The SCADA system [upgrades] we're going to be installing, it's probably about a month away, they're doing final testing on all the equipment."

Wietting also said the city was looking for a new HVAC system for the lab, with costs currently anticipated around \$17,000 for a new heating and cooling unit.

"It's been desperately needed for a long time," Wietting said. "There was a 4-ton unit in there, but it way overcooled, they could not control the atmosphere, the pressures, the heating and cooling. This unit is a 1-ton unit, made for the square footage of that lab. I would like to go ahead with that, and then we're going to talk about sludge hauling and putting that out for bid as well."

All of the expenses were brought up for discussion only. The council has not yet approved any measures for maintenance issues or truck purchases.

The great invasion of Turtle Island

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

It's a landing strip half as long as a city block. Yet, right now there may be just as many inbound and outbound flights taking place as O'Hare Airport.

Bird lovers know it as Turtle Island, a speck of land along the Kankakee River about one mile downstream from the Wilmington dam. It has become a rookery for great egrets, great blue herons and flocks of double-crested cormorants. And their return migration was noted last week as the island became a beehive of activity preparing for the breeding season.

If you're lucky enough to find a safe perch to watch the island, you'll lose count near 100 on the number of nests already built.

On a warm spring morning last week I watched as great egrets flew to and from the island carrying twigs and sticks for building more nests. Their all white plume makes them easy to spot.

Normally a shore bird known for keeping its distance from humans, one egret could have cared less at the news man holding the camera along Widow's Road. It flew into the tree-tops above, going to work on a thin branch. It used its beak in a stabbing motion, hitting it repeatedly until a branch snapped off. It picked it up and flew off to the island to build its nest. Minutes later it was back getting more building materials from the same tree.

It's assuring to see so many great egrets in one location, knowing that in the late 19th century they were hunted to near extinction for their prized plumes.

Great egrets often nest in mixed species colonies, often the first to arrive. Their presence often influences other species to nest, according to The Cornell Lab.

That may be why there are so many cormorants, too.

Illinoisans have been seeing more double-crested cormorants year-round. These large black waterbirds, about the size of a small goose, trick Braidwood Lake waterfowl hunters at a distance. Flocks of them fly in lines much like ducks and geese, but their habit of sailing from time to time and their dark color and relatively long tail serve to dis-



Photo by Eric Fisher

BUSY BIRD—A great egret attacks a branch on a shoreline tree Thursday along Widow's Road in Wilmington. The egret pecked repeatedly at the branch until it broke free, allowing it to carry it in its beak back to its nest on Turtle Island.

tinguish them from waterfowl. Hunters hoping they're mallards will anger enough to call them "trash".

Fishermen too aren't too fond of cormorants since they feed exclusively on fish. Drive to the south island dam in the early mornings and you'll see cormorants diving in the churning waters. They often take large fish and bring them to the surface to swallow head-first and whole. With the dam fence erected there to prevent drownings, cormorants pretty much have the place to themselves.

No wonder they're building nests on nearby Turtle Island.

Like the bald eagle and many other fish-eating birds, cormorants apparently had

suffered reproductive failure due to DDT insecticide in the environment.

In an article written by John Schwegman, who once ran the botany program for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in 1974 only 12 cormorant nests were known in Illinois.

In 1978, they were listed as endangered. Within nine years they rebounded to 103 nests along the Mississippi River and by 1993 Schwegman wrote there were 466 at five colonies and they had returned to the middle Illinois River and two on lakes in northeastern Illinois.

Knowing the history of cormorants, first cousins to the pelican, makes you appreciate their comeback. It also

makes it newsworthy that they're now nesting in Wilmington.

What the town needs is an observation deck where people with zoom lenses, telescopes and binoculars can watch. The city owns property—the water treatment plant to the west and sewer plant property to the east—on both sides of the island.

That would be cool and build a greater appreciation for this rookery.

Council

• Mikel also reported that from Feb. 28 through April 10, the Braidwood Police Department handled 195 calls for service, which included two arrests and 26 traffic stops.

• The council approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$143,665.

• The council approved payroll in the amount of \$87,698.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is April 25 at 7 p.m. During that meeting, the new mayor and commissioners will be sworn into office. The officials-elect are Chris Earley, mayor; Karen Hart, finance; Warren Wietting, public property; James Mikel, public health and safety; and Dale Walsh, streets.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Braidwood Lions to hold annual broom sale

The Braidwood Lions Club will be holding a broom sale fundraiser on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 & 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., during the 16th Annual Rt. 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival.

The club's booth will be set up in City of Braidwood's vendor area of the Rt. 66 park located on Rt. 53 across from Polk-A-Dot Drive In.

House, heavy duty and whisk brooms will be for sale. Proceeds from the broom sales will benefit the club's sight and sound humanitarian services for the visually & hearing impaired.

For more details, please visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

Having a good time in Braidwood, for a good cause

Having a good time and doing good work sometimes go hand-in-hand. Since there was a Braidwood, there have been events held for charitable causes, but were in themselves, an enjoyable evening out. Today we look at only one year, 1879 to find what's happening in the social circles.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

We read in January of 1879, "The Free Gardeners, of Braidwood, are to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Robert Burns, Friday evening, Jan. 24, with a grand concert and ball at McArthur's hall. The proceeds will go to the family of one of their late members, David Lofty, who was so suddenly killed in the mines a few weeks ago."

In November of 1878 an unfortunate accidental killing took place. Sheriff Muldowney was shot by the local Catholic priest, who was also his best friend. He left a widow and six children without any support. By spring of 1879 it was obvious that they needed help.

James McArthur was particularly touched. He stated that his hall was available for some sort of benefit. By May it was decided to hold a grand concert and ball with the view to making

the most money possible. The town was searched for all the local talent to be found. They found a huge amount and the town came out in droves.

On June 3rd the "stage was set." The description of the affair appears in the Wilmington Advocate "The concert for the benefit of the widow and family of the late city marshal Muldowney, on last Tuesday evening, proved a grand success, musically and financially.

The committee in charge report a net profit of \$2,500 (\$80,600today) or more, which result is most gratifying. Messrs. Maltby, Donnelly and Patterson, as committee men were ably supported in their efforts by several other individuals and a generous hearted public."

"As to the concert, proper, the published program was deviated from considerably. Mrs. White, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Webster, Miss Riley and Miss Cavanaugh took prominent parts, as also did Messrs. Young, Le Caron, Keirle and others. Ben Reese presided impromptu speech at the opening of the affair.

The Miner's Band generously volunteered its services, and James McArthur followed suit by furnishing the hall gratuitously. The "hop" after the concert lasted until broad daylight, and all in all, 'tis said that a more orderly affair of the kind was never had in Braidwood."

Just as bus trips from the library and park district are popular today, in 1879 excursions by boat on the Kankakee River, or by train to some far off destination were also the rage.

In May it was announced, "The Baptist Church Society in Braidwood purposes having an excursion to Chicago and return on June 5th. Tickets, gentlemen, tickets, \$2.50 (\$81.50) only for the trip."

And from the Joliet Weekly Sun, "At 8:30 o'clock this (Thursday) morning an excursion train of colored people from Braidwood passed through the city on their way to Chicago.

There were five passenger coaches, all comfortable crowded. The Braidwood band was aboard, and discoursed some very pleasant music while the train stopped at the depot."

Many types of outings were not of the charitable sort, such as the following strange excursion in June of 1879, "Mr. Parkinson, of the Braidwood Republican is arranging to give an excursion to the Joliet penitentiary and return, on Saturday of next week.

The train will leave Braidwood at 8 a.m. and Wilmington at 8:10. Returning it will leave the penitentiary at 6 p.m. The dinner is to be of the basket picnic kind, near the penitentiary.

Round trip tickets, \$1.00 (\$32.25). Children under 12, fifty cents, which tickets include the usual fee charged visitors at the prison. The Miner's Band is to accompany the party."

Braidwood was not a backwards town when it came to national fads. One of the strangest fads was "pedestrianism," or simply put - walking.

Not just any walking, but walking in a circle for a long long time, trying to outlast your opponent who is walking around the track as well. On June 20th it was announced, "A 24-hour pedestrian match, for \$75 (\$2,420), is to begin at McArthur's Hall, on Monday evening at 7 o'clock. Considerable interest is manifested in the contest."

But it didn't pan out as advertised, and the purse was considerably less than the \$75 first announced. We read in the June 27, 1879 Advocate, "At seven o'clock on Tuesday evening the 24 hour walking match between Mosley Hall and Henry Waters, at McArthur's Hall, terminated.

The former named won, having scored 8 miles, Waters left the track at twenty minutes to four, feeling indisposed, and after making 68 miles.

A purse of about \$10 (\$322) was presented to Mr. Hall by his admirers." Apparently watching guys walking in a circle did not sell quite the amount of tickets the promoters anticipated.

Whatever your taste, whether it was viewing concerts or convicts, traveling to Chicago, or merely around in circles, Braidwood had it all.

Esparza in the Reed-Custer Senior Spotlight for April

The Reed-Custer High School Senior Spotlight winner for the month of April is Connor Esparza.

Connor is the son of Matthew and Amanda Esparza. During his high school career, Connor was involved in Football, Basketball, and Baseball. He named to both the All-Conference and Academic All-Conference teams in Baseball. He was also on the High Honor Roll and was a volunteer coach for RCMS Baseball.

His future plans are to attend JJC and work towards an Associate's Degree in Engineering.

Here are a few thoughts from Connor's teachers"

Mrs. Cann appreciates that Connor "has been a joy to have here at RCHS. He always has a smile on his face. Connor is respectful to his teachers, peers, and teammates. He has a bright future ahead of him, and I know he will have success in all future endeavors."

Mrs. Leveille remembers that Connor was "in my 'Covid' class, and a few things do stand

out: Connor was eager and put a lot of effort into learning and trying to do his best. He was polite, friendly and his sense of humor made others smile."

Mrs. Terry says that Connor is a "dedicated worker who always wants to do his best. He is a pleasure to have in the classroom and is always smiling!"

Mr. Johnston thinks that Connor is "an extremely competitive athlete and a great student. He shows a wide variety of talents and is well respected by his peers. Connor also is a great leader and can always be counted on to do the right thing even when others are not."

Mrs. Arseneau says that even though "I haven't taught Connor since he was a sophomore, he has remained a student I enjoy talking to and seeing around RCHS. There is something that sets Connor apart from his peers. It is simple, but so powerful, and rare these days. He maintains positive relationships through simple, yet meaningful interactions. Although I haven't had



him in class in several years, when I see him in passing, he will always smile, greet me and asks me how I'm doing. It's so refreshing! He's a polite, bright, hard-working student. I am confident he will go far in his life after Reed-Custer, and I wish him all the best!"

Mrs. Rankin appreciates

that Connor "always has a positive attitude and holds himself to a high standard. His enthusiasm and ability to get along with everyone helps make him a positive leader in the classroom."

Mr. Newsom believes that Connor "is a great young man, personable, likable, always

with a smile, always willing to work hard in class and do what he needs to do, and do it well."

Mrs. Dennis says that Connor is a "self-starter and is highly motivated. He's a hard-worker and is always kind and respectful."

Mrs. Redwitz acknowledges that Connor is "a great

young adult. He is always laughing and can make a joke out of anything. He is intelligent and follows through on things that he is asked to do. Connor was chosen to meet and have lunch with our new students earlier this year, and he did a great job welcoming them to Reed-Custer."

Mrs. Lee thinks that Connor is "a great student and an even better person! He always has a smile on his face and goes out of his way to welcome others. Connor has a great work ethic and really challenges himself to succeed."

As a final thought, Connor's advice to younger students is, "Do your work and try your very best in everything you do. Enjoy high school because you only get one shot at it, and it's over in the blink of an eye."

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, congratulations to Connor Esparza as the April winner of the Senior Spotlight.

Reed-Custer Middle School names 3rd quarter top honors students

Reed-Custer Middle School announce the names of those students who made the honor roll during the 2022-23 third quarter.

High honor roll, eighth grade
Ellie Adams, Grace Barry, Logan Bean, Taylor Bova, Reese Brown, Gillian Byerley, Hailey Compton, Tyler Compton, Mackenzie Foote, Cade Johnson, Kirstin Klein, Morgan Lamping, Kaitlyn Lantka, Hayley Meyer, Kayla Schott, Nathan Trucano and Lucas Walsh.

Honor roll, eighth grade
Brodan Alexander, Dakota Altiery, Damien Andrade, Donevan Bateman, Landon Beasley, Orion Bergmann, Abigail Byerley, Damien Christman, Frank Crotty, Michael Faletti, Alejandro Fierro, Evelyn Furlan, Aubrey Harding,

Atiana Hood, Aiden Kerwin, Arlethe Leyva, Harlie Liebermann, Zoey Miller, Carter Persic, Brandon Pries, Gracie Robinson, Peyton Schipiour, Ethan Segoviano, Kamryn Skonetski, Daniel Sosa, Isabel Toller, Jesse Tresouthick, Nicole Trulock, Jeffrey Wolford and Kaaden Wood.

High honor roll, seventh grade
Caedon Baumgartner, Joshua Creger, Presley Dockery, Cloey Herbert, Chase Isaac, Kaiden Klein, Matthew Kuban, Carson Lowe, Brianna Morrissey, Reed Newbrough, Colton Schultz, Jessica Stockin, Selah Walsh, Gabriel Whittenburg and Cole Yeates.

Honor roll, seventh grade
Mersadies Andrade, Olivia Barbush, Olivia Bauer, Trent Boudreau,

Eddie Bryan, Viviana Cerullo, Jayden Cisco, Alexandra Coyle, Johnathan Daughenbaugh, Colton Drinkwine, Aidan Dubbert, Collin Hakey, Gordon Hardy, Nathan Hughes, Isaac Knight, Caidence Kuchar, Piper Kuchar, Brayden Landgraf, Peyton Landgraf, Makenna Lee, Teagan Lee, Madelynn Marschner, Ryder McGee, Amelia M eckler, Sophia Moyers, Jordana Nagle, Zachary Pruss, Emberly Schumacher, Abigail Spielbauer, Adalyn Steichen, Julianna Tabor, Kadance Van Duyne, Makenzie VanWinsen, Nathan Vogler, Maggie Whittum, Evynn Wilber, Kamryn Wilkey and Gabrielle Williams.

High honor roll, sixth grade
Brandy Bragg, Cali Cassem, Isabella Dixon, Sophia Dixon, Eleanor Frieders, Johanna Janopoulos, Ava

Povalish, Harper Roberts and Griffin Schmeckpeper.

Honor roll, sixth grade
Caden Atwell, Quinn Bandy, Logan Baumgartner, Maeley Bohac, Collin Bryant, Johnathan Buchanan, John Dixon, Sophia Flowers, Mary Foley, Thomas Ghesquiere, Faith Hathorn, Caydon Hoover, Jordan Howell, Kamryn Hutman, Cole Kmetz, Griffin Kochenberger, Robert Krakowski, Nathan Leon, Dylan Leonard, Jakub Lichaj, Mackenzie Loveland, Nicholas Mallaney, Ella Manthey, Isabella Monroe, Noah Murray, Charles Plummer, Kennley Poole-Crites, Corbin Stahl, Avah Thompson and Avery Vanek.

Shepherd Trucking & Excavating files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name
Publication Notice

Certificate 34809 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on April 11, 2023 wherein the business firm of Shepherd Trucking & Excavating, located at 385 E Reed St. #1, Braidwood, IL 60408 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: James S. Shepherd
Owner Address: 385 E Reed St. #1, Braidwood, IL 60408

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at this 11th day of March, 2023.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 19, 26 and May 3, 2023.

Notice of Sheriff's sale of 840 N English St, 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

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 TOWNSHIP 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:
Codillis & 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
Plaintiff's Attorney

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: fka 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. R05-027831

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
Plaintiff's Attorney

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 BEAETH THE SURFACE AND THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE SAME), IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

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
Plaintiff's Attorney

Free Press Newspapers readers

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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.

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Controlled by machines

MORRIS—Just recently the computer from Morris Hospital wasn't working properly and quite a few people could not get their prescriptions refilled and the pharmacies refused to accept any doctor's prescription refill orders by telephone. Then the hospital stated that only computer authorization is allowed by law to refill prescriptions. But our leaders were warned years ago what could happen but they didn't care because they receive everything they need under a priority status along with medical personnel. And after arguing about my prescriptions with the hospital, the pharmacy and the doctor's office all three basically stated that there was nothing they can do to help me get my medication because my life is controlled by a machine. How do you like knowing that a computer determines if you are out of medication for survival like it's damaging my life? If the truth doesn't rattle your brain then watch the movie The Net with Sandra Bullock and that movie might shake every apple from your tree. Computers are the truest form of managing humanity to man pushed to its usage by our Congress with no thought about human life. There's no appreciation for being treated like scum by the public servants.

Keeping score

WILMINGTON—For those keeping score, Trump has used the fifth amendment 440 times, Hillary Clinton, zero.

God's way

SHADOW LAKES—Answer to The last attack: Perhaps it is God's way of calling those people to Heaven.

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

AI takeover

COAL CITY—If the artificial intelligence program goes into effect it may eliminate jobs for some Americans which could be a bad thing when the computers take over. But on the good side the computers would not have to be paid money to talk so the artificial intelligence could take over Congress and the computers argue the Constitution. There wouldn't be any corruption or back door deals by our elected officials so the computers could be blamed for everything bad that happens to citizens instead of the crooked lying activities of the Democrat leaders.

Murders per capita

WILMINGTON—I read some statistics that contradict the constant fear mongering I see on Fox News. For all their panic about violent crime in Democratic-run cities, the truth is San Francisco has less violent crime per capita than Houston. Chicago has less murders per capita than New Orleans. And how do you explain that mass killing shooting sprees are happening in red states such as Florida, Texas, Tennessee and Kentucky? Quit blaming Liberals for violence and murder.

Fix the spotlight

BRAIDWOOD—Hopefully the city council of Braidwood will investigate the possibility of upgrading the traffic lights at the octagon of Hades. These lights going north on Route 113 do not hold long enough. Two cars, holy yellow light. How about always blinking red, 4-way stop, except between the hours of 7-9 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Keeping you home

SHADOW LAKES—Have you seen the price of gas lately? What do you think the price will be when summer comes and you might like to take your family on a trip. Our government is going to make sure you stay in your homes. Our government is surely there to help the citizens of this county.

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

Reflections on Earth Day

WILMINGTON—As the Native American expression goes, "we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." It's a fact. Although some of us curse the

winter snow, many enjoy its beauty and others in the western states depend upon it for the water of life. And although everyone enjoys the greening of the trees because they bring clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, the statistics are not good with global tree loss increasing by more than 50% each year. In 2020, the world lost enough trees to cover the United Kingdom. Imagine that. It's one of so many reasons to remember Earth Day on April 28 this year. Irene

Our weakness is Biden

BRAIDWOOD—China is taking over the U.S. and the world. China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Brazil have joined to become the new force in the world. President Macron of France visited Chinese President Xi and then told the other European leaders to no longer "follow the U.S." Our Allies are deserting us. They are cozying up to China because they see China as the new world leader and they want to be on the winning team. All of this is because of Biden's weakness on the world stage. The Bidens are so in bed with the Chinese Communist Party getting millions for all members of the Biden family as payback for turning a blind eye to what is going on. Instead Biden is on Ireland looking at castles. Did you see the Irish school boy ask Biden what was the key to success? Biden's answer, "Don't get Covid." Then Hunter Biden intervened (why was he there?) and said dad he asked what was the key to success? Biden's answer, "Well, I'm probably not the best one to answer that" and he walked away. Biden let China get away with the balloon incident. It intercepted military intelligence from our military bases and he just brushed it off. China owns thousands of acres of land near our military bases. The CCP owns 90% of mines that produce metals needed for production of electric vehicles. CCP makes the wind turbines, solar panels and over 200 coal mines for their energy production. No interest in climate control there. Yes, CCP is laughing all the way to the bank, while we are suffering due to Biden Administration policies to cut our oil production and all the New Green Deal restrictions and regulations. China is getting richer by the hour. It has the largest army and navy in the world. Has bought up ports all over the world to control shipping and to have military bases from which to launch missile attacks. All of this is for world dominance. The Biden administration must be replaced and not with politicians who will continue the same policies. We need a strong leader. The world needs a strong leader to undue all the harm that has been done in the past two years.

Paying taxes too

BRAIDWOOD—In reply to Hardship for us. City and county police departments are funded by property, business, and sales tax, federal and state grants, local fees and fines and voter approved special taxes. All employees of the police department file taxes and pay state tax just like your family.

Record profits

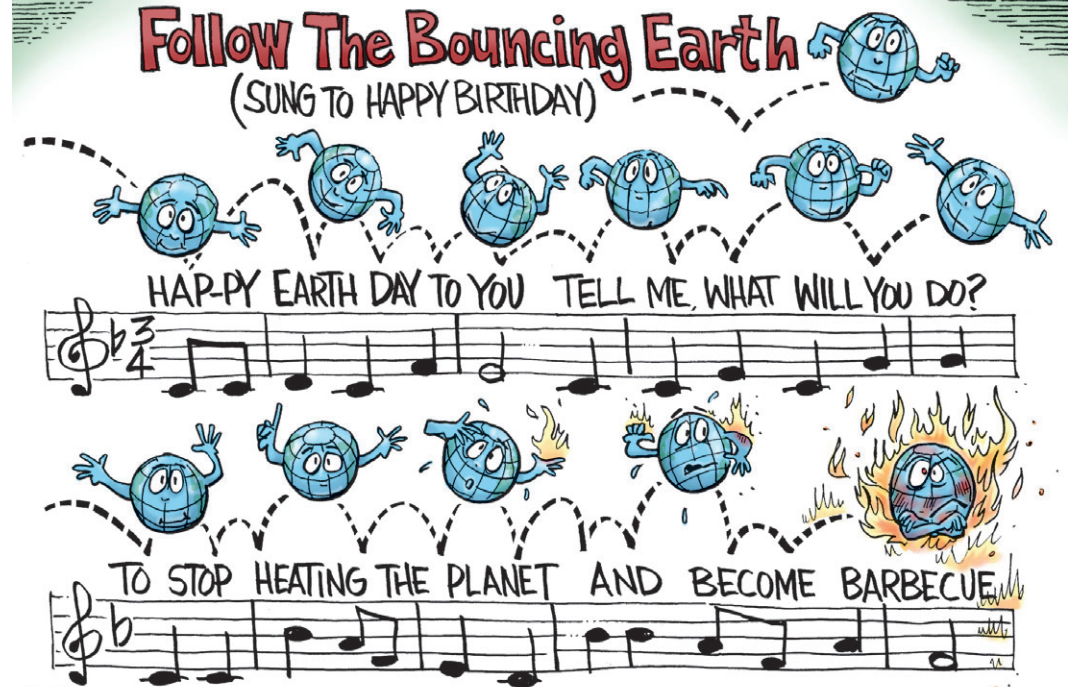
SHADOW LAKES— Let's be honest about Biden and big oil, if you invested a thousand dollars in Exxon Mobil the day Biden took office it would be worth \$3,600 today, 248 percent profit. Don't tell me the Biden family is not making money. Please check my numbers out. Eddie

\$5 gas

MORRIS—Saudi Arabia decided to cut back production of its oil. Gas will cost \$4-\$5 a gallon once again. Thanks Joe with your all electric cars and trucks and green energy. Gas and groceries will skyrocket in price for the rest of the year. Joe put us into a recession, not Trump.

The real reason

MORRIS—I read Walmart shut down four Chicago stores last fall. In recent news Walmart in Chicago announced they will shut down four more stores in April because of a lack of profit in the last seven years in their stores making a



Joe Heller © 2023 PERFECTION.COM

total of eight stores closed. Could stealing and unpaid bills be the real reason? That's Chicago.

Go home Jim

WILMINGTON—The murder rate is higher in Columbus, OH than New York City so maybe Jim Jordan should go home and clean house.

A party divided

MORRIS—With crime at an all time high in Democrat run Chicago, the timing is perfect for the Obama's request for the Democrat National Convention 2024 to be held in Chicago. We really don't need a repeat of the 1968 Chicago Democrat Convention as the Democrat Party is just as divided on issues as the Republicans. Let the fun begin.

Another postal increase

MORRIS—The U.S. Postal system just had a recent increase of 58-63 cents for stamps. News tells us another increase per stamp to 66 cents is coming soon. Buy your stamps in bulk soon. It's a sad day for the greeting card and Christmas card business.

Every four years

BRAIDWOOD—Every four years after the changeover of administrations, the residents of Braidwood are forced to watch individuals associated with the previous administration heckle, jab and spar with those of the new, all out of political and personal spite. It is a typical case of inflated egos and personal vendettas all because they were not re-elected or re-appointed back into office. Braidwood cannot move forward with this type of behavior from those no longer in office. It is a hindrance as much as it is an embarrassment to all of us. We can only hope and pray that those who will no longer be in office will have enough manners to act like an adult and not throw a temper tantrum during a city council meeting or on Facebook just because they did not get their way during the election.

Shaking their heads

MORRIS—President Joe Biden and his famous son, Hunter Biden who he takes on many of his trips with him, are now visiting Ireland to visit where his ancestors had lived. World leaders just watch and listen and smile at his decision making.

Created equal

DIAMOND—Our liberties are God-given. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our Declaration of Independence. Meet the alliance defending freedom. For 29 years they have been defend-

ing the right of every American to live out practice and express their faith freely including ADF's major role in 72 Supreme Court victories and hundreds of victories in lower courts. A major focus of ADF is to counter the ACLU's (American Civil Liberties Union's) 60 year march through our federal courts to restrict Christianity and faith to American public life. In recent decades we have seen the following: The 10 Commandments banned from public schools and public places-the forced removal of Christmas nativity displays from public places, students prohibited from kneeling and praying at football games, Christian artists threatened with fines or even jail time for respectfully declining to create custom art celebrating same sex weddings or a gender transition, children punished by schools for bringing a bible to school or wearing a cross on a necklace, attempts to remove "In God We Trust" from US coins. What's at stake: ADF believes that efforts like these are doing enormous damage to our nation. ADF has the view that faith and freedom go together. If you lose one, you often lose the other.

Sharon

Sudden closures

COAL CITY—I heard a local fast-food recently had some managerial problems which caused them to close unexpectedly at the spur of the moment. Hopefully that problem has been solved. One thing I've noticed recently is that the place has become a hangout for young kids. It's very annoying to be in there trying to eat when kids come on bikes and constantly come in and out of the lobby and dining area spreading out on the tables and benches while not even ordering anything to eat or drink. I also witnessed some foul language while I was there with my very young kids. They need to get a handle on this situation before they no longer have any inside diners coming there just for that reason. It's also getting very annoying for the dollar store closing to the public every time they get a truck load of supplies. I know this is not the practice of all of them. They say they are short of help to stock shelves yet I know for a fact that people have applied for a job there and have never gotten a call.

6% and growing

SHADOW LAKES—Remember some time ago, when our leaders said, "marijuana is not addictive?" This statement was made when the big push to legalize the weed was established for both medical and recreation use. Stores opened everywhere. Here is the punch line. The same people that told you that the use of it was OK are now saying, "6% of our population are now addicted to its usage." Believe it or not, look it up.

Energy experts concerned Illinois' move to clean energy may cause reliability issues

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

Some energy experts are raising a red flag that Illinois' transition to clean energy may prompt reliability issues.

With more coal and gas plants going offline under Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, some lawmakers are concerned of possible brownouts.

During a recent Senate Energy Committee hearing, Brian Thiry, external affairs director with Reliability First Corporation, said retirements of old power sources are outpacing new power sources coming online.

"As we shrink these margins, it is a reliability risk, so it is just something we need to consider. It is a risk that we are seeing and it's a risk we're concerned about," Thiry said.

Thiry warned that some renewable projects could be delayed due to financial problems or supply chain issues.

Diane Holder, vice president of Entity Engagement and Corporate Services with Reliability First, said what they are seeing are reduced reserve margins for energy.

"Retirements are outpacing new installa-

tions, and I'm sure you can understand, that is a bit of a gap, and one that we think battery storage can certainly help address, but battery storage is not yet fully developed," Holder said.

Some state lawmakers have highlighted the fact that some of the retiring plants should have been kept online longer through the clean energy transition.

"My colleagues and I have no issue with the development of alternative sources of energy," said state Rep. Blaine Wilhour, R-Beecher City. "What we have an issue with is the heavy hand of government forcing the closure of power plants before there are viable alternatives in place."

According to the Energy Information Administration, as of July 2022, Illinois had the country's fifth largest energy consumption among states. Just over half of that comes from nuclear, the highest proportion of any state.

The committee plans to meet again to discuss reliability issues in the near future.

"Indiana or Texas, they're much faster at this," said state Sen. Suzy Glowiak-Hilton, D-Western Springs. "We are in Illinois. It seems to be really slow, so I'm concerned about our ability to transition quickly."

Presbyterian church to sell flower baskets

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood will be selling Hanging Baskets of flowers for \$25. The sale will start Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, during the Red Carpet Corridor Event on Rt 66.

They will have a stand set up across from Berkots so be sure to look for their banner. Some of the types they will be selling are Supertunia baskets, Fuchsia, Geraniums, Millionbells/Calibrachoa, Impatiens SunPatiens, Dragon Wing Begonia.

Pre-orders can be taken ahead of time by calling or texting LuAnn Bolatto at 815-790-7134. The number of baskets and color choices will be needed when you contact her.

Letter to the editor

Keeping courthouse would benefit public

Dear Editor,

For some time now there has been much talk about the future of the Will County Courthouse. It seems that the powers to be think that tearing it down is the only remedy! I for one disagree.

When this structure was built some 50 or so years ago, it has stood up very well as far as anything mother nature could throw at it.

Sure there are some maintenance issues here and more than likely correctable.

Remember this structure was bought and paid for

by the taxpayers of Will County, first, and probably other funds were acquired as well.

I feel it's time that the powers to be come up with a real plan that will benefit the people of Will County for starters. After all, it's their money which created and maintained this area for so many years now. Demolition is out of the question.

PS. If it's worth having it's worth taking care off.

Submitted by,
Leonard Seltzer
Manhattan, IL

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Ford (Chet) June III
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ESSEX COMMUNITY CLUB

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 23
7 a.m.-Noon

Essex Community Hall
217 Parls St., Essex, IL

Menu includes: Pancakes, french toast, eggs (any way), biscuits & gravy, bacon, sausage, hash browns, toast, milk, orange juice and coffee.

Kids 6 - 12 \$4 • Adults \$8 (under 6 FREE)
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! *Starting April 27th, we will be changing our weekly ad to launch on Thursday. Sneak previews will be available to view online on Wednesday. !

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--	---

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See Page 7 For More Buy 5 Save \$5 Deals To Choose From

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<p>Philadelphia Cream Cheese 8 oz Single: \$3.49</p>  <p>\$2.49 when buying 5</p>	<p>Kraft Shreds, Crumbles, or Chunks 5-8 oz Single: \$2.99</p>  <p>\$1.99 when buying 5</p>

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FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Gas price climbing

You'd be hard-pressed to find a gallon of gasoline for less than \$4/g locally, as prices shot up 12 cents on average over the past week.

Prices in Illinois are 43.8 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 29.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 11.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.06/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

"With oil prices touching their highest level of 2023 at nearly \$83 per barrel, the national average price of gasoline has continued to inch higher, with 45 of the nation's 50 states seeing prices rise over the last week. While the rising price of oil is likely the largest factor in rising gas prices, seasonal impacts continue to also exert pressure on prices," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Wilmington area stations ranged from \$4.09/g to \$4.01/g on Monday. In Braidwood the

price was \$3.99/g, to \$4.15/g while in Coal City stations were charging anywhere from \$3.87/g to \$4.09/g.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.49/g near Champaign while the most expensive was \$4.99/g, in Chicago, a difference of \$1.50/g.

"With the Northeast making the final step in the transition to summer gasoline this week, states in that region should expect a sharp rise in gasoline prices over the next week or two. Every other region has already seen the final step in the transition occur, so while other areas will see prices continue to slowly rise, the Northeast is likely to see a pretty hefty jump of 15-40 cents per gallon soon. Oil prices remain a wildcard, but we're likely a few weeks away from seeing the national average peak. Whether it hits \$4 per gallon or not is still perhaps a 50/50 chance."

The national average is up 22.1 cents per gallon from a month ago.

Bobcat numbers increasing in Illinois

BY ZETA CROSS
THE CENTER SQUARE

The bobcat population in Illinois seems to be growing. No one knows for sure, says Jennifer Kuroda, founder of the Illinois Bobcat Foundation.

A lifelong resident of Rockford, Kuroda said she's never seen one when she has been out hiking. Bobcats don't want to be around people, she said.

"Bobcats are very reclusive. It is easy to walk right by one. They are very reluctant to reveal themselves," Kuroda said.

Kuroda blames the media for making people afraid of bobcats.

"On the news, they escalate the dangers of bobcats. A hundred percent of the attacks are from bobcats that have rabies," Kuroda said. "A fox or a raccoon or any rabid animal is going to come after you."

Bobcats won't hurt children or pets. They might eat a backyard chicken, but they prefer voles and other rodents.

"Bobcats are excellent for natural rodent control," she said. "Bobcats are not very big. The biggest ones are twice the size of a housecat"

A big male lucky enough to live in a habitat with plenty of rodents to eat can weigh up to 40 pounds, she said. But many bobcats are much smaller. Last year when Kuroda was out with a naturalist, they colared a full-grown female that only weighed 14 pounds.



Courtesy Forest Preserve District of Will County
A FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT of Will County game camera photographed bobcats, possibly a mother and her kittens, walking in a small open area at Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township in October 2020.

legislature made bobcat hunting and trapping legal again. In 2022, people went online to buy \$5 pelt permits for 367 bobcat kills. Fifty-two percent of the bobcats were killed by hunters. The rest were trapped or killed on the roads.

Two years ago Forest Preserve District of Will County game cameras captured photos of bobcats, possibly a mother and her kittens, walking through a small open area in Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township. One was also found as road kill in Essex Township and two different motorists have reported seeing one while driving near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie north of Wilmington.

Bobcats have been spotted in the Chicago suburbs recently, Kuroda said.

"The forest preserves there are so well connected that it is not surprising that bobcats are moving through there, or even denning," she said.

People who really want to see a bobcat in the wild are much more likely to see one in southern Illinois, Kuroda said. Bobcats like the habitat of the Shawnee National Forest. Dawn or dusk are the best times to spot one, she said. For an even better chance to see one, take a trip to Kiawah Island, South Carolina. About 30 bobcats live on the island and the residents love them, Kuroda said.

"They see them out on the golf course," she said.

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BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

Federal regulators have proposed a rule that would permit year-round sales of E10 gasoline in Illinois and seven other Midwest states, opening the door for expanded use of E15.

Last year, the governors of the eight states petitioned the federal government with a request to opt out of the regulatory waiver that allows for regular E10 gasoline to be sold during summer months.

The governors tied their request to a provision under the Clean Air Act, giving the Environmental Protection Agency 90 days to formally respond and implement the change by July 2022, a deadline that was missed.

Officials said removing the waiver would allow E15 and E10 to be made using the same gasoline blend stock, and would help expand the availability year round of E15 in multiple jurisdictions.

Illinois corn farmers and the ethanol industry are also concerned the year delay will have an impact on market certainty and request action be taken to ensure E15 remains an option in this summer's fuel market.

"An emergency waiver for summer E15 would give consumers the option of lower cost fuel during the warmer months," Illinois Corn Growers Association President Matt Rush said in a statement.

Patrick Kelly, senior director of Fuel & Vehicle Policy with the American Fuels and Petrochemicals Manufacturers, said

there are additional costs to produce, store and distribute a so-called "boutique" Midwestern gasoline.

"The total incremental cost to supply this new boutique gasoline ranges from \$500 million to \$800 million each year, and a disruption could push costs to \$1.1 billion," Kelly testified to the EPA.

Kelly said the Midwest would rely more heavily on supply from Gulf Coast refineries and would be cut off from receiving available supplies from neighboring states. In the event of a hurricane, or other extreme circumstance, gasoline shortages in the Midwest could be more frequent.

The EPA enforces summertime regulations preventing ethanol blends to be sold because of concerns of smog.

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.

Letter to the editor Alcohol Awareness Month a reminder alcohol is not safe

Dear Editor:

"Wine promises one thing - delivers another", a quote from a recovering alcoholic. "No matter what problem you're trying to mask or fix.....alcohol will always ensure you end up with more of what you don't want."

Ethanol, the alcohol that is in all alcoholic beverages and which is burned in engines, is a toxic poison to the body. The wine industry did a smart move, financially on their part, when it "married" the health industry several years ago.

April's Alcohol Awareness Month is a good time to be reminded that by volume there is more ethyl alcohol in wine than in beer.

To explain, each average serving of the following contain the same amount of alcohol,

1/2 ounce: 1-2 oz cocktail; 3-5 oz. wine; 12 oz. beer; 12 oz. wine cooler. No alcoholic drink is safe.

According to researchers, such as Samuele Bacchiocchi and David R. Brumbelow, the word "wine" in the Bible is a generic word that has several meanings such as fresh grape juice, molasses, raisins, and fermented alcoholic wine. The meaning of the word must be determined by the context of the scripture.

There is one verse that speaks clearly and is easy to understand from Proverbs 20:1: "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is deceived by them is not wise."

Mrs. Loreta Jent, Education Director National Woman's Christian Temperance Union Normal, IL

Take a hike with photo expert

The Forest Preserve will be hosting a new program "Photography Bird Hike" on Saturday, May 13, at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon. It will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Kick off Migration Celebration with a guided photography hike along the best birding trails Four Rivers has to offer. Get tips from an expert photographer on how to capture your favorite birds. Bring your camera and take advantage of the busiest time of the year! Free, all ages.

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 brennej@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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E-mail Address: _____

List of what will be sold: _____

How many spaces? (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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Postmark: _____ Amount Received: _____

Check #: _____

Five eaglets hatch in two Forest Preserve District of Will County nests

Five eaglets have hatched in two Forest Preserve District of Will County nests this spring, continuing a trend of rebounding eagle numbers in the region over the past decade.

Three eaglets were spotted on April 4 in one nest and two hatchlings were confirmed in a second nest on April 14.

The eagle parents are busily feeding their fuzzy-headed chicks, which was caught on Facebook.com/WillCoForest and YouTube.com/WillCoForests.

Joel Craig, a volunteer eagle monitor for the Forest Preserve, said it's exciting to see the hatchlings, especially the trio in one nest.

This is the second time in three years that this nest has produced three eaglets.

"Seeing the next generation of bald eagles locally makes me extremely happy – and in a sense, relieved," said Craig, who is a member of the Will County Audubon. "You never know how inclement weather might affect the nests from the time the eggs are laid through the first few weeks in the lives of the eaglets."

Eagle nests are huge, generally measuring 4 feet to 5 feet wide and 2 feet to 4 feet deep.

They are used year after year and require some maintenance prior to each nesting season. Eagles will usually keep building on the nest until it gets too big, and it collapses or the weight of it breaks the tree. Then they'll find a new location and build another one.

The eagle baby boom shows that the



Courtesy photo by Chad Merda

TWO EAGLE NESTS located in the Forest Preserve District of Will County have produced five eaglets this spring. The hatchlings are a good sign that a rebound of eagles in the area is continuing.

species is finding Will County a hospitable place to nest, Craig added.

"The way resources are managed within

the Forest Preserve District is having an overwhelmingly positive impact on the ecosystems in which these preserves exist," he said.

"This is not only good for the environment, but it's also a very visible return on the investment of Will County taxpayers and the financial resources with which the Forest Preserve is entrusted."

Craig said that an increasing number of immature bald eagles in the winter indicates the ones we're seeing now are residents and not migrants.

It's also evidence that Will County has good, clean water and a healthy fish population to support them year-round.

"To see eagles rebound like they have in this area in the past 10 years has been pretty exciting," Craig said. "To be threatened and endangered when I was a kid to what we're seeing now, it's really a population explosion in our area over the past few years."

Eagles and their nests are federally protected, and human interference could cause the birds to abandon the nest and their eggs. The National Audubon Society recommends being at least 330 feet away from a nest.

That's about the length of a football field. To protect these birds, the Forest Preserve never publicly disclose nesting locations. If you should come across a nest, be sure to keep your distance.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Analysis: State spending will soon begin outpacing revenues once again

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – While Illinois has recently experienced a prolonged stretch of good financial news, a new state fiscal forecast notes that if spending continues to grow at its recent pace it could lead to future budget deficits.

It would mark the reversal of a recent trend during which the state logged considerable surpluses this fiscal year and the two years prior.

In the highest-spending scenario outlined in the three-year forecast from the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, the state could once again face a bill backlog as high as \$18 billion. That estimate assumes spending growth at its five-year average of 7.1%.

"This example shows that spending patterns seen in the past few years cannot continue without a comparable increase in revenues which is not seen in the commission's current estimates," the report from the legislature's nonpartisan forecasting commission noted.

If the state keeps spending growth at 1.8% – the most austere scenario outlined by the commission – it could maintain an accounts payable balance of \$1.4 billion, the same as it was at the end of Fiscal Year 2022.

Even in that scenario, state spending would outpace revenues in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 that begins July 1 – although Gov. JB Pritzker has proposed decreasing state spending in FY 24.

His \$49.6 billion proposed spending plan for FY 24 represents a 0.7% decrease from the baseline number assumed in the COGFA forecast. Lawmakers, however, are still working on crafting a final budget before their May 19 adjournment.

"We have to pass a balanced budget...Illinois has

had a past where, you know, for a few years anyway, that didn't happen," Pritzker said at a news conference last week. "... And I think the General Assembly has taken that very seriously."

While the new report illustrated that lawmakers may have to tighten their belts in the coming years, it remained consistent with previous projections by the commission and other forecasters that have suggested an economic slowdown is on the horizon.

The COGFA report noted that over the past five years, state revenues have grown at a rate of 12% on average, compared to the 7.1% average expenditure growth.

Pandemic-era federal stimulus funds have mostly dried up, however, and their effect on the nation's economy is beginning to wane. Many economic forecasts anticipate a mild recession is on its way.

The slowdown was evidenced in COGFA's March revenue update that was published this week, showing that revenues declined \$563 million from the same month last year. It marked the first year-over-year decline for any month this year, but COGFA noted the drop was expected after a record March 2022.

In other words, revenue growth rates of 18% and 12% that were seen in fiscal years 2021 and 2022 are not likely to be repeated anytime soon.

COGFA anticipates revenues will shrink by 1.4% to \$50.4 billion in the upcoming FY 24 and remain under current-year levels until FY 2026, when they jump 2.5% to \$52.2 billion.

As for spending, one important caveat is that the growth of the past two years been at least partially driven by measures that COGFA described as "fiscal discipline." That includes debt retirement, increased pension payments and long-term savings.

It has also included temporary tax relief and other

one-time expenditures that won't carry over from one fiscal year to the next.

But spending across human services, education and other agencies has also that very seriously."

"Current forecasts would allow for more of this kind of spending in the short-term," COGFA wrote in the report. "However, longer-term, economic and tax revenue forecasts remain murky for the potential for a recession remains."

The three-year report also analyzed threats to the state's fiscal position, including the potential recession, a COVID-19 resurgence, population loss and pension debt among others.

Many of the threats, the report noted, "can be directly linked" to "a long-term trend of having expenditures being higher than revenues." It also noted that "work still remains" for the state to achieve a "budgetary system that is more stable in the long-term."

"An opportunity exists to improve the state's financial situation by better aligning the revenues and expenditures of the state. This can be done by raising revenues, cutting spending, or some combination of both," the report noted.

Illinois could also achieve stability by broadening its sales tax to include more services.

"The Illinois sales tax was originally developed in the 1930s when the economy was much more reliant on goods production," the report noted. "By taxing services, the tax system would modernize to more accurately reflect the economy of 2023."

The revenues resulting from a service tax could be used to offset a portion of the sales tax on goods and "allow for the overall tax rate to be lowered," according to the report.

The state could also save money by reducing statutory interest payments on overdue bills and using current-year

surpluses for "paying down debt, investing for future growth, reducing taxes, and/or returning money to taxpayers."

But on the whole, the report noted, "After the budget stalemate that occurred from 2015-2017, the state's financial position has been getting better each year."

That two-year impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly drove the state's bill backlog to nearly \$17 billion and caused crippling cuts across state agencies.

The report's final piece of advice: "The State needs to continue to show fiscal discipline and demonstrate that the results of the past few years are not an anomaly."

Decluttering Our Hearts & Home at the Wilmington Library

The Wilmington Public Library will host professional organizer Jennifer Barnes for a presentation titled "Decluttering Our Hearts and Homes: The Emotional Connection to Stuff" on Wednesday, April 26, at 6 p.m.

This presentation will focus on the why and how behind our emotional connection to things and provide motivation to declutter the spaces in which we live and work.

To register, stop by the library, 201 S. Kankakee St., or call 815-476-2834. All are welcome, we do not limit our programming to Wilmington cardholders.

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OBITUARIES

Suzanne Lissy

COAL CITY—Suzanne Lissy, 85, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Born April 22, 1937 in Chicago, Suzanne was the first of 17 children born to Joseph Henry and Ruth Naomi (Wilson) Hanley. She was raised in Chicago until moving with the family to Coal City when she was in the sixth grade. Suzanne graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1955. On Nov. 10, 1956, she married John Lissy in Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City and together they made a home and raised their family in Coal City.

Suzanne worked initially before marriage at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet prior to starting a family and raising her children. She later worked locally part-time selling Avon and at Belletini's before lastly working for the Coal City School District in the school cafeteria. She was an active parishioner of Assumption Catholic Church, where she served as a Martha; was a member of the Coal City Junior Womens Club and belonged to both the Coal City Area Club and the Miners Club. Suzanne served as a volunteer with the Grundy Community Hospice Auxiliary and assisted with the Community Nutrition Networks Meals on Wheels. Not to forget, Suzanne enjoyed her outings with the 'Ranch Girls'.

One who loved the outdoors, Suzanne took pleasure in birdwatching, enjoying the rise and the set of the sun, and the beauty of flowers. She was also an exceptional homemaker, known for her cooking and baking, and was a talented seamstress. Suzanne loved playing cards, especially euchre, and enjoyed many a dance with her beloved John. Together Suzanne and John shared many trips and vacations, but nothing gave her greater joy than watching her family tree grow. She was her grandkids greatest fan, and with her social demeanor, Suzanne would do anything for anyone in need. She will be remembered as the rock of the family, who was proud to have been the matriarch of the Hanley family.

Suzanne lived life for family and faith. She led with her heart and never hesitated to give of herself to others. She welcomed each day as a gift and always found blessings in every moment. Suzanne devoted herself to the care of her family, leading by example and supporting her loved ones in every possible way. An inspiration to all who were blessed to know her, Suzanne will long be remembered and so very missed.

Survivors include her loving husband, John; three children: Beth (Willie) Wren and Mark (Jean) Lissy, both of Coal City and Matthew (Debbie) Lissy of Phoenix, AZ; eight grandchildren: T.J. (Nikki) Peters, of Oak Park, IL; Tim (Beth) Peters, of Frankfort, IL; Lauren Lindley, of Coal City; Amber Lissy (Bobby



Toew), of Pinellas Park, FL; Caryn (Brandon) Brasseur, of Morris; Meghan (Scott) Hodgen, of Diamond; Marcie (Craig) Ewenson, of Ottawa and John Hanley Wilson Lissy, of Phoenix; 15 great-grandchildren: Jackson, Alice and Daphne Peters; Elliott and Abby Peters, Brooklyn Pontanini, Fiona and Jameson Lindley, Cason Masters, Lexi and Triston Toew, Camden and Bennett Brasseur and Addie and Averie Hodgen; 13 siblings: Judy (Richard) George, of Cocoa Beach, FL; Cathy (Jim) Hutchings and Tim (Jodi) Hanley, both of Coal City; Mike (Sharon) Hanley, of Loveland, CO; Jane (James) Calcaterra, of Sugar Grove, IL; Jean (Gary) Skubic, of Diamond; Ruth Ann (Dan) Mulhall, of Virginia Beach, VA; Albert Hanley, of Minocqua, WI; Patty (Terry) O'Bert, of Morris; Janet (John) Peters and David Hanley, both of Coal City; Jeff (Nancy) Hanley, of Minooka and Tom (Rhona) Hanley, of Coal City; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Gail Hanley, of Coal City; Marion (the late Dean) Sanders, of Herscher; Sylvester Lissy, of Coal City and Gary (the late Nell) Lissy, of Carbon Hill and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as friends.

Suzanne was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Michael Lissy and three brothers: Jim Hanley, Joe Hanley and Bill Hanley.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Friday, April 21, 2023 between the hours of 4 and 7 p.m.

Funeral services will follow on Saturday, April 22, 2023, which would be Suzanne's 86th birthday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City. Reverend Josh Miller will preside and Deacon William Dunn will assist.

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Suzanne will be laid to rest with her late son, Michael. Pallbearers will be: T.J. Peters, Tim Peters, Brandon Brasseur, Scott Hodgen, Steve Sanders and Michelle Hanley. Honorary pallbearers will be Craig Ewenson and Bobby Toew.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Suzanne's memory to Heritage Health of Dwight's Activities Department; Lightways Hospice of Joliet or to the family for distribution to various other local charities of their choosing.

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

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

Patricia M. Hill

PENNSYLVANIA—Patricia M. (Goodwin) Hill, 82, of Kiski Township, PA, formerly of Plattville, IL, passed away Monday, April 10, 2023.

She was born June 27, 1940 in Quincy, IL the daughter of the late Thomas and Estelle (Ahern) Goodwin. Patricia was a graduate of Wilmington High School and worked as a property manager in the hospitality industry. She enjoyed baking, cooking, gardening, bird watching, and watching game shows on television. Patricia was spiritual and loved her Lord. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was known to send family members a greeting card for all types of special occasions.

Patricia is survived by her children: Ralph (Cylinda) Hill, of Kiski Township; Christina L.



(Paul) Franz, of Avon, OH; Ann M. (Timothy) Peterson, of Madison, TN and Jesse P. (Natalie) Hill, of Vilonia, AR; grandchildren: Michelle, Kerri, Luke, Ryan, Timmy, Shawn, Dale, Abigail, Austin, Beau and Jesse; great-grandchildren: Alli, Xavier, Nora, Owen, Taeson, Jaxon, Teagan, Riley, Zane and Ollie and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings: Thomas Jr., Gerald and Vicki.

At Patricia's request there will be no viewing. Services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Curran-Shaffer Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc., Apollo, PA.

Barbara Bexson

GARDNER—Barbara Susan Bexson (nee Rex), 75, of Gardner, passed away Friday, April 7, 2023 at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, IL.

She was born May 14, 1947 in Lockport to the late Fred and Dorothy (nee Aspel) Rex. Barbara married Joe Bexson on April 19, 1980 in Gardner. She previously served as the Gardner Village Clerk for over 20 years. Barbara had a love for fishing, bowling, playing Bingo, and spending time outside, especially enjoying yardwork. She had a generous heart and made sure to support and donate to many organizations, such as the St. Jude and Shriners Children's Hospitals, Morning Star Mission, and to many local churches. Most of all, Barb loved spending time with her family and cheering on her grandchildren at their sporting events. Surviving are her husband of 42 years, Joe Bexson, of Gardner; four step-sons: Michael Bexson, of Gardner; Dave (Angie) Bexson, of South Wilmington; Jeff (Joy) Bexson, of Gardner and Joe (Amy) Bexson, of Madison, WI; nine beloved grandchildren: Cassi (Jeff) Carlson, Kristen (Luke) Cullmann,



Ben Bexson, Chris Bexson, Tyler (Dion Miske) Bexson, Henry Bexson, Riley Bexson, Chloe Bexson and Sofia Bexson; two dear great-grandchildren, Jackson and James Cullmann and one great-granddaughter due to arrive in May; siblings: Ron (Faith) Rex, of Honolulu, HI; Laurine (Greg) Knox, of Belvidere, IL; Phyllis Rex, of Northglenn, CO and Brian Rex, of Marseilles, IL; brother-in-law, George (Donna) Bexson, of Gardner and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Private memorial services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name to the charity of your choice would be greatly appreciated.

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

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

Ron Dempsay



SPARTANBURG, SC—Ron Dempsay, 72, of Spartanburg, SC, passed away on Sunday, April 2, 2023, at the Spartanburg Medical Center after suffering a massive stroke.

He was born June 15, 1950. After graduating high school in Wilmington, Ron served in the United States Air Force, then went on to attain his undergraduate degree from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, MO. Ron later completed his master's degree at Truman State University. Service was always a part of Ron's life – whether coaching young adults, counseling victims or becoming a lifeguard in his 70's, he continually focused his efforts on helping others.

A partial list of the organizations Ron served with over the years includes patrolman for State Highway Patrol, Missouri, coach at Central Methodist College, Fayette, MO; teacher and coach at Salisbury Public Schools, Salisbury, MO; head of security coach at Quincy Illinois University; principal at Unity Public Schools, Mendon, IL; principal at Glenallen Public Schools, Glenallen, AK; victim counselor at Victim's advocates, Anchorage, AK; victim counselor at Lakewood Police Department, Lakewood, CO; lifeguard at YMCA, Spartanburg, SC and volunteer at American Legion in Spartanburg.

Sports and coaching were a significant part of Ron's life. He was a life-long fan of the Chicago Bears and St. Louis Cardinals. He was also very passionate about his grandchildren, attending as many sporting events, concerts and presentations as possible.



Ron is survived by his wife, MaryAnn Dempsay, of Spartanburg; son, Lance Dempsay and wife, Missy, of Kirksville, MO; daughter, Tia Ginter and husband, Rob, of Simpsonville, SC; eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and uncle/great-uncle to numerous nieces and nephews; father, Paul Oscar Dempsay and wife, Pat, of Wilmington; sister, Carol Pendergrass, of Springfield, MO; sister-in-law, Deana Chounard and husband, Mark, of Mansfield, IL; sister, Dee Davis and husband, Tony, of Wilmington; sister, Karen Sanzenbacher, of Reeseville, WI; sister, Lisa Dempsay, of Wilmington; brother, Kevin Dempsay, of Wilmington; brother-in-law, Charles Rich and wife, Shirley, of Mountain Grove, MO.

Ron was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia Hubler Dempsay; mother-in-law, Florence Pierce Rich; father-in-law, Howard "Hap" Milton Rich; brother, Randy Dempsay; brother-in-law, Mark Sanzenbacher and brother-in-law, Butch Rich.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 27, 2023 at Quincy University Hall of Fame Room from 2-4 p.m. Please wear casual dress, shirts, jerseys, hats, etc. from the team/school where you were coached by/with or knew Ron.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family kindly asks for donations in Ron's honor to one of the following organizations that he actively supported: National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, Parkinson's Research Foundation, Spartanburg American Legion or your favorite charity of choice.

Joseph Giacomo



COAL CITY—Joseph Anton Giacomo, 82, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, April 16, 2023 at his home.

Born Sept. 30, 1940 in Joliet, he was the son of Peter and Mary Marie (nee Togliatto) Giacomo. Joseph served with the United States Army National Guard in the mid 1960's. He married Mary LaZier July 30, 1966 in Braidwood. Joseph retired in 1997 as a chemical operator from BASE. He was a member of the Coal City Area Club where he enjoyed fishing with his grandson and watching the wildlife. He also enjoyed taking vacations with his family, feeding any little outdoor critter, and cooking.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Mary Giacomo, of Coal City; two children, Stacy (Terry) Warner, of Braidwood and Kent Giacomo, of Coal City; grandson, Tyler Warner; sister-in-law, Helen (the late Lewis) Uhrich, of Naples, FL and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.



Preceding him in death were his parents, Peter and Mary; sister, Esther (Donald) Wills; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Helen and Lawrence LaZier; sister-in-law, Sharon (Charles "Ike") White and brother-in-law, Lawrence LaZier Jr.

Visitation for Joseph will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Friday, April 21, 2023 from 1 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 3 p.m. Interment will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to Coal City Emergency Services or the charity of the donor's choice would be appreciated.

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

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

Donald L. Roach



COAL CITY—Donald L. Roach, 83, of Coal City, formerly of Bloomington-Normal and Lincoln, IL, passed away Monday, April 17, 2023 at Morris Hospital, surrounded by family.

Born Oct. 10, 1939 in Jacksonville, IL, Donald Lee was a son of Robert and Edna M. (nee Ayers) Roach.

He was raised in Jacksonville, graduated from Jacksonville High School with the class of 1957, and went on to serve with the United States Army and United States Navy. On Feb. 8, 1969, Don married Sharon Jean Stroud in Jacksonville, and they made their family home in Lincoln. He spent his entire professional career with Bridgestone Firestone Tire Company in Normal until he retired after over 30 years of service.

Don was a member of the American Legion in Lincoln and a member of the Coal City United Methodist Church. He was a great sports fan, supporting the St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys, and was a die hard Fighting Illini fan. Don was a hard worker and loving husband, father, and grandfather, and he will be fondly remembered for his love of Dunkin'.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Sharon Roach, and one son, Darren (Stacey)



Roach, both of Coal City; three granddaughters: McKenna, Hayleigh and Aubrey; one sister, Clara Bender; sister-in-law and brother-in-law: Jo Roach, of Lawton, OK and Randy (Verna) Stroud, of El Paso, IL and several nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Frank and Jim Roach and three sisters: Mary Scanlan, Thelma Pederson and Shirley Cox.

Per Don's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway Street, in Coal City on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Jay Regennitter will officiate and then interment with full military honors will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

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

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

CURBSIDE CARE

Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Baby Hygiene Items

Every second Thursday of the month

January 13	July 14
February 10	August 11
March 10	September 15*
April 14	October 13
May 12	November 10
June 9	December 15*

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Excellent Care.
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410 N. Broadway Street -Coal City
(815-709-0920)

Rain barrel, compost bins available

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

Order them on-line by April 30 and pick them up in Wilmington on Saturday, May 13.

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

You may use the water you captured for watering your garden, plants, trees, and

bushes between rain events. This saves you money and reduces pressure on our drinking water sources.

Prices start at \$64.50, up to \$186.50 depending on the style. To place an order go to the event calendar at willcountygreen.com

Many positives to buying refurbished electronics

Dear EarthTalk: Is buying refurbished electronics better for the planet than buying brand new ones?

-- Peter Behr, Chicago, IL

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the world produces some 50 million tons of electronic waste each year, and the figure is increasing. Meanwhile, only 20 percent of this electronic waste is disposed of properly.

The remaining 80 percent is either sent to landfills, incinerated or illegally traded, resulting in a host of environmental problems including groundwater pollution, reduced air quality and the depletion of virgin natural resources to replace discarded items. As a result, buying refurbished electronics is a step in the right direction.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that buying refurbished electronics can significantly reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste.

The EPA estimates that for every million smartphones that are refurbished and reused, approximately 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered.

This is a considerable number of valuable resources that can be conserved by buying refurbished electronics.

Refurbishing electronics not only conserve resources but also helps reduce green-

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

house gas emissions by as much as 50 percent, according to the EPA.

This is because the production of new electronics requires a lot of energy, and greenhouse gas emissions are generated during the manufacturing process.

"Most of the pollution that's made actually is in the manufacturing of the device, not the use," says Lucas Guterman of the non-profit public interest group, U.S. PIRG. "So buying refurbished and using things for as long as we possibly can, really helps protect the environment."

Buying refurbished is also good for the pocketbook, given that they cost less. But is the savings worth it? Refurbished items sold by reputable retailers undergo tests and inspections to ensure that they meet the same quality standards as new items.

According to the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), a trade association for the consumer electronics industry, buyers should look for refurbished electronics that come with a warranty that assures that the



GIVEN THE buildup of e-waste these days, environmentalists are increasingly looking at refurbished items when shopping for new electronics.

item has been thoroughly vetted and is of high quality.

"Some credit card companies will extend coverage on refurbished goods, too, as long as they come with a preexisting warranty," notes Consumer Reports' Yael Grauer. Another smart consumer tip is to always check the return policy on a refurbished item before hitting the "buy" button.

"It might take you a little while to notice poor performance and defects in a refurbished product, so it helps to have at least one month to decide whether you want to keep it," adds Grauer.

Apple, Dell, Amazon, Walmart and BestBuy are among the large companies that sell many refurbished electronics with limited war-

ranties and a return policy.

Dozens of other smaller resellers (e.g., Refurb.io, TechForLess, Gazelle, RefurbMe, etc.) also specialize in refurbished products and typically offer similar if not better terms for consumers.

"Buying refurbished products positively impacts the environment by boosting the circular economy, lowering the replacement cycle, reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, avoiding additional e-waste, and reducing energy and fuel consumption," says Simo Elalj of RefurbMe. "You do this by giving a new life to a pre-owned device."

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

Will County Recorder warns against costly veteran services

Will County veterans should avoid dealing with companies wanting to charge a fee for submitting their military discharge papers (DD-214) for recording or provide copies of their military discharge papers.

"These services are provided at no cost to the veteran in my office," Will County Recorder, Karen A. Stukel stated. The company that has recently submitted documents for recording is DD214 Direct based out of Phoenix, AZ and the fees charged are \$79 and above. This company is offering a paid service to veterans that is free at County recording offices throughout the State.

Recorder Stukel encourages veterans to record their military discharge papers with her office so that they are

always safe and available to obtain a copy, should they need one, at no cost.

"Once recorded, to show our appreciation, the veteran can sign up for our Honor Rewards program. This program partners with area businesses to offer discounts to our brave servicemen and servicewomen."

Veterans should be mindful of the services that businesses/organizations may charge for, especially when they may be offered at no cost by a governmental office or organization. If a veteran has any questions or concerns, they should reach out to their local Veterans Assistance Commission, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 698-2411 or the Will County Recorder's office at (815) 740-4637.

Taxed out: Americans pay \$78 billion in gas taxes

Taxes on gasoline amount to \$215 million daily

While Americans raced to file their taxes ahead of the deadline, Tax Day is every day for U.S. drivers.

Gas prices have been rising over the past several weeks as Americans get back on the road and gear up for summer road trips - but there are some hidden costs buried in what Americans pay for gasoline that are driving up prices even

more for many motorists around the country.

Every day, Americans spend \$215 million on federal, state and local taxes on gasoline, with some states having lower taxes, and some having higher taxes. Some states also benefit from higher gasoline prices, with percentage-based sales taxes applied, helping the state to capture additional revenue when motorists are already getting hit with higher gas prices.

"While most Americans blame oil companies or gas stations for the high price of

gasoline, few remember or are reminded by the portion Uncle Sam takes at the gas pump: 18.4 cents on every gallon, but most states take even more than that, and most never disclose at the pump how much tax is charged per gallon, making motorists target gas stations or oil companies instead of disclosing they are charging an average of 38.7 cents on every gallon," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

California ranks the highest with 86.55 cents per gallon. Illinois is second at 78 cents/g.

Alaska is lowest at 33.5c/g while in Missouri, a neighbor to Illinois, gas tax is 38.3c/gal.

No wonder Illinoisans cross the Mississippi River to fill up.

"Some states pinch motorists even more by having a percentage-based sales tax on gasoline, so that when gas prices rise, their coffers are filled at a faster pace. When gas prices hit a record last year, states saw money rolling in around the clock, more than ever before in some states."

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NO COVER SATURDAY, APRIL 29 **8:00 pm - midnight**

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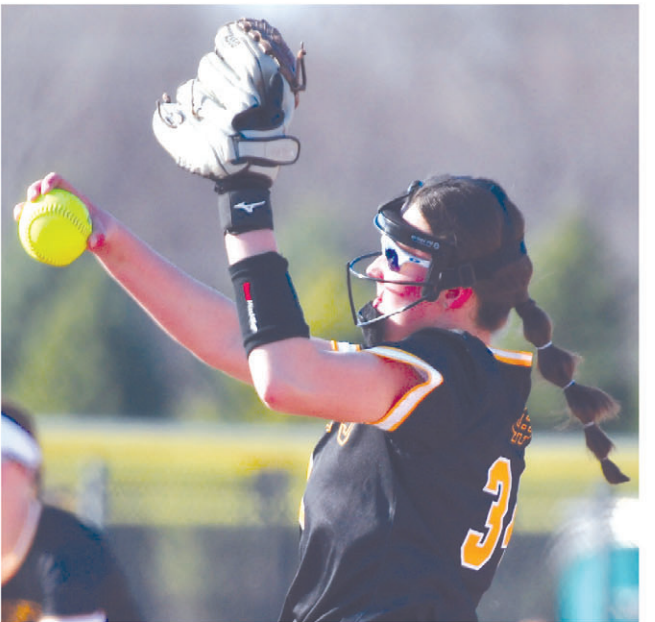
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CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

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

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington - 2 bedroom, new carpet, freshly painted, upgraded appliances. 815-274-6065. cc16-18

Wilmington - Beautiful 2 bedroom with all new carpet, 1 car attached garage. \$1,200 a month. 618-383-6330. cc15-17

BUSINESS PROPERTIES FOR RENT

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

GARAGE SALE

Essex - Two separate houses. 320 & 504 N. Paris Street. Sat., April 29 from 8am-3pm. Clothes, knick knacks, lots of crafts, furniture, rugs, curtains, tools & much more. ck16-17

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

Hiring bartenders at Tuffy's Lounge, 1099 S. Water Street, Wilmington. BASSET and food handling training required. Weekends, days and nights. Apply in person or call 815-476-2700. ch16-17

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.

HELP WANTED

Full-time Cook Position available. \$15.00 per hour to start. Must have experience and food service sanitation license or willing to obtain one. Hours vary depending on the day so must be flexible with scheduling. Stop in during business hours to fill out application. Serious inquiries only please. Wilmington VFW Post 5422 815-926-2651 ch16-19

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

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 christensen@swil74.org. Questions can be directed to Superintendent Cindy Christensen at 815-237-2281.

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.



HELP WANTED

For all positions, send letter of interest and résumé along with a copy of certification and endorsements if applicable to Mrs. Cynthia Christensen, Superintendent, P.O. Box 459, South Wilmington, IL 60474 by May 1, 2023 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

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

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

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

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tn

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

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 Courthouse 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

REAL ESTATE

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 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 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 Courthouse 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

REAL ESTATE

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.

Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/EMT-B

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/EMT-B with the District.

Starting Salary: \$55,854.39

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.
- Be certified as an EMT-B in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-B) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates March 31st, 2023 - May 1st, 2023 in person between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. **You may also download the application online at www.wilmingtonfire.org under the Employment tab.**

Completed application shall be returned to the above address IN PERSON no later than 3:30 pm on May 1st, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process.

Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Monday, May 1st, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: Monday, May 8th and Wednesday, May 10th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

Wilmington Fire Protection District
501 N. Main Street
Wilmington IL. 60481

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Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$65,854.39

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates March 13th, 2023 - May 1st, 2023 in person between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. **You may also download the application online at www.wilmingtonfire.org under the Employment tab.**

Completed application must be returned to the above address IN PERSON no later than 3:30 pm on May 1st, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process.

Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Monday, May 1st, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: Monday, May 8th and Wednesday, May 10th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

Wilmington Fire Protection District
501 N. Main Street
Wilmington IL. 60481

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3	1	8	9	2	7	4	6	5
6	7	5	4	8	1	3	2	9
7	5	9	3	4	2	6	8	1
1	6	3	7	5	8	9	4	2
8	4	2	6	1	9	5	3	7
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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 Courthouse 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 mortgagor acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1, you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact:

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 P: 708-668-4410 X 52109

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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Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn/47b

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Homegrown
 NEWS SHOPPING DINING EVENTS IDEAS DEALS SPORTS JOBS FUN & MORE

Lawmakers consider banning vehicle searches based on cannabis odor

BY NIKA SCHOONOVER
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Just before lawmakers went on a two-week spring break, the Illinois Senate passed two bills that would work to further decriminalize cannabis use in Illinois. The bills – Senate Bill 125 and Senate Bill 1886 – would prevent an individual's vehicle from being searched solely based on the smell of cannabis and would allow some individuals on probation to consume cannabis or alcohol.

When Illinois legalized cannabis in 2020, it also made individuals previously charged with minor cannabis offenses eligible to have their records expunged. At the end of 2020, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced 492,129 cannabis-related convictions had been expunged and 9,219 people with low-level cannabis convictions had been pardoned.

"It was incredibly important as we were looking to legalize this product that has clearly demonized so many communities," Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, said of the legalization law at an April 11 news conference.

Both bills will still need approval in the House and a signature from the governor to become law.

Cannabis odor in motor vehicles

SB 125 would ensure that the smell of "burnt or raw cannabis in a motor vehicle" cannot alone be probable cause for an individual's vehicle to be searched.

"People – especially people of color – are unnecessarily pulled over far too often," Senator Rachel Ventura, a Democrat from Joliet and lead sponsor on the bill, said of the legislation during floor debate. "The odor of cannabis alone shouldn't be one of those reasons (for their car to be searched). Cannabis is legal in Illinois and it's a pungent scent that can stick to clothes for extended periods of time."

An amendment to the bill created an age exemption, specifying that individuals under the age of 21 are still eligible to have their vehicle searched solely based on odor. After that provision was added, the ACLU of Illinois shifted from supporting the bill to having a neutral stance on it.

"We do have concerns that the amendment to the bill creates a workaround, or a loophole, that could have the effect of incentivizing police to target youth for unnecessary traffic stops or vehicle searches," Atticus

Ballesteros, an attorney with ACLU of Illinois, said in an interview.

Ballesteros added that ACLU of Illinois originally supported the bill because there are many reasons why a vehicle may smell of cannabis.

"And to us, that applies irrespective of age," Ballesteros said.

The measure passed 33-20 in the Senate and awaits action in the House.

Substance use on probation

SB 1886 would bar courts from preventing individuals from using cannabis or alcohol if they're on probation, conditional discharge or supervision.

The bill has several exemptions, though, including if the person is sentenced to a crime that involved "the presence of an intoxicating compound in the person's body."

Courts would also still be allowed to impose substance use restrictions if the person is under the age of 21 or if they are participating in "problem-solving court," a system of courts designed to help people with mental health and substance abuse problems.

The measure passed with a 34-21 vote and will head to the House.

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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 on 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.

Vicky Tipton 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 VICKY ROSE TIPTON to the new name of VICKY ROSE GRAVES, Case No. 23MR59
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Vicky Rose Tipton adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 28th day of April, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Vicky Rose Tipton be changed to Vicky Rose Graves. /s/ Vicky Rose Tipton
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 5, 12, and 19, 2023.

I-80 overnight closures begin

A project involving pavement patching and widening of Interstate 80 between Interstate 55 and Ridge Road in Joliet and Minooka begins this week. The project is part of advance work leading to the \$1.2 billion reconstruction of I-80 through Will County.

The \$8.1 million project will improve the existing shoulders and temporarily widen the existing pavement in preparation of future projects to rebuild I-80. Additional work including temporary roadway lighting, temporary drainage and pavement repairs are also included. The project is anticipated to be completed in November.

Starting at 8 p.m. each night, motorists should expect overnight lane closures along I-80, between I-55 and Ridge Road, as workers complete pavement repairs. Overnight closures will reopen by 6 a.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays and by noon Sundays.

Beginning Monday, May 1, weather permitting, motorists should expect lane shifts and shoulder closures, along with the overnight lane closures through the work zone. At least two lanes in each direction will be maintained during peak travel times.

The overall I-80 project will redesign and rebuild 16 miles from Ridge Road, in Minooka, to U.S. 30, in Joliet and New Lenox, while adding or extending auxiliary lanes to improve safety and reduce congestion. Interchanges will be rebuilt or improved at Interstate 55, Illinois 7, Center Street, Chicago Street, Richards Street and Briggs Street, with a new flyover ramp linking southbound I-55 to eastbound I-80 to improve traffic flow and safety. More than 30 bridges will be rehabilitated or replaced, including those over the Des Plaines River.

Ballard files summons for dissolution of marriage

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PORTAGE COUNTY
DIVORCE NOTICE
Case No. 2022FA000093
To whom it may concern and to Damon Eugene Ballard, address and whereabouts unknown.

Take notice that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court, Portage County, Wisconsin, for the dissolution of marriage of Chandra Elise Ballard, petitioner, and Damon Eugene Ballard, respondent.

Now, therefore, unless you, Damon Eugene Ballard and all whom it may concern, files your answer to the Petition in said suit or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court Branch 2, Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner: Louis J. Molepske Jr., 1516 Church Street, Stevens Point, WI, 54481, before May 23, 2023 which is 40 days from the day after the first date of publication, a Default may be entered against you at any time after that day and Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

Dated: April 4, 2023
/s/ Chandra Ballard, petitioner
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

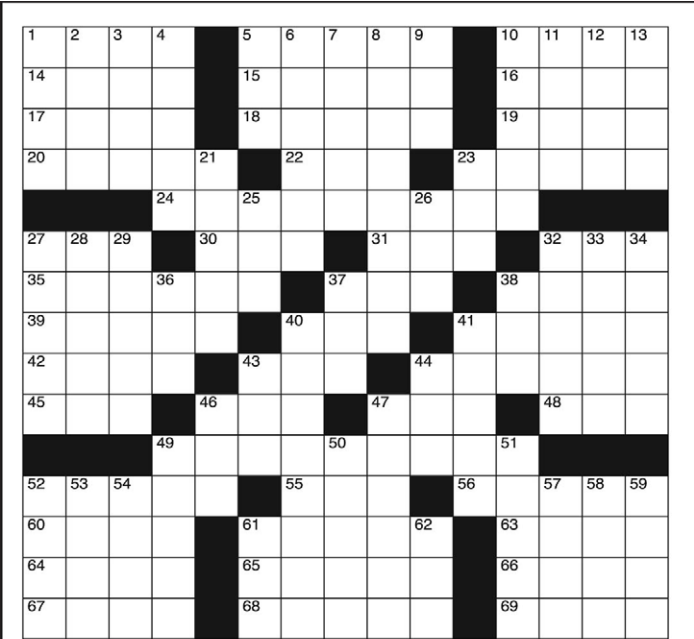
The Forest Preserve to host Wildflower explosion

The Forest Preserve is hosting a new program "Rivers of Color - Wildflower Explosion" Saturday, May 6, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Learn about and photograph the many wildflower species found in the preserve. Bring along your phone or camera to record the species that you find. Free, all ages. Register by May 5.



TAKE PART IN the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Wildflower Explosion.



CLUES ACROSS

- Dylan and Marley are two
- Makes healthy
- The Who's "O'Riley"
- Side sheltered from wind
- Flat-bottomed sailboats
- Egyptian supreme god
- Advice
- Mass of small, loose stones
- Online learning services provider
- "Lords" in Northwest Semitic languages
- Of she
- A place to relax
- Critical and mocking
- Consumed
- You get one in summer
- Bath
- Luxury automaker
- Spiders spin one
- Guy (slang)
- Greek personification of Earth
- Large instruments

- Domestic cattle genus
- Appetizer
- Oil group
- Where to put groceries
- Speak incessantly
- Popular color
- A place to sleep
- Make fun of
- Former CIA
- Salts
- Bleated
- Never sleeps
- Sword
- Water (Spanish)
- Cyprinids
- "Dark Knight" actor Christian
- Fictional demon
- Old World lizard
- The content of cognition
- Makes a mistake
- A way to make wet
- Tide

CLUES DOWN

- One-liner
- Evergreen genus
- College in Rome
- Prevents from seeing
- Cycles/second
- Mischievous child
- Less common
- Honorably retired
- Midway between south and southeast
- A confusion of voices and other sounds
- Bony fish genus
- Type of pear
- Egyptian cross
- Satisfies
- Founder of Babism
- Bar bill
- Chicago ballplayer
- Performer
- Hairpiece
- Partner to flowered
- Aircraft formation

- You have 3 per day
- Goes into
- College athletic organization
- Wet, muddy ground
- Talk
- Witty conversation
- Gurus
- "French Price of _ Air"
- Sports equipment
- Try to get
- Flower cluster
- Sea dwellers
- Palmlike subtropical plant
- Polio vaccine developer
- Baseball's Ruth
- Gelatinous substance
- Hungarian violinist Leopold
- Offered
- Ancient Greek City
- A way to derive
- Touch lightly
- Witnessed

Attorney McGrath files Rutter estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS -
IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of RICHARD C. RUTTER, Deceased.
Case No.: 23 PR 105
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of RICHARD C. RUTTER of Elwood, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued March 6, 2023, to ROBERT RUTTER whose address is 28436 S. Rt. 45, Peotone, IL 60468, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the day of October 12, 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Robert Rutter, Independent Executor of the Estate of Richard C. Rutter, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Stipanovich estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS -
IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of PETER STIPANOVICH, JR., Deceased.
Case No.: 23 PR 82
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of PETER STIPANOVICH, JR., of Elwood, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued March 6, 2023, to JOHN STIPANOVICH, whose address is 2504 Emily Ln., New Lenox, IL 60451, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 12th day of October 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
John Stipanovich, Independent Executor of the Estate of Peter Stipanovich, Jr., Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on 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

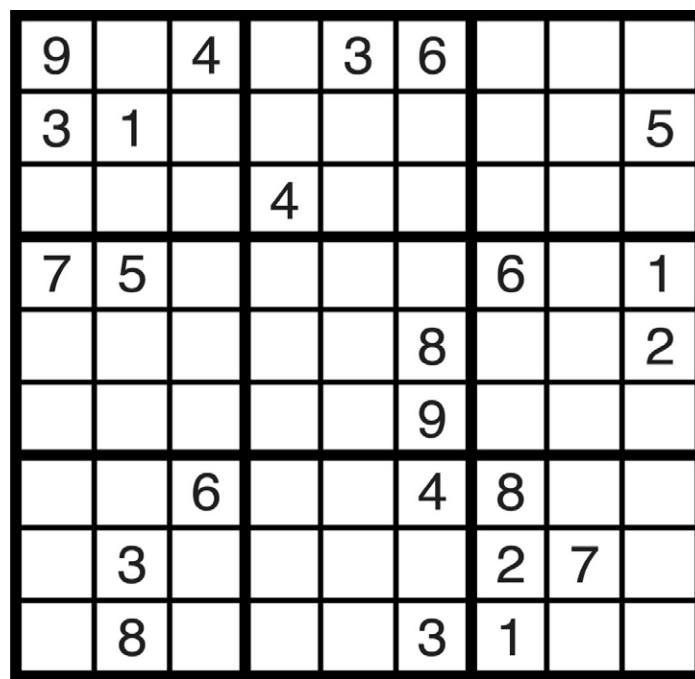
Notice is hereby given that the request of: Joanne Adel Nasra to change the name of minor Brock Matthew Bever, who shall appear in the Will County Court, Room 905, 100 W. Jefferson, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of June, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then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

Dodson petitions for name change

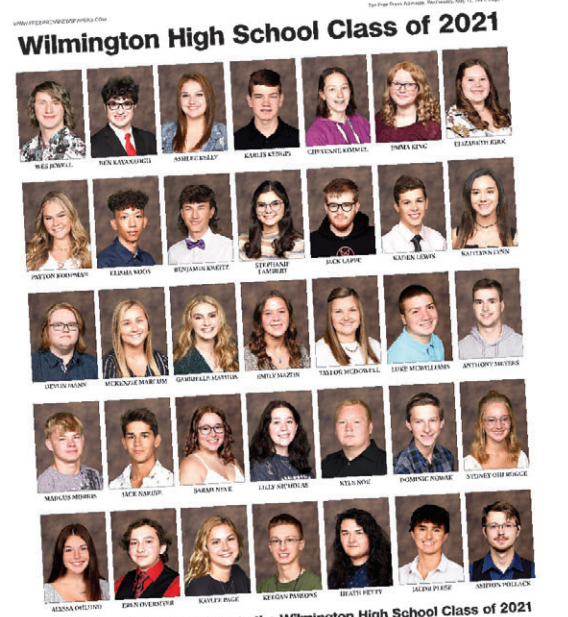
PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the petition to change the name of KRISTEN MARIE DODSON, CASE NO.: 2023MR0000113
LEGAL NOTICE

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
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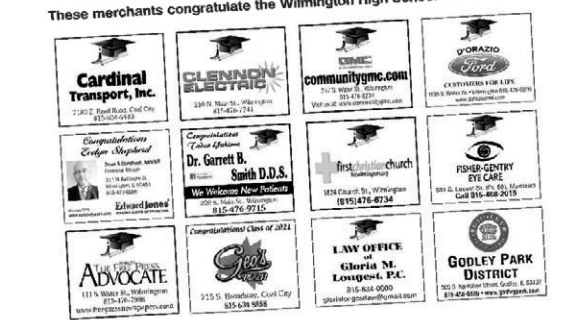
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COMET SPORTS

Lady Comets take the win over Manteno



ABIGAIL KOONCE blocks the ball from Manteno on Wednesday.

Photo by Zandie Sims



CAELAN COLE fights for the ball against a Manteno defender. The Comets got the win 2-0 with both goals scored by Gwen Stewart.

Photo by Zandie Sims



GETTING THE BALL AWAY from Manteno is Judith Gamboa playing on Wednesday at home.

Photo by Zandie Sims

Comet track stars place at meet



DANIEL KUBAN competes in pole vault against Lisle and gets 2nd with 2.74m on Tuesday.

Photo by Zandie Sims



OLIVIA MCLAUGHLIN cranks up to throw the discus for Reed-Custer. She placed first in shotput against Lisle and Manteno throwing 21.50m.

Photo by Zandie Sims



ALEX BOHAC stops the ball for Reed-Custer during Wednesday's game at home. The Comets' next game will be at home on Thursday against Streator.

Photo by Zandie Sims



RUNNING 100 METERS is Jordan Hickman competing against Lisle and Manteno on Tuesday at home. The Comets' next meet will be away at Seneca on Monday.

Photo by Zandie Sims

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Clifton Comets burn the Reed-Custer Comets

Clifton Central came to town Friday carrying big sticks when they hit three home runs and amassed 21 hits to beat the Comets 24-9.

The visiting Comets were found their groove early, racking up 10 runs their first trip to the plate. They scored runs every inning thereafter, added two more in the second to take a 12-0 lead.

But credit Reed-Custer for fighting back, scoring five runs in the bottom of the second and four more in the third to narrow the deficit to 13-9 after three. That would be a close as they could get though as Clifton kept pounding out the hits.

Kyle Fordonski started on the mound for RCHS, allowing 10 runs off nine hits while walking two. Brady Tyree threw 3.2 innings, surrendering seven runs, seven hits, three walks while striking out two. Cameron Smith finished the final two innings with seven runs off five hits, four strikeouts and one walk.

The R-C Comets finished with 11 hits including a home run by Jake McPherson (3 RBIs), doubles by Colin Esparza and Smith, and a 2-for-3 outing for Tyree for 1 RBI. Connor Esparza singled while Wesley Shats singled in a run.

The loss dropped Reed-Custer to 10-3 on the season.

Burn the Bobcats

On Thursday the Comets jumped on Beecher early and built their lead late to win 9-5.

Ethan Slager struck out 10 in 5 innings of work to earn the win. Joe Bembenek threw the final two frames to close out the contest.

The Comets put three runs on the board in the first inning and watched the hosts score single runs in the third and fourth innings to close the gap to 3-2. Thankfully three runs in the fifth and three more in the sixth by RCHS put Beecher away for good.

Joe Stellano led the way offensively with three doubles and three RBIs. Bembenek also had three hits including a pair of doubles, while Colin Esparza had two hits. Jake McPherson, Connor Esparza, Cameron Smith and Cole Goodwin had a hit apiece.

Reed-Custer made only one error and struck out once while Beecher struck out 11 times.

Taming the Lions

It took a couple of innings for the Comets to get going but once they scored they ran the bases well to defeat Lisle 11-5 on Tuesday.

Joe Stellano struck out nine and allowed no earned runs over 6 innings of work to earn the win. Ethan Slager worked a scoreless 7th inning. Joe Bembenek paced the

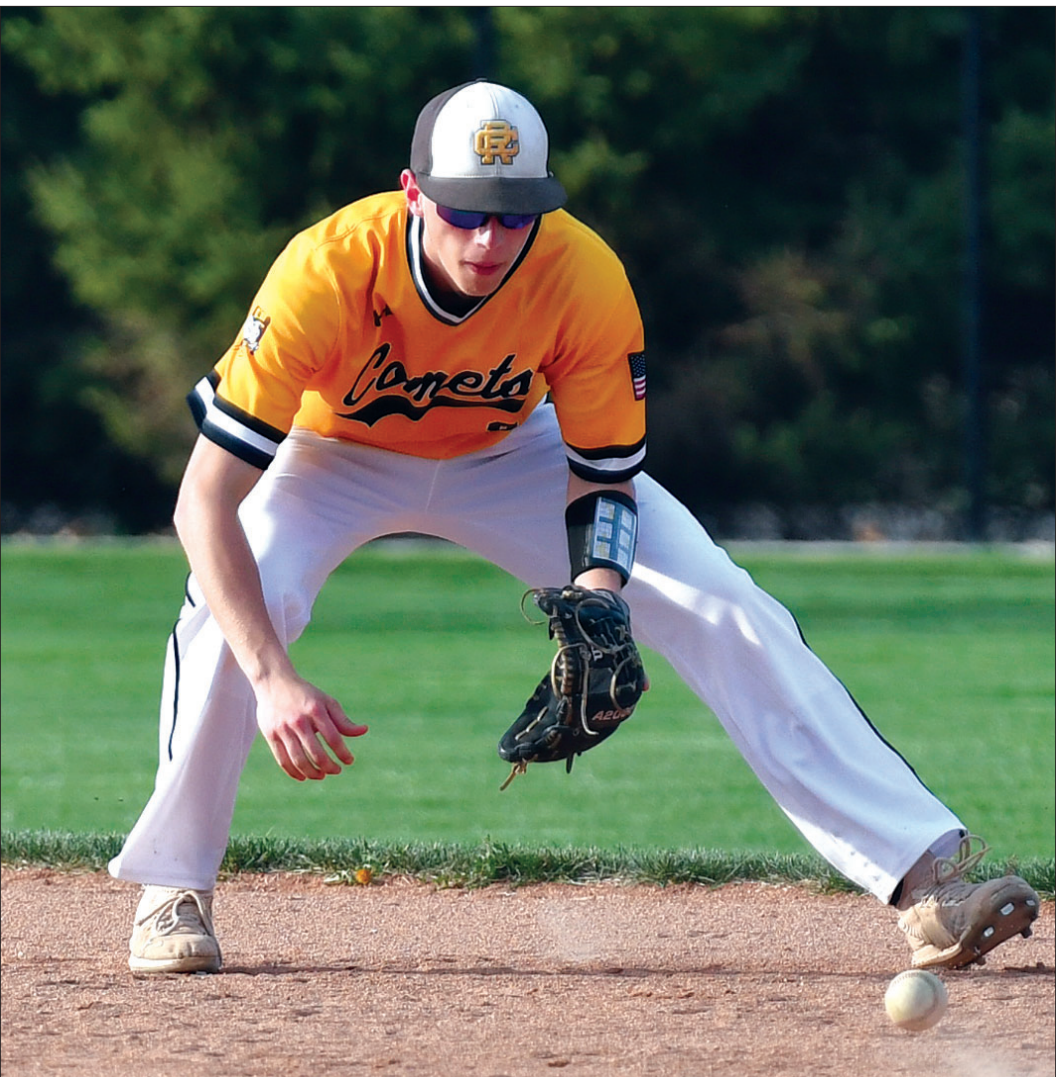


SLIDING AT THIRD is Cameron Smith. Cameron had 2 hits and 2 runs scored on Friday's game.

Photo by Zandie Sims

Comet offense with three hits and four RBIs. Cameron Smith added a pair of hits and 2 RBIs. Colin Esparza had a hit and two RBIs while Jake McPherson, Connor Esparza, Cole Goodwin, and Kyle Fordonski each had a hit.

The Comets play at Dwight tonight (Wednesday), at Beecher Thursday before hosting Wilmington Monday.



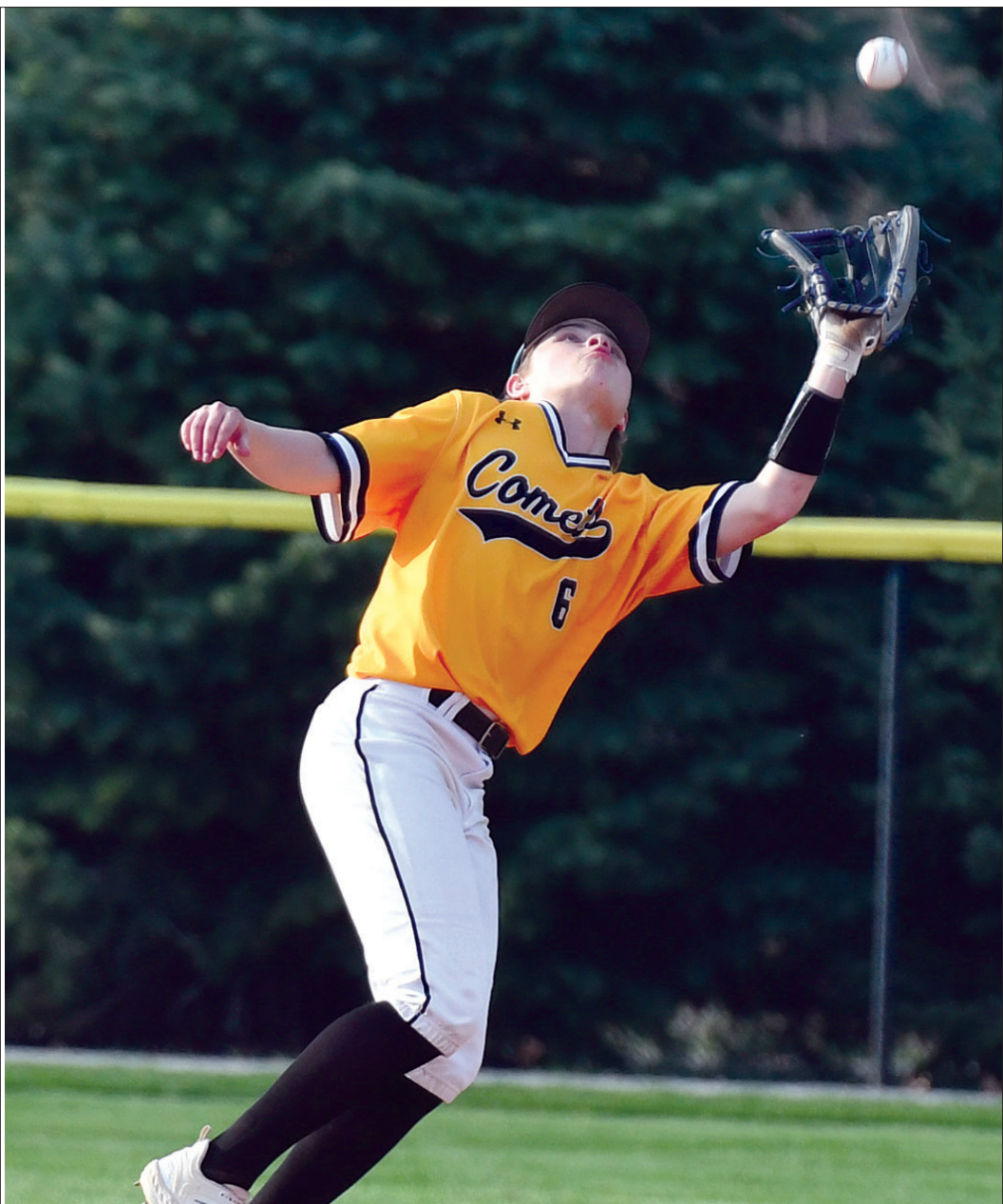
COLIN ESPARZA catches the ball at second base. Colin had 1 hit, 1 run, and a run batted in on Friday.

Photo by Zandie Sims



STICKING WITH IT —Comet Joe Stellano follows a pop-up near the dugout to make a catch against Clifton Central. The Comets lost 24-9 with the record now being 10-3.

Photo by Zandie Sims



CATCHING THE BALL is Joseph Stellano on Friday's game against Clifton Central. The Comets next game will be on Friday away at Beecher.

Photo by Zandie Sims

Lady Comets get back to winning

The Reed-Custer softball team got in only one game last week and Monday's contest at Peotone was canceled due to the weather.

Lady Comets beat Lisle 7-2 on Tuesday, scoring two runs their first time at bat. They led the entire game, getting two more runs in the top of the third to take a 4-1 lead.

The hosts managed to score a lone run in the bottom of the frame but that would be as close as they would get as Reed-Custer pounded out eight hits and scored three more runs in the top of the seventh with a little help from four Lisle errors.

Lady Comet Halie LaGrange earned

the win over sevening innings, surrendering two runs off three hits while fanning eight batters.

Mya Beard, LaGrange and Grace Cavanaugh combined for six of the team's eight hits. Beard and Jes Janopoulos each doubled (both had 2RBI's).

Cavanaugh ripped a line drive in the park that would have been long gone on any high school softball field with a fence.

The win improves their record to 3-7 overall, 2-4 in conference.

Reed-Custer plays at Beecher Thursday before hosting Wilmington Monday.