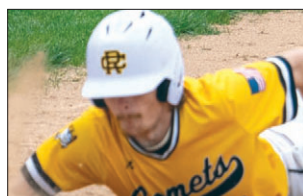




RCCHS names
ACE winners

Comets win
three in a row



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Vol. 66, Issue 17
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Quick response saves life of Braidwood man



Courtesy photo

BRAIDWOOD CREWS RESPONDED to a call for a man in cardiac arrest in January at his home. Emma Wallerich called 911 after her husband Gary collapsed. Under the direction of Wescom 911 dispatchers Emma started CPR. Minutes later, BFPD crews arrived and took over care of Gary. In the ambulance Gary Wallerich received advanced life support care, multiple doses of life saving medications, and was defibrillated three times. He regained a pulse and started breathing on his own minutes away from the ER. On April 5 BFPD crews met Gary and Emma Wallerich along with family at the fire station, and received Life Saving Awards. In attendance were Paramedics Saunoris, Williams, and Cabada, along with EMT's Zackavec, and Travis. Braidwood Police Officer Savarino was also awarded for his assistance at the scene. BFPD would like to urge its citizens to learn CPR, whether it is Hands-Only, or a full course including First Aid. CPR saves lives, and we are so proud of Emma for performing CPR on her husband until our crews arrived. If you are interested in taking a CPR class, please contact Dylan at dwilliams@braidwoodfire.org.



Courtesy photo

THE ANNUAL OPENING day for Braidwood Baseball & Softball Association. The day started with a parade through Braidwood, team introductions and games. It finished with the 3rd Annual Coach's vs. First Responders Game. This year the Braidwood Fire Department won; their second win in a row in an 11-10 walk off win.



Courtesy photo

THE BRAIDWOOD FIRE Department with the trophy after their 11-10 walk off win over the BBSA Coach's.

Kentucky man released after aggravated battery charges in city

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

An out-of-town visitor was released from Will County Jail after being charged with three criminal felonies and four misdemeanors.

On April 15, Braidwood police arrested David Curtis Frencl, 47, following an incident at Top Fuel Saloon, 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood. Frencl and the victim had been staying at the Sun Motel, 140 S. Hickory St., which is in walking distance of Top Fuel Saloon.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., Frencl and the victim began arguing within hearing of employees and patrons.

According to Braidwood police, Frencl repeatedly struck the victim about the face, resulting in bodily harm.

An employee of Top Fuel Saloon attempted to intervene, threatening to call the police if Frencl continued assaulting the victim.

After telling the bar employee to mind his own business, Frencl proceeded to grab the victim by the arm, forcefully dragging her out the door.

The employee followed the couple out to the parking lot. After entering his vehicle, Frencl allegedly attempted to drive a white Dodge, aggressively, in the direction of the employee, placing the individual in reasonable apprehension of being hit by the car.

Police arrived, locating Frencl and the victim at the Sun Motel. Frencl was taken into custody without incident and booked into Will County Jail.

The state's attorney's office filed a total of seven charges – three felonies, and four misdemeanors against Frencl, a resident of Calvert City, Ky.

In total, Frencl was charged with three counts of aggravated battery in a public place, a Class 3 felony. Additional charges included three counts of domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor as well as assault, a Class C misdemeanor.

On April 17, Frencl was released from Will County Jail on his own recognition, and ordered to have no contact with the victim.



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Courtesy photo

MEMBERS OF the Arnie Bauer team running across the field during their team introduction at the opening ceremonies.

Reed-Custer to host youth basketball camp

Registration is underway for the youth basketball camps for boys entering grades 1-2, 3-5 and grades 6-8 to be held July 15-18 at the Reed-Custer Elementary School gym. Participants will learn how to improve their individual and team skills through summer competition. The fundamentals of basketball will be stressed in a fun atmosphere where the players can develop a love for the game. The campers will be grouped by ability and age. Their purpose is to prepare the campers for basketball competition at their respective grade levels.

Grades 1-2 camp will be held Monday through Thursday, from 8 to 9:15 a.m. at the Reed-Custer Elementary School gym. Grades 3-5 camp will be 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Grades 6-8 camp will be 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. High school basketball staff and players will conduct the camp.

Fee is \$40 cash or make checks payable to Reed-Custer High School. Please return the camp form to the office at RCES or RCMS with your payment by May 17. Walk-ins are welcome the first day but you may not receive a camp T-shirt

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Grade Next Year _____

T Shirt Size (please circle) Youth L or Adult S, Adult M, Adult L, Adult XL or Adult XXL

I hearby authorize the directors of the Comet Basketball Camp to administer first aid in case of an emergency. My son is physically fit according to our family physician.

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Constellation seeks 20 more years to operate plant

Constellation, the nation's largest producer of electricity, is seeking to keep its Dresden Generating Station near Coal City operating for another 20 years.

That's good news for the Coal City School District and surrounding taxing bodies who receive over \$26.2 million annually in Dresden property taxes.

Last week Constellation filed a license renewal with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for Dresden Clean Energy Center in Morris that will continue supplying energy to the grid, help address the climate crisis and support the regional economy. The facility's license was first renewed by the NRC in 2004.

The filing begins a

multi-year review by the NRC that would extend the life of its two operating units through 2051. Dresden, which produces enough baseload electricity to power the equivalent of nearly 1.4 million homes, is currently licensed to operate through 2029 for Unit 2 and 2031 for Unit 3.

"Extending the operating licenses of the nation's nuclear fleet for an additional 20 years will add more clean megawatts to the grid than all the renewables ever built in this country, and those nuclear plants will continue operating long after the wind and solar facilities under construction today are retired," said Joe Dominguez, president and CEO of Constellation.

"Nuclear produces half of America's clean energy, but many still take it for granted and wrongly assume it will always be there. In reality, Constellation reinvests hundreds of millions of dollars each year in its industry-leading nuclear fleet to keep these massive economic engines running, providing thousands of family-sustaining jobs, preserving energy security and delivering the unmatched reliability we need to grow our economy while addressing the climate crisis."

The extension means

the two plants will contribute billions of additional dollars to the Illinois' economy and continue providing enough carbon-free energy to power the equivalent of more than two million homes and helping the state meets its goal to get 100% of its energy from clean sources by 2050.

Nuclear facilities are initially licensed to operate for 40 years and the NRC allows company's to seek license extensions for up to 20 years at a time.

Public support for nuclear energy has increased in recent years in the U.S. and globally as concerns about climate change and energy reliability have grown. Nuclear energy plants are the only carbon-free, baseload energy resources that can operate 24/7 in all weather conditions.

In severe weather events nuclear facilities have repeatedly kept the nation's electric grid operating continuously when Americans needed power the most. Constellation's clean energy centers have operated almost 95% of the time over the past five years.

The Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) enacted by Illinois lawmakers in 2021 prevented Dresden from being retired prematurely during a peri-

od of economic uncertainty. Enactment of the federal nuclear production tax credit in 2022 extended policy support through 2032.

Renewing the NRC license for Dresden will give Constellation the ability to keep this plant operating through 2051, although future policy and market conditions will ultimately determine how long the plant operates.

Enabling the continued operation of Dresden through renewal of its NRC license would provide the State of Illinois an estimated 305 terawatt hours of additional carbon-free electricity over the 20-year extended lifespan of the plant. This is more clean energy than all of Illinois' wind and solar facilities have produced to date.

This additional carbon-free electricity can be used to power decarbonization of the industrial, agricultural and transportation sectors through the production of clean hydrogen and to drive investment in the state's growing data economy.

The Dresden site employs nearly 700 people and is one of Grundy County's largest employers. The facility's workforce more than doubles during its annual refueling and maintenance outage, helping increase worker payrolls and improve the bottom lines of local businesses.

Over the next 10 years, more than half of Constellation's nuclear reactors are expected to

require NRC license renewal. Securing those license renewals and continuing to operate each plant will create thousands of high-paying, family-sustaining jobs.

"Constellation's Dresden Clean Energy Center is an economic engine for Grundy County and the surrounding communities," said Nancy Norton, president and CEO of Grundy County Economic Development.

"The station's hundreds of employees and contractors are part of the fabric of our community and spend their earnings at local stores, restaurants and businesses. Dresden is the No. 1 contributor of property taxes that support emergency response, education and many other government services that impact the daily lives of Grundy County residents."

The Dresden license

ments to accelerate clean-energy growth initiatives across the company. In February, Constellation announced it is seeking license renewal for its Clinton Clean Energy Center in Central Illinois.

In 2023, Constellation announced the acquisition of a partial ownership stake in the South Texas Project nuclear plant, an \$800 million uprate project to add more carbon-free output at the Braidwood and Byron stations in Illinois, and a \$350 million repowering project that included upgrades at the Criterion Wind Project in Maryland.

Local taxing districts who benefit from Dresden include the Unit 1 School District, Coal City Fire Protection and Public Library Districts, Grundy County, Goose Lake Township, Goose Lake Road District and Joliet

Custer Township to hold budget hearing

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF CUSTER
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Custer, Will County, Illinois, to consider the tentative 2024/2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Township of Custer, Will County, Illinois.

Said hearing will be held at Custer Township Hall, Grant Street, Custer Park, Illinois, at the hour of 6:30 P.M. on June 18, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Town Board of Trustees, at the public hearing, shall adopt the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, or any part thereof, as such Board of Trustees deems necessary.

All citizens of the Township present at the hearing and desiring to be heard concerning the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be given an opportunity to do so.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be filed and made conveniently available for public inspection in the office of the Township Clerk, 23125 McGuire Rd, Wilmington, Illinois, during the regular business hours, from and after 8:00 A.M. on May 17, 2024.

Dated: April 24, 2024
Christine D. Olson
Clerk, Town of Custer, Will County, Illinois
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Custer Township to hold hearing on road district budget

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF CUSTER
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Custer, Will County, Illinois, to consider the tentative 2024/2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Road District of Custer, Will County, Illinois.

Said hearing will be held at Custer Township Hall, Grant Street, Custer Park, Illinois, at the hour of 6:30 P.M. on June 18, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Town Board of Trustees, at the public hearing, shall adopt the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, or any part thereof, as such Board of Trustees deems necessary.

All citizens of the Road District present at the hearing and desiring to be heard concerning the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be given an opportunity to do so.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be filed and made conveniently available for public inspection in the office of the Road District Clerk, 23125 McGuire Rd, Wilmington, Illinois, during the regular business hours, from and after 8:00 A.M. on May 17, 2024.

Dated: April 24, 2024
Christine D. Olson
Clerk, Road District of Custer, Will County, Illinois
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Attorney Terry
Wallace
files new address
with clerk's office

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name
Publication Notice

Certificate 35068 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on April 8, 2024 wherein the business firm of Terrence Joseph Wallace, Attorney, located at 54 N. Ottawa St., Suite B40, Joliet, IL 60432 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Terrence Joseph Wallace
Owner Address: 17995 West Hunt Club Drive, Mokena, IL, 60448
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at this 8th day of April, 2024.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 10, 17 and 24, 2024.

Micheal Kaminski
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 MICHEAL DAVID KAMINSKI to the new name of MICHAEL DAVID ROBLEDOR KAMINSKI, Case No. 2024 MR000120

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself, MICHEAL DAVID KAMINSKI, 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 13th day of June, 2024 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of MICHEAL DAVID KAMINSKI be changed to MICHAEL DAVID ROBLEDOR KAMINSKI.

/s/ Micheal David Kaminski
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 17, 24 and May 1, 2024.

Senior Citizen's Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption applications available

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application and Affidavit for Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption

Per the Illinois Property Tax Code (Sec. 15-172): Beginning in taxable year 1994, a senior citizen's assessment freeze homestead exemption is granted for a real property that is improved with a permanent structure that is occupied as a residence by an applicant who (1) is 65 years of age or older during the taxable year, (2) has a total household income of \$65,000 or less in taxable year, (3) is liable for paying property taxes on the property or has a legal or equitable interest in the property as evidenced by a written instrument.

The Chief County Assessment Officer is giving notice that the 2024 Application and Affidavit for Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption (PTAX-340) is available upon request and the deadline to submit the completed application is July 1, 2024.

Applications may be obtained at your local township assessor's office or the Chief County Assessment Office, 302 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL, 60432; or by calling (815) 740-4648 for further information. In addition, please visit our website at www.willcountysao.com for senior assistance event scheduling.

Dale D. Butalla, CIAO-M
Chief County Assessment Officer
Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate and Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Leash your dog or pay

No matter how cute, 'friendly,' well-groomed, sweet-smelling, or well-dressed your dog is, it still needs to be on a leash when it's anywhere in the Braidwood Dunes or Kankakee Sands Forest Preserves off of Highway 113 near Braidwood.

Visiting the preserves with an off-leash dog can result in a \$25 ticket. and their dogs and you could be ticketed.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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Love new flag

COAL CITY— Dear Mr. Camping World - Thank you for the new large flag. It is B-E-A-UTIFUL!

Independent voters

SHADOW LAKES—I become super-charged every four years with our federal elections. The poll figures can be quite intriguing. One channel will say this candidate has 47% of the vote, while the next channel, same candidate has 59% of the vote. This next one is really what you want to watch. This one is how our government is dividing everyone into groups and what a good job they do. Lets take a look at their groups. You will find these, Afro Americans, Latino Americans, Jewish Americans, Asian Americans, Young voters, old voters, American housewives, Union workers. Republicans, moderate Republicans, Democrats, moderate Democrats. College students, new voters. They love to pander to these groups for votes. Case in point, "let's have student loan forgiveness." You see just how they control these groups, to divide and conquer. Oh, I almost forgot the most important group of all...the independent voter! Watch, just how this group come into play. Obediently yours. Margot Lane.

Coal City suggestions

COAL CITY—1) Brick in the concrete island north of the Broadway tracks to match the island south of the tracks. No one needs to be tending to plants in the middle of traffic. 2) Traffic light with left turn signals is a good idea at the corner of Rt. 113 and Carbon Hill Road.

Vital to their community

SHADOW LAKES—Two weeks ago there was a comment about a Tyson foods store closing in Iowa. It said that they were boycotting Tyson foods because they were closing a store in Iowa and moving to New York so they could hire undocumented immigrants that were going to be paid \$16 an hour plus free housing. It also said that we could look it up to confirm the story. So I did, I started researching about the Tyson store closing in Perry Iowa. First thing I found out was that it wasn't a store, it was a pork processing plant. And one of the reasons for closing was that the plant was sixty years old and outdated. And that they encouraged the employees that were losing their jobs to apply for jobs on other Tyson Foods company's. But as hard as I try I could not find anything about moving to New York and hiring undocumented workers. I encourage the person that wrote the comment to write back and tell me where I can find that information. As I was researching this I learned some interesting stuff, like for example that 60% of all Tyson food employees throughout the country are immigrants and at times legal refugees and that the city of Perry, Iowa was very upset that these people were losing their jobs because they were considered vital to the community. I also found out that meat production companies have a hard time finding and keeping workers. That being the reason why they hired mostly immigrants. I also found out this type of work is actually very hard work, meat processing plants are actually enormous refrigerators that are very cold and

the work is done mostly on your feet on assembly lines that don't allow for much of resting time. Me personally I wouldn't work at a place like that for anything less than \$40 an hour, plus I want a good pension and medical benefits. I guess if Tyson hired people like me not to many people would be able to afford meat.

Taxpayers are paying

WILMINGTON—I favor legal immigration practices which are enshrined in United States law. Does that make me a bigot as explained in a recent Sound-off submission? Millions of illegals have crossed our border under Biden and yes, many are bringing drugs. Just ask the Border Patrol and they will show you how much they have confiscated. How many more drugs, particularly fentanyl, get through and kill Americans? Many American workers have lost their jobs to illegals so that big corporations can save money on their lower salaries. I am not a fear monger, and I do my own research. America cannot afford to take in citizens of the whole world. People from over a hundred countries have entered here and American taxpayers are paying for them to stay. Pray for discernment in this world of misinformation.

They're not enemies

SHADOW LAKES— It's kind of funny to see how people that post degrading false statements about immigrants get all offended about being called bigots. But they think that is ok for them to insult everyone else. There is a big misunderstanding about what the problem with illegal immigration's is and the main reason for the misunderstanding is because of the fear mongers spreading false information. Immigrants are not criminals, they're not drug traffickers, they are not coming to this country to kill, or steal like the fear mongers say. They are men, women and children. These people leave their homes out of desperation because in their country's they live in horrible conditions. These people are victims of the human traffickers that lie to them when they tell them that it is going to be easy to come to this country. Some of them actually lose their lives in the process of getting to a country where they're not wanted and they're going to be met with rejection and discrimination. I wish there was an easy solution for this problem that would make everyone happy. Unfortunately, if we don't change the way we look at these people and instead of looking at them as enemies we need to start looking at them as human beings that need help.

The ropes

SHADOW LAKES— Dear Mr. Hill, we were a lot better off when your place was "the ropes." We had a lot of fun at "the ropes," swimming and camping. You've been quiet for awhile it sure has been nice. Amen brother, Ben.

Blessed to have them

WILMINGTON—There are two organizations in town that I pray that one day they may be able to close their doors. I pray that one day Kuzma Cottage will be able to close because that means that there is nobody who is going hungry and in need of food. And I pray that one day the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community will be able to close its doors



because that means no one is addicted to drugs, alcohol or has mental health issues and need help. I know sadly this will never happen. As a member of the community I am truly happy and blessed that we have these two organizations. For many years I volunteered at both organizations and after awhile hearing the stories that the clients shared started to affect me emotionally and I had to step away for my own health. Please remember if you see someone at Kuzma that has a nice car, unless you know their story or you have walked in their shoes, do not judge or criticize them. The same thing if you see somebody walking into the Coalition. Unless you have walked in their shoes or know their story do not judge or criticize them. At least they are getting the help and support that they need and for that they need to be applauded not scorned. Thank you Sandy, Heather, Paula and Wendy and all of your volunteers for the amazing jobs you do by helping the residents of our community. May God bless you always. Sheri Michaels.

Now they're protesting

WILMINGTON—Think about this, the college students you see blocking roads and burning American flags yelling "Death to Israel," "Death to America," and "I am Hamas" are getting their student loans paid off by you, the taxpayer, under Biden. "I will buy your vote with taxpayer money." Well spent, right Joe?

Machines rule our drinks

BRAIDWOOD—Most of us might remember making a "suicide soda" any time we were lucky enough to eat somewhere with our parents and had full access to a soda self serve. Your parents said yes you can get your own drink and it was as good as being your birthday. Say what you want, me and my siblings had recipes. We had found what went together better than others, unless you were on a dare suicide mission to mix blindly and drink the whole thing. These were the innocent shenanigans we might get in trouble for when we were young. My first job at 15 years old was at a McDonald's. I just married the man who was my team lead two years ago when life reconnected us. One of our favorite drinks to this day was a mix up of half Hi-C and half Sprite. Recently I tried to order one in a McDonald's drive through and was given just a Sprite without a word. When I questioned, the guy told me it wasn't possible. I found that in the drive thru with having

a rush they depend on their auto dispense machines. You hit the button for cup size and drink flavor and it does the rest. Okay, drive through gets busy. So we go inside a location just to make ourselves one. They've only just removed the self serve machines from the lobby at the locations near us. Being that they only just removed them, I'm hard pressed to blame Covid. Today my husband and I were out running errands hand in hand, just enjoying our time. He stopped to get us our drink. The employee told him he couldn't because the machine won't allow for mixes. The ability of a machine now comes before an employee being able to fulfill his job of customer service. My husband explained the option of ordering two small drinks and then putting them into one large cup, something we've found works. Now it costs more cups for the customer to be right, but at least we can all allow the machine to do its job the only way it knows how. So remember to keep your tastes simple and straight forward to make life easier for the machines. And when we mention making a suicide soda drink around kids? They have no idea what we're talking about.

Debt under Trump

WILMINGTON—This is to add to the Braidwood contributor's Sound Off "Debt is Growing" last week. When Trump took office in 2017, the national debt was \$20 trillion. In Trump's four years, he added \$7.8 trillion to the debt. Biden has added \$4.7 trillion to the debt. To quote Joe Friday, "Just the facts, ma'am."

We cannot afford it

WILMINGTON— I favor legal immigration practices which are enshrined in United States law. Does that make me a bigot as explained in a recent Sound-off submission? Millions of illegals have crossed our border under Biden and yes, many are bringing drugs. Just ask the Border Patrol and they will show you how much they have confiscated. How many more drugs, particularly fentanyl, get through and kill Americans? Many American workers have lost their jobs to illegals so that big corporations can save money on their lower salaries. I am not a fear monger, and I do my own research. America cannot afford to take in citizens of the whole world. People from over a hundred countries have entered here and American taxpayers are paying for them to stay. Pray for discernment in this world of misinformation.

Low election turnout has some eyeing ranked choice voting for 2028

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

Voter turnout in last month's presidential primary election was the lowest in 52 years. Some argue changing to ranked choice voting could increase participation. Others worry it will confuse voters.

The Illinois State Board of Elections released their official canvas of the 2024 presidential primary and found 19% voter turnout. That's the lowest voter turnout since 1972.

The Illinois Ranked-Choice Voting and Election Systems Task Force has been meeting with an eye on bringing about ranked choice voting for the 2028 presidential primary. During their meeting Monday, Barb Laimins said while the League of Women Voters don't have a position on ranked choice voting, they do support things to encourage more participation.

"If RCV were to be implemented in Illinois, it would also accomplish, in

addition, eliminate election by minority, improve democracy by voter participation and engagement," Laimins said.

Ranked choice voting is where voters select several candidates, but rank them on most preferred versus least. Those rankings play in the final tally of the vote.

Others on the task force like, Tazewell County Clerk John Ackerman, worried RCV would confuse voters looking for unofficial election outcomes.

"And when you're doing counts everyday, changing the results, changing which candidates are in, which ones are out, that just adds way too much confusion," he said.

At a previous task force meeting, the group of appointed members said they were going to be drafting a final report for review and approval. That was not accomplished at Monday's meeting.

At Friday's meeting, there were more questions

about definitions, and whether the goal would be to only implement ranked choice voting for the 2028 presidential primary candidates, or also for the presidential electors. Co-chair of the task force state, Sen. Laura Murphy, D-Des Plaines, said they clearly have a lot more they have to discuss in future meetings.

"We're not at the point yet of compiling that report draft. We're compiling all the information that we want included," she told the members. "So if there's something you find that was not included, if you want to let me know that would be helpful, and we'll make sure that we do include that because we have so much documentation throughout, we want to have one place where it is all located."

An agenda for a recent task force meeting said the group is looking to deliver a final report to the Illinois General Assembly by June 30, 2025.

Illinois Senate passes changes to state's Biometric Information Privacy Act

The Illinois Senate has passed legislation that would make changes to the liability guidelines in the Biometric Information Privacy Act.

Senate Bill 2979 from state Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, would limit the number of claims accrued should an employee bring a lawsuit against a company for a violation of BIPA. If a certain biometric identifier is collected by the same employer in the same manner, only one violation would accrue.

"The businesses that have failed to follow the law by getting consent to use biometric materials should be held accountable, but it is important that the punishment fits the crime," said Cunningham. "Right now, I don't think the law in this state accomplishes that."

The Illinois Supreme

Court upheld the "per-scan" damages in a lawsuit against White Castle, but noted that the technicality could be damaging for Illinois businesses.

"We decided to remain focused on the invitation we got from the Supreme Court to address the questions about liability and damages," said Cunningham.

State Sen. John Curran, R-Downers Grove, said he wishes there were more changes to BIPA, but something had to be done to at least tweak the law.

"We are a true outlier in this country," said Curran. "This is not a law that other states are saying Illinois got it right and we are going to follow suit and model the Illinois law."

Illinois state Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, and Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers

Grove, discuss proposed changes to BIPA.

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The measure also modernizes the manner in which written consent can be granted to include the use of electronic signatures.

The Senate passed the bill by a 46 to 13 vote and it now goes to the House for further action.

The Technology and Manufacturing Association applauded the Illinois Senate for passing the measure.

"We made it clear that we agree we need laws in place that protect privacy and support a fair biometrics data privacy policy while at the same time not putting businesses in a position where they could be subject to annihilation lawsuits," TMA lobbyist David Curtin said in a statement.

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Gas prices lower, but nothing to brag about

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 6.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.90/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 0.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 16.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 0.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.01 per gallon.

In Wilmington, expect to pay \$3.68/g to \$4.09/g. Braidwood is \$4.06g to \$4.09/g, and Coal City ranges from \$3.99/g to \$4.06/g.

Further afield, prices run the gamut between \$3.83/g and \$3.93/g in Morris. Bourbonnais comes in lowest with \$3.57/g to \$3.86/g.

"As the nationwide changeover to summer gasoline is now behind us, at least one of the three factors that had been actively causing prices to rise in the last couple of months is behind us," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"However, it may take time for the largest pain point to be over: refinery maintenance. The next few weeks should see many refineries wrapping up their work and gasoline output should rise, putting downward pressure on gasoline prices soon."

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.79/g Monday while the most expensive was \$8.77/g, a difference of \$5.98/g.

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In-your-face activists are trying to their approach in Springfield

Just eight of 78 Illinois House Democrats openly sided last week with the once-indomitable Chicago Teachers Union.

The CTU hotly opposed a bill to halt all public school closures and prevent disproportionate budget cuts and changes to admissions criteria at Chicago's selective enrollment schools until a fully elected Chicago school board is seated in 2027. The final roll call was a lopsided 92-8.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, whose popularity has plummeted along with his Statehouse influence, ought to take this as a warning not to follow the CTU's example. And so should some other Chicago-based organizations.

Rich Miller

ing calls from CTU leaders demanding they abandon their promised support for the bill.

Others said they were upset that the union's flip-flop was eerily similar to what happened in the Senate last year, when the Democrats bowed to the CTU's demands and dumped their plan to pass a phased-in elected school board, only to watch the CTU rail against their fully elected school board bill which the union had demanded days before.

I asked Gov. JB Pritzker after the vote for his thoughts on the CTU's labeling the bill as racist.

"That kind of criticism is uncalled for," he said, "We don't need that."

Asked if he thought the tactic had hurt the CTU's roll call, Pritzker said, "I do. I think that when you take it to that extreme, I think there are people that - you heard some of that discussion on the floor by members - that... some were between offended and outraged by what was said."

This was not only a major loss for the CTU, it was also a strike against the increasingly divisive, angry and in-your-face approach that has been prevalent at Chicago's city hall which lefty activists are now trying to bring to Springfield.

Last month, for instance, an organizer for Chicago's Raise the Floor Alliance laid out a "plan of escalation" in an email that targeted Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D-Glenview) for her refusal to hold a hearing on a major part of the group's legislative agenda, "Work Without Fear."

The plan of escalation started with Rep. Gong-Gershowitz being approached by a handful of people the following morning, and then escalated to bringing in more than 100 people to directly confront Gong-Gershowitz after a committee hearing that afternoon.

The organizer also laid out a plan for activists to approach a different legislator "in a significantly friendlier way" to thank her for her support, which seemed to more than just indicate that the action against Gong-Gershowitz was not going to be friendly. The organizer claimed in the email that the bill's sponsors were on board with the plan, but one aghast sponsor firmly stepped in to stop the group from carrying it out.

Rep. Margaret Croke (D-Chicago) sponsored the selective enrollment bill. She said she didn't think the strategies used by activists at the city council could work at the Statehouse, but agreed those actions are increasing in Springfield.

"This is a really close-knit body," Croke said. Unlike the Chicago city council, she said, "We

basically live together for six months and people really take these relationships seriously."

Rep. Croke also told me that some of her colleagues approached her on behalf of opponents to ask for changes. And when those changes were made, those same members were approached again by the opponents and pushed for even more changes. Croke said some of her colleagues didn't appreciate the methods.

The chair of the House's Progressive Caucus, Rep. Will Guzzardi (D-Chicago), said during debate that Croke had changed her bill after he requested that the closure moratorium for selective enrollment schools be expanded to all schools until the board was fully elected, "because that's what I've been fighting for for all these years, that the people who are gonna decide about closing our schools are the people who should be accountable to us, they should be people we voted for."

Guzzardi continued with a message to Mayor Johnson: "And I feel that way whether the mayor is a person I never met before or is a dear friend of mine who I worked my ass off to get elected, who's the man sitting in the Fifth Floor right now."

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

State Senate advances bill to ban food additives linked to health problems

BY COLE LONGCOR
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois Senate passed a bill Thursday that would ban four food additives that are found in common products including candy, soda and baked goods.

Senate Bill 2637, known as the Illinois Food Safety Act, passed on a 37-15 bipartisan vote and will head to the House for consideration. The banned chemicals would include brominated vegetable oil, red dye No. 3, propylparaben and potassium bromate.

Those additives are used in a wide variety of food products. Brominated vegetable oil is a stabilizer used to keep citrus flavoring in sodas from separating from the solution and floating to the top. Propylparaben and potassium bromate are used in baked goods as a preservative. Red dye 3 is a common food dye used in candy and other products.

Last year the U.S. Food and Drug Administration proposed to revoke the authorization of brominated vegetable oil after a study found that the chemical affects the thyroid, creating negative health impacts. According to a study from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a nonprofit advocacy organization, red dye 3 may cause cancer in animals. The International Agency for Research on Cancer, a part of the World Health Organization, found potassium bromate to be possibly carcinogenic.

The bill had bipartisan support in the Senate with Sen. Seth Lewis, R-Bartlett, and Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, voting for it.

"(Red dye 3) was banned by the FDA for use in makeup over 30 years ago. So, the FDA doesn't allow you to put it on your face for makeup. But yet kids are eating this in candy," McClure said in the Senate Thursday. "That to me is outrageous. So, for that reason I am voting for this bill."

Preston previously said he was considering adding titanium dioxide to the ban, but that plan was scrapped during negotiations. He said if additional research becomes available "we'll explore that option at that time."

In 2021 the European Food Safety Authority said it was concerned that titanium dioxide could alter people's DNA.

Industry groups such as the Illinois Manufacturers' Association have pushed back against the bill throughout the legislative process. In January, the IMA issued a statement in opposition of "this well-intentioned legislation," claiming it would undermine the FDA and negatively impact Illinois' economy as it would "create a confusing and costly patchwork of regulations."

The National Confectioners Association issued a similar statement, saying the bill would "increase food costs, undermine consumer confidence, and create confusion around food safety."

California passed a similar bill last year that will take effect in 2027 and the New York Senate is currently debating a similar bill. The food additives are already regulated or banned in parts of the European Union.

The additives would be banned from manufacturing beginning January 1, 2027, with the sale, delivery, distribution, and holding of products containing the additives being banned beginning in 2028.

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OBITUARIES

Sandra Lardi

GARDNER—Sandra Lynn Lardi, 80, of Gardner, passed away on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Born on July 25, 1943, she was the daughter of the late James and Kathryn (nee Savage) Horrie. Sandra grew up in Gardner and graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington High School in 1961. On July 7, 1965, on their way home from Arizona, Sandra married David Lardi Jr. in Albuquerque, NM. Together, they made their home and raised their family in Gardner. An incredibly talented seamstress, Sandra, as a young mother of four, opened a custom drapery and upholstery business, "Draperies by Sandy," alongside her mother, Kathryn. Sandra also had a passion for softball, which led to her starting the "Gardner Youth Fast Pitch Softball" program for girls in 1978, and many young girls and families in the community are grateful for Sandra's contributions to this day.

Sandra had been a contributing member to the Church of Hope in Gardner. She was very gifted with her baking and cooking skills, and loved sharing her creations with those that she loved, from friends and family, to community members in times of need. Sandra was a loving wife, grandmother, aunt, sister, friend, and mother, especially for the light of her life, daughter, Shawna Lardi. She was also known for always having an open door policy for family, friends, and even friends of her children, as anyone was welcome in her home. Sandra will be dearly missed and remembered by all the people she took so much pride in loving.



Surviving are her husband, David Lardi Jr.; sons, David Shawn (Amy) Lardi, of Orland Park, IL and Kelly (Dana) Lardi, of Mazon; daughters, Tiffany (Greg) Wills, of Coal City and Shawna Lardi, of Gardner; grandchildren: Joshua (Kristina) Lardi, Joel (Rhea) Lardi, Molly (Brandon) Julian, Abigail Lardi, Grace Lardi, Claire Lardi, Lucy Lardi, Alice Lardi, Caroline Lardi, Beau Wills and Zoe Wills; great-grandchildren: Evelyn Lardi, Isaac Lardi, Annie Lardi, Emilia Lardi, Cecilia Lardi, Julianna Lardi, Noa Julian and Etta Julian; sister, Lila (Ray) Dite, of Morris; brother, James (Kay) Horrie, of Rosalee Lake, FL; her Arizona family: Bryan Stark, Bryce Stark, Jacque Stark and families; dear sisters-in-law, Lynne Grief and Marilyn Lardi; family friend, Leslie Terry Tresch, as well as many other special friends, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding her in death were her brother, Jerry (Donna) Horrie; brothers-in-law, Dale Grief and Larry "DeeDee" Lardi and nephew, Bill Horrie.

The visitation will be held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Friday, April 19, 2024 at 10 am until the time of the funeral service beginning at 1 p.m. Pastor Jan Chandler will officiate. Interment will immediately follow at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Special Connections of Morris. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Rich Fenoglio

GOOSE LAKE—Rich Fenoglio, 81, of Goose Lake and formerly of Rockdale, IL, passed away Sunday, April 21, 2024 at Ascension Saint Mary Hospital in Kankakee.

Rich's life journey began in Joliet where he graduated from Joliet Catholic High School with the class of 1960. On Oct. 6, 1962, he exchanged vows with Judy Paracsi at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rockdale. Together they nurtured a loving family and shared many cherished memories.

A dedicated professional, Rich commenced his career at Illinois Bell Telephone Company and later retired from AT&T. Post-retirement, his work ethic remained vibrant as he found fulfillment working at Sam's Club in Joliet and delivering newspapers for Night Owl News and Pitbull Distribution for over three decades. Rich's passion for social engagement was apparent through his post-retirement activity, and he maintained memberships at the Wilmington Recreation Club and Goose Lake Club. In years past, Rich generously devoted his time to coaching Marycrest little league.

Nature beckoned Rich with its allure, whether it be hunting or fishing, and he always looked forward to the annual family trips to the Northwoods of Wisconsin spanning five decades where they regularly attended Warrens Cranberry Fest. An avid collector of various items, especially Vaseline glassware, Rich also enjoyed antiquing and relished dining out, the Whistle Stop Cafe being one of his favorites. He was always keeping an eye out for bargains, and liked to try his luck with Lotto tickets.

Family held paramount importance to Rich; watching his family tree blossom brought him immeasurable joy. Whether attending his grandchildren's sports



events or engaging in their activities, his familial bonds were unwavering.

Rich leaves behind a treasury of memories cherished by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Survivors include his children: Sue (Ken) Onderisin, of Channahon and Steve (Jacqui) Fenoglio, Shelley "Beany" Fenoglio and Sheila "Dimples" (Ryan) Bunton all of Coal City; seven grandchildren: Jennifer Onderisin, Matthew (Jamie) Onderisin, Elizabeth "Liz" Fenoglio (Adam Gill), Stephen "Goo" Fenoglio, Garrett Auriene, Madyson "Mady" (Carver) James, and Jack Bunton; great-grandchildren: Blake Onderisin, Reece Onderisin, Sawyer Fenoglio and Avery Gill; one sister, Marilyn (the late Don) Eungard, of Coal City; nieces and nephews: Pam (Darcy) Rice, Doug (Jill) Eungard and Deb Eungard, and numerous cousins, as well as his lifelong best friend, Dominic Vella, of Crest Hill, IL.

Rich was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Mary Fenoglio and one sister, in infancy.

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 26, 2024 from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12 p.m.

Burial will follow in Woodlawn Memorial Park II, where Rich will be laid to rest with his late wife, Judy.

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

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

Barbara Manthey

UNIVERSITY PARK—Barbara A. Manthey, 88 of University Park, IL, formerly of New York, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Born March 4, 1936 in Bronx, NY, Barbara was the only child of George and Margaret (Buckley) Vidulich. She was raised and educated in Flushing, NY and would eventually relocate to University Park. Barbara worked as a bartender for many years, including ten years with Up the Street Bar in Beecher, IL. When she wasn't working, she found great joy in spending her time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include two children: Denise (Scott) Ferguson of Reddick, IL and Glenn (the late Penny) Manthey of Crete, IL; five grandchildren: Kelsey (Thomas) Carnahan of Irmo, SC, Jamison (Caitlin) Ferguson of Lexington, SC, Brae Ferguson of Reddick, Jason (Alyssa) Manthey of



Lowell, IN, and Jeremy Manthey of Crete; and six great grandchildren: Kane, Thor, Everett, Lucy, Hayden Jo, and Conor.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents; and one son and daughter-in-law: John and Shirlynn Manthey.

Per Barbara's wishes, cremation rites were accorded.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Barbara's memory to the American Diabetes Association.

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

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

Ruth Everts

DIAMOND—Ruth Ann Everts, 92, of Diamond, formerly of Lockport, IL, passed away Friday, Jan. 5, 2024 at Park Pointe Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Morris.

Born June 10, 1931 in Chicago, Ruth was a daughter of James and Hazel (Knupp) Drnec. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1949.

On Aug. 25, 1951, Ruth married Paul Junior Everts in Coal City, and together they would make their home and raise their family in Lockport, until they relocated to Diamond. She worked for 21 years at School District 92 in Lockport, where she was a secretary to the Superintendent of Schools. Ruth enjoyed passing her time with needlework and was an avid reader, but nothing brought joy to her more than her family. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who will be forever missed by those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include three children: Nanci (Tom) Weideman, of Hoover, AL; Paul (Nancy) Everts, of Channahon and Janice (James) Corpus, of Peoria; eight grandchildren: Cara (Ara) Dombourian, Lynn Weideman, Bradley Weideman, Christa (Jake) Graddy, Jeffrey (Amber) Everts, Audrey (Dave) Kuhne, Daniel (Stefani) Corpus, and Keith (Brit) Corpus; 13 great-grandchildren: Lily, Emma and Bennett Dombourian; Tripp Weideman,



Owen and Palmer Graddy, Evan Everts, Millie Ruth Kuhne, Grayson and Ehnley Corpus, Cecilia and Crosby Corpus and Haven (Drake) Hart; one sister, Jane (the late Frank) Anselmo, of Coal City and her daughter and special niece, Betsy Stahler, of Coal City; one sister-in-law, Arlene Everts, of Mokena, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents and husband; two brothers-in-law: Robert and Jerry Everts; one niece, Ellen Smith and one great-grandchild, Elliott Everts.

Per Ruth's wishes, cremation rites were accorded, and the family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway St., in Coal City on Monday, April 29, 2024 from 9 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 10:30 a.m. Ruth will then be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood with her late husband.

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

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

Cremation services and memorial arrangements are under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

Ronald Racinowski

COAL CITY—With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Ronald "Casey" Racinowski, of Coal City, who left us peacefully on March 28, 2024, at the age of 61, while at Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

He was born on June 1, 1962, in Morris to the late Henry and Anna Racinowski (née Bouwman). Casey was a lifelong resident of Coal City, where he was deeply rooted in the community and cherished by many.

Casey was known for his diligent work ethic, having spent many years in the construction industry before his tenure at Chicago Aerosol. His retirement years were filled with simple pleasures, including reminiscing over classic TV shows and films, engaging in friendly conversations with his neighbors, and valuing the time spent surrounded by his loved ones.

He leaves behind a loving sister, Cynthia "Cindy" Brown, of Coal City; his devoted nieces and nephews, Tara Brown, Elizabeth Racinowski, Rose Curtis, Tonya



Millette, Tina Sutton, Paul Racinowski, Chris Day, Jeff Brown and Bobby Racinowski Jr.; as well as numerous great-nieces and nephews who will miss his presence dearly. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Vernon Proud, of Coal City, and sister-in-law, Janice Racinowski, of Wisconsin.

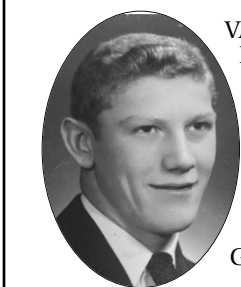
Preceding him in death were his parents, Henry and Anna Racinowski; his sisters, Kathleen "Kathy" Proud and Carol Racinowski; and his brother, Bobby Racinowski Sr.

The family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Casey's memory to assist with his final expenses.

Cremation rites have been accorded by Planet Green Cremations. A memorial service to celebrate Casey's life will be scheduled for the summer, providing friends and family the opportunity to gather and honor his memory.

May Casey rest in eternal peace.

Robert Howard



GAINESVILLE, VA—Robert Arthur Howard, 86, a long-time Wilmington resident, passed away peacefully on Oct. 19, 2023, at Lake Manassas Health & Rehab Center in Gainesville, VA.

He was born in Decatur, IL on June 18, 1937, son of the late Walter and Mildred Howard. "Bobby," as he was known to family and friends, grew up on Daniels Street in Brookside, and though he spent most of his adult life in California and ultimately Virginia, always considered himself, a son of Wilmington, his hometown. He was a graduate of Wilmington High's class of 1955, where, ever clad in his #33 Wildcats jersey, was a multi-sport, star athlete; and, after spurning offers from Major League Baseball scouts, accepted a football scholarship at the University of Denver.

In the following years, this competitive drive would propel him to the heights of import sales in Chicago's bulk steel market; culminating in his being one of the few early pioneers in manufacturing entrepreneurship in the fledgling precision nail industry. His later years were focused on the stock market and maintaining his 60-year legacy of golf excellence which included numerous tournament championships (including more than a couple Wilmington Open wins at Braidwood's Silver Oaks Golf Course as a young man) and competing in

various Senior Tour events.

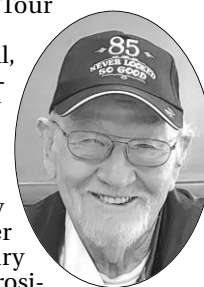
But above all, he'll be remembered by family and friends as having the heart of a lion that could suddenly break character and reveal a dry humor, rich generosity, a romantic inclination and an unexpected tenderness of soul. He was fiercely loyal. He loved and was loved deeply. He will be missed.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Sheila A. Howard (nee Begler), of Bealeton, VA; six children: Jeff Howard, of Bealeton, VA; Lisa Shere and her husband, C.J., of Thousand Oaks, CA; Mark Howard, of Bealeton; Dana Sherertz, of Warrenton, VA; Brenda Howard of Bealeton and Erik Howard and his wife, Carla, of Fallston, MD; sister, Carolyn Partyka and her husband, Robert, of Little Rock, AR; nine grandchildren: Tristyn, Lauren (Ryan), Dylan, Gabriel, Patrick, Luke, Jayden, Hope and Kate and three great-grandchildren: Silas, Michalan and Avalyn.

In addition to his parents, Robert is preceded in death by his two brothers, Richard and Harold Howard.

A Mass of Christian burial was held on Oct. 27, 2023 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Warrenton, VA. His cremated remains will be interred at Bright View Cemetery in Warrenton, VA.

Online condolences may be made at www.moserfuneralhome.com.



Patricia Sayers

COAL CITY—Patricia Sayers, 94, of Coal City, passed away Sunday, April 21, peacefully surrounded by family.

Patricia was born in South Wilmington to Josephine (Bottino) and Cyril Finn. Her formative years were spent in South Wilmington, and she went on to attend Gardner South Wilmington High School. On May 5, 1951, Pat married Norman Sayers and they made their home in Coal City. In addition to being a dedicated wife and mother, Pat worked for the Coal City School District in the school cafeterias for many years. She was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City and was active with The Martha's. In her free time, Pat enjoyed reading and cheering on the Chicago Cubs and Blackhawks.

Pat is survived by three sons: James (Kathy), of Oswego; Tom (Sarah), of Carbon Hill and Tim (Kris), of Carbon Hill, one brother, Ed Finn; grandchildren: Nick (Ashley) Sayers, Ali (Brian) Bicek, Sheri (Tracey) Pierard, Stacey (Danny) Rodgers, Keith (Stacy) Benson, Hunter (Julie) Sayers and Conner (Samantha) Sayers; great-grandchildren: Kyle Pierard, Halee and Noah Rodgers, Kelsie Butkovitz, Kyra and Landin Benson, Ben and Mia Bicek, Paul, Wade and Cole Sayers, and baby Layla Sayers due in June; great-great-grandchildren: Asher Bryant, Brynn Whalen, and River Rodgers; Tessa, Jace and Wyatt Pierard. She is also survived by sister-in-law, Charlotte Finn, and many nieces and



nephews who she loved dearly.

Pat is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Norman Sayers; brothers: Bill (Vivian) Finn, Eugene (Myrtle) Finn, and sister, Mary (Joseph) Bacigalupo and great-grandson, Dylan Pierard.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 25, 2024 in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City with Rev. Father Josh Miller presiding and Deacon Bill Dunn assisting. The family will then receive friends in the Berst Center of Assumption Parish for a memorial luncheon immediately following the funeral services.

A private inurnment will be in Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington, where Pat will be laid to rest with her late husband, Norman.

In lieu of flowers, donations will graciously be accepted to The Arc of Dwight activity department. The family would like to thank The Arc of Dwight and Lightways Hospice for their loving care.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Ronald Sjostrom

COAL CITY—Ronald "Shoe" Sjostrom, 76, of Coal City, passed away Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born on July 26, 1947, in Pana, IL, Ronald Johnathon was the son of Richard John and Pearl (LeCocq) Sjostrom. His roots were woven through Morris and Verona, where he embraced his education, graduating from Mazon High School with the class of 1965.

Shoe's journey was one of labor and love. He toiled as a laborer, dedicating over 25 years of his life to the cause, proudly affiliated with Laborers Local #75. Yet, beyond his work, Shoe found solace and passion in the lanes, captaining bowling leagues on Monday and Friday evenings in Morris, as well as on a travel team. He was a member of the APA, and commanded the pool table at Hot Shots in Coal City, leading the "Nice Wrac" team throughout Grundy County.

An adventurer at heart, Shoe reveled in the roar of his motorcycles, the thrill of NASCAR, and the precision of bowling on the small screen. Naked and Afraid provided binge-worthy escapades, while his allegiance to the Green Bay Packers never wavered. He lent his expertise as a track official at the Morris Speedway, relishing the rush of the racetrack, and found serenity in annual trips to Las Vegas and camping escapades amidst the National Parks' grandeur.



But above all, Shoe cherished companionship, reveling in the warmth of family and friends, not to forget his beloved cat, Speedy Dawg. He truly loved life, being with people and partying. Everyone that knew Shoe loved him. His departure leaves a void in the hearts of all who knew him, a testament to the imprint of his infectious spirit.

Survivors include his loving significant other of 23 years, Cheryl Panti; three sons: Jeff (Marie) Sjostrom and Jim Ferguson, both of Gardner and Ryan Sjostrom, of Chicago; seven grandchildren: Allen, Cody, Bristol, Seamus, Mary Kate, Fiona and Ronan, and one sister, Carla Sanders, of Coal City.

Shoe was preceded in death by his parents and one nephew, Jody Gordon.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway in Coal City on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 1 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 4 p.m.

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

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

Migration Celebration kicks off Forest Preserve's May program lineup

Here are upcoming Forest Preserve District of Will County programs. Online registration is available on the Event Calendar at ReconnectWithNature.org.

Migration Celebration at Four Rivers: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesdays-Saturdays; noon-4 p.m. Sundays, May 1-31, Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon. Enjoy this monthlong celebration of migratory birds.

Festivities will include ongoing crafts, family-friendly activities and hands-on exploration of feathers, beaks and more. Each week, a new station will be ready for visitors to discover what makes migratory birds so exceptional.

Migration Celebration is supported by funding from Alliance Pipeline, a joint venture of Enbridge and Pembina, and through the assistance of The Nature Foundation of Will County. All programs will be self-guided. Free, all ages.

Where Feathers Meet the Flash Photo Contest: 8 a.m.-sunset, May 1-31, McKinley Woods, Channahon. Take part in the inaugural Four Rivers bird photography competition. Submit your picture of a migratory birds at McKinley Woods for a chance to win a gift certificate to the Cornell Lab Bird Academy and new bird-feeding supplies from Wild Birds Unlimited of Joliet. There will be adult (18 and older) and youth (17 and younger) categories.

Visit Four Rivers Environmental Education Center to check out recent sightings and learn where you'll have the best chance to find the bird you're looking for. Register your bird photo by scanning the QR code at the photo submission stations along the trails and in the visitor center. Contest rules are on the submission form. Free, all ages.



Photo by Bertrand Leclercq

DROP IN TO the Forest Preserve District's Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon during the month of May to take part in self-guided Migration Celebration activities. To add to the fun, snap some photos for the new Where Feathers Meet the Flash bird photography contest.

sion stations along the trails and in the visitor center. Contest rules are on the submission form. Free, all ages.

"Fluddles" Film Screening: 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 3, Four Rivers Environmental Education Center. This documentary highlights the importance of large temporary puddles providing habitat for many birds.

Film creator Bob Dolgan will introduce the film and host a question-and-answer session afterward. Learn more about Dolgan, founder of Turnstone Strategies, at Turnstoneimpact.com Visit Four Rivers for the screening, light refreshments and a chance to engage with local bird organizations. Free, all ages. Register by May 3.

Lake Renwick Migratory Bird Viewing: 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays in May and June starting May 4, at Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, Plainfield. See the dazzling display of nesting herons, egrets and cormorants and

maybe even a bald eagle.

The preserve has controlled access during nesting season to minimize disturbances to nests. The only way to view the birds at this time of year is to attend a viewing program. Volunteers and staff will be at the viewing platform and visitor center to answer questions. Fee, all ages.

Birds and Blooms [9]: 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 4, McKinley Woods - Frederick's Grove, Channahon. Walk with a naturalist to spot brightly colored warblers in the trees above and vibrant wildflower on the forest floor. Free, ages 10 or older. Register by May 3.

Sensory Sunday: 11 a.m.-noon, Sunday, May 5, Four Rivers Environmental Education Center. Guests with sensory-processing needs, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and those that would benefit from a small-group experience are invited to experience the exhibits and trails on their own terms. Free, all ages. Register by May 4.

Chamber trophy awarded to a kind, compassionate Jessica Machelak



Courtesy photo

CHAMBER AMBASSADOR Ike Widner of Our Caring Closet presents the Wilmington Chamber's Employee of the Month trophy to Jessica Machelak of Yerkes Family Dental, 688 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington. Machelak was nominated by a co-worker who stated, "She is kind and compassionate and wonderful to all of her patients. She is a hard worker and a great team player."

Native species plant sale begins for Nature Foundation

The Nature Foundation of Will County's annual online native plant sale runs through April 27 until 4 p.m.

The spring sale will focus on pollinators and will feature a variety of monarch butterfly, hummingbird and bee favorites.

The Bringing Nature Home Native Plant Sale list is on the Foundation's website, willcountynature.org, and species will be added over time. Three-plant plug packs are \$9 each.

Plants can be picked up between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, or 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, May 19, at Isle a la Cache Preserve in Romeoville. An in-person native plant sale will also be held at Isle a la Cache during the plant pickup weekend. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted.

Garden plant collections will also be offered that make using native plants easy and rewarding. Rain barrels can be ordered in advance via The Conservation Foundation and Upcycle and picked up during the plant sale pickup dates.

Also on Saturday, May 18, vendors will be in attendance to offer items for sale and plant advice including Wild Birds Unlimited - Joliet, Will County Audubon, Village of Romeoville's Conservation and Sustainability Committee, Pizzo & Associates and Good Steward Ecoscapes.

Native plant talks will be held in Traders Cabin and Forest Preserve staff

will be selling nature-themed apparel and merchandise. Proceeds from both the plant and merchandise sales benefit the Foundation, which helps the Forest Preserve District protect nature, restore biodiversity and preserve natural habitat.

Lisa Marie's
HAIR SALON

- Men
- Women
- Children

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DEA NATIONAL Rx TAKEBACK

@ CVS Pharmacy parking lot
1101 S. Water Street (Rt.102), Wilmington, IL 60481

Turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal.

Saturday, April 27, 2024
10 a.m. to Noon

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

Shredding Available

Wilmington Coalition
for a Healthy Community
www.wilmington-coalition.org
815-476-1660

The risk of maple syrup because of global warming

Dear EarthTalk: Woe the pancakes! Is maple syrup really at risk due to global warming?

-- B. Simmons, Middlebury, VT



Maple syrup, that staple of the American breakfast table, is not only a cherished product across North America, but also plays a significant role in the economies of Quebec and Vermont.

This industry generates hundreds of millions of dollars yearly and supports thousands of livelihoods. But its very foundation is under threat from global warming. The disruption in the switch between cold nights and warm days of early spring, crucial for sap flow, poses a severe challenge to the industry's future.

The organization, Audubon Vermont tells how

Coal City United Methodist Church to host Craft & Vendor Fair

A Craft & Vendor Fair will be held at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Admission will be free.

There will be a variety of vendor and craft booths and food will also be available for purchase. Everyone is invited to come and shop.

District 209-U seeking bids for milk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Wilmington Community Unit School District 209U, Will County, Wilmington, Illinois will receive bids to furnish milk for the School Nutrition Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Bid specifications may be obtained upon request from the Office of the Superintendent, Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209U, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL 60481 - Phone (815) 926-1751. All bids are to be received in the Office of the Superintendent at the above address on or before 2:00 P.M. CDST, Thursday, May 2, 2024, and will be opened publicly at that time. The Board of Education will make its decision on Monday, June 10, 2024, and reserves the right to waive any technicalities or irregularities and to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof.

By and for the Board of Education
Wilmington Community Unit
School District 209U
Peggy Kunz, Secretary,
Board of Education
Published in the Free Press
Advocate Wednesday, April 17 and
24, 2024.

Sheriff's sale of 403 N. Main St.

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

FEDERATED BANK, AN ILLINOIS BANKING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
FOX'S PIZZA, INC., an Illinois Corporation;
GREGORY M. FOX, personally; UNKNOWN
OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant.
No. 23 FC 0996

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the **22nd day of February, 2024**, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the **2nd day of May, 2024**, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

LOTS 7 AND 8 IN BLOCK 29 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF WINCHESTER, NOW CITY OF WILMINGTON, IN THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Commonly known as: **403 N. MAIN STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 60481**
Description of Improvements: **Commercial building operated as a pizza restaurant.**

P.I.N.: 03-17-25-330-003-0000

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:

Guerald Kalina & Butkus
310 S. County Farm Road Suite H
Wheaton, IL 60187
P: 1-630-665-9033
F: 1-630-690-9652
Plaintiff's Attorney

Mike Kelley

Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 10, 17 and 24, 2024.

"a warming climate also presents challenges in shortening the length of the sugaring season"—a critical period for syrup production.

This shift not only affects the timing but also threatens to make annual production levels unpredictable. For one, studies project that by the end of the century, the sugaring season could start up to a month earlier, with significant variability in production especially affecting regions at the southern and northern limits of maple tree ranges.

The warming climate is not just affecting the timing of sap flow, but also its quality. As maple trees undergo warmer temperatures and extended growing seasons, they consume more sugar for growth, potentially reducing the sap's sugar content.

This necessitates more sap to produce the same amount of syrup, thus increasing effort and resources needed for production. Also, the changing climate may pave the way for invasive species that threaten maple trees, further complicating the challenges.

The impacts of climate change on maple syrup production are not uniform across North America. "Folks who retrieve sap from maple trees in the far Northeastern region will get a longer sap flow season while those in the Southeastern regions will see a reduction," says David Cleaves, Climate Change Advisor for the U.S. Forest Service.

This geographic shift underscores the need for

Attorney Lynch files Lantka estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOANNE M. LANTKA, Deceased;
No. 24PR246

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Joanne M. Lantka. Letters of Office were issued to Janette M. Sniegowski whose address is 13859 W. Stone Oak Way, Homer Glen, Illinois 60491, as Independent Administrator whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 24th day of October, 2024, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. 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 claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch

For the Estate of

Joanne M. Lantka, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch

1861 Black Road

Joliet, IL 60435

815-725-8000

Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, April 24, May
1 and 8, 2024.



GLOBAL WARMING has thrown seasonal predictability out of whack and the maple syrup "industry" is reeling.

flexible and adaptive management strategies to sustain the industry with the changing climate conditions.

Despite these prevalent challenges, there is hope through adaptation and innovation. Ensuring the health of maple forests and maintaining tree diversity are pivotal strategies. Innovations in sap collection technology, for example, are allowing for sap gathering at less-than-optimal temperatures, showcasing the industry's resilience and adaptability.

Beyond the challenges posed by climate change, the industry also faces threats from environmental degradation and economic factors that could further jeopardize its sustainability. Economically, the industry must contend with fluctuating market demands and the risk of cheaper, synthetic alternatives undermining traditional

Attorney Lynch files Delara estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANITA C. DELARA, Deceased;
No. 2024 PR 180

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Anita C. Delara. Letters of Office were issued to Elizabeth and Joseph Yedinak whose address is 1710 Alma Drive, Crest Hill, IL 60403, as Independent Co-Executor whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 24th day of October, 2024, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. 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 claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch

For the Estate of

Anita C. Delara, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch

1861 Black Road

Joliet, IL 60435

815-725-8000

Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, April 24, May
1 and May 8, 2024.

Sheriff's sale of 951 Meadowbrook Rd.

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

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST F, Plaintiff,
vs.
Michael Ceranek, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Defendant.
No. 22 FC 0115

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the **23rd day of March, 2023**, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the **2nd day of May, 2024**, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

LOTS 259 and 259A in Meadowbrook 5th Addition, Being a Subdivision of part of the East 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 20 and Part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 17, Township 34 North, Range 10, East of the Third Principal Meridian, According to the Plat Thereof Recorded October 7, 2005 as Document No. R2005-175668, in Will County, Illinois. 10-11-17-302-007-0000 and 10-11-17-302-003-0000
Commonly known as: **951 Meadowbrook Road, Elwood, IL 60421**
Description of Improvements: **Single Family Residence**
P.I.N.: **10-11-17-302-007-0000**

LOTS 259 and 259A in Meadowbrook 5th Addition, Being a Subdivision of part of the East 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 20 and Part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 17, Township 34 North, Range 10, East of the Third Principal Meridian, According to the Plat Thereof Recorded October 7, 2005 as Document No. R2005-175668, in Will County, Illinois.

P.I.N.: 10-11-17-302-003-0000

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:

Randall S. Miller & Associates
120 N. LaSalle Suite 1140
Chicago, IL 60602
P: 1-312-239-3432
F: 1-312-284-4820
Plaintiff's Attorney

Adoptions now available through Will County Animal Protection Services

Will County Animal Protection Services (WCAPS) has launched their new adoption program, allowing residents to adopt pets directly through the department. The adoption program follows sweeping changes to Will County animal welfare policies in response to a nationwide increase in animal shelter populations.

"This is the first time in agency history that we've been able to help connect animals in our care to their 'forever' homes," said WCAPS Administrator Anna Payton. "If you've been on the fence about adopting a new pet, now is the time to act and do it. The nation is experiencing overpopulation in shelters due to more intake than adoptions, and we are no exception. We need our local residents' help adopting these wonderful animals."

Before the new program launched, animals in the department's care were transferred to other animal welfare organizations to be adopted. Earlier this year, the County Board approved a series of ordinance changes aimed at modernizing the services offered by the department.

Those interested in adoption can view the available animals on the

WCAPS Petfinder website - IL1035.petfinder.com [1]. Appointments can be scheduled to visit available pets by calling 815-462-5633 or emailing adopt@willcountyillinois.com. Adoption hours are from 12:00 p.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the WCAPS office located at 22452 Cherry Hill Rd. in Joliet.

"The Animal Protection Services department has been working hard to expand services to support pet owners and keep animals in loving homes," said Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant. "Adoption services is a welcome addition to this growing list of services available to Will County residents."

The department celebrated their first adoption when Lucy, a St. Bernard puppy, was adopted by Toni Renken and her family of four. Toni serves as a Will County Assistant State's Attorney who met Lucy while helping WCAPS staff update county ordinances. Lucy is already adjusting to her new home and is now a certified therapy dog assisting the Will County State's Attorney's Office.

Residents can learn more about departmental services at www.willcounty.gov/animalservices.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Excessively theatrical actors
- Footwear
- A way to disfigure
- Exchange rate
- Hawaiian wreaths
- North-central Indian city
- Bungle
- Extremely angry
- A short note of what's owed
- Criminal organization
- Mimic
- Try to grab
- U.S.-born individuals
- Some are covert
- Order of the British Empire
- Don't know when yet
- Payment (abbr.)
- Winged angelic being
- Variety of Chinese
- A way to be anxious
- Famed wrestler Hulk
- Partner to cheese
- Slang for sergeant
- Canadian flyers
- Actress Ryan
- Highly unpleasant vapor
- Body part
- Halfway
- Cool!
- Consume
- Salts
- Upper bract of a floret of grass
- Housepet
- Cavalry-sword
- Symbol of a nation
- Frocks
- Used to carry food
- Portuguese folk song
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Ireland
- Where golfers begin
- Greek mythological sorceress
- Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

- "Mad Men" leading man
- Water (Spanish)
- Annoy
- Bulgarian capital
- Japanese title
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Giraffe
- A mixture of substances
- Midway between south and southeast
- Staffs
- Turkish title
- Type of acid
- Thin, flat strip of wood
- Russian river
- Ribonucleic acid
- Partner to flow
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Earthy pigment
- Genus of earless seals
- "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- By or in itself
- Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- Partner to trick
- British Air Aces
- Ammunition
- Supervises flying
- Health care for the aged
- Flanks
- Millimeters
- Where wrestlers perform
- Not around
- Flightless bird
- Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- Expressed concern for
- Satisfies
- Slow off!
- Wings
- Load a ship
- Vigor
- British title
- Whiskeys
- ___ Adams: founding father
- Body of water

Mike Kelley

Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 10, 17 and 24, 2024.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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



The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate



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.- \$17; 2 wks.- \$21;
3 wks.- \$25; 4 wks.-\$29*
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
*plus .0399% with credit card

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington - 2 bedroom apartment. One car attached garage, central air. \$1,200 a month. First, last & security. 618-383-6330. cc15-17

FOR FREE

Working Jacuzzi Hot Tub - Free for hauling. 8' x 8' or 91" x 91". Has a lounge seat. 708-205-4826, leave a message and I will call back. fr16-17

GARAGE SALE

Braceville - 213 E. Main. Thursday & Friday, April 25-26, 9AM - 4PM. Adult & kids clothes (some new), household, books, toys, plants & old stuff. ca17

Braidwood - 888 N. English Street. Friday & Saturday, April 26 and 27 from 9AM-3PM. Furniture, baby clothing, toys, golf items, craft items, tools, outdoor misting fan, home building supplies. cc17

GARAGE SALE

Coal City - 1495 S. Broadway. Thursday & Friday, May 2 & 3 from 10AM-4PM. Saturday, May 4 from 8AM-2PM. Sunday, May 5 from 9AM-3PM. Down sizing, moving, lots of girls stuff. Large custom armoire, canopy tent, large kitchen table w/leaf, antique sewing machine, large wooden doll house, bikes for everyone, bike rack /car, hallway seat rack, bakers wine rack, red/black night stand, massage equipment, antiques, shelves and signs, 5 piece purple luggage, light jacket, roller skates, baby doll bed, playpens and bouncy seat, school desk, 2 fancy nail polish kits, games and books. ck17-18

Moving Sale in Morris. 668 Edgewater Court, Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27 from 9AM-5PM. cc17

GARAGE SALE

Moving Sale, 2915 S. Gorman Rd - Mazon. Thurs. & Fri., April 25th and 26th 8AM-4PM, Saturday, April 27th 8AM-4:30PM, Sunday, April 28th 9AM-3PM. Clothes: boy teen, mens, womens. home decor, household items, tools, snowblade for Kawasaki Mule and more. ck16-17

Wilmington - 1509 Janet Drive. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, April 25, 26 & 27 from 8AM-4PM. Sony speakers, Craftsman tool box, DVD's, toddler toys, household, clothing and much more. ca17

Wilmington - 410 Daniels Street. Thursday & Friday, April 25-26, 9AM-4PM. Saturday, April 27, 9AM-2PM. Household, Fiesta ware, beauty/personal care, crafting, books, toys, kids through adult clothing. ca17

HELP WANTED

Offering CNA classes, days, evenings and weekends. Home health nurses needed. CNA instructor needed. Call for class dates, 630-771-1162 or 630-771-9069, www.spectrumnursesna.com cc45-18

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a reliable Maintenance Worker. Must be able to operate the Skidsteer, Backhoe and other equipment. Please call the office at 815-476-6561 or email: wcsc1946@gm ail.com cc17-22

HELP WANTED

Hot Shotz, 725 S. Broadway in Coal City. Bartender needed for afternoons & evenings. Please call 815-685-2919 and leave message. ck17-20

Spectrum Nurses, Inc. is looking for Director of Nursing for Home Health. Experience preferred. Please call 630-771-9069 or 630-330-4590. ch8-19

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a full-time office employee. Must have experience with Microsoft Office, POS systems, and phone etiquette. Please send inquiries to wcsc1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. cc17-22

Lifeguards needed at local sportsmen's club in Wilmington. Must be certified or able to become certified. Please send inquiries to wcsc1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. cc17-22

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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-tfn

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 403 N. MAIN STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 60481 (Commercial building operated as a pizza restaurant.) On the 2nd day of May, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **FEDERATED BANK, AN ILLINOIS BANKING CORPORATION** Plaintiff V. **FOX'S PIZZA, INC., an Illinois Corporation;** **GREGORY M. FOX, personally;** **UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS** Defendant. Case No. **23 FC 0996** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Randall S. Miller & Associates** 120 N. LaSalle Street. 1140 Chicago, IL 60602 P: 1-312-239-3432 F: 1-312-284-4820 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 10, 17 & 24, 2024

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 951 Meadowbrook Road, Elwood, IL 60421 (Single Family Residence). On the 2nd day of May, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST F** Plaintiff V. **Michael Ceranek, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development,** Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 0115** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Randall S. Miller & Associates** 120 N. LaSalle Street. 1140 Chicago, IL 60602 P: 1-312-239-3432 F: 1-312-284-4820 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 10, 17 & 24, 2024

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Free roof inspection. Low prices. **INSULATION**. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17-20

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including dry-wall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc12-19

GOT GRASS Lawn Care
Jim Baudino
815-342-6394
ch10-25

Retired handyman looking for lawns to mow. Reasonable rates. 708-921-7126. ck16-17

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE

Clementine's Closets

815-530-0200

- No Deposit - Starting at \$50

515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

WANTED

WANTED

SCRAP METAL

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

Free pickup

7 days

815-210-8819

WANTED TO BUY

Local collector seeking to purchase U.S. coin and currency collections. Call Mike for a free estimate for your valuables. 815-370-6110. ch7-18

Entry-Level Police Officer Hiring Process

Lateral hires call 815-476-2811 for info



Deadline to apply is May 14

Wilmington Police Department, Wilmington, Illinois

The Wilmington, Illinois Board of Police Commission is accepting applications for the position of police officer with the Wilmington Police Department.
Starting Salary: \$65,911
Population: 5,735
Sworn Police Officers: 22* (17 Full-Time and 5 Part-Time)
*Will add four (4) full-time within next 2 years.

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

- All applicants must meet the following minimum requirements established by the City of Wilmington:
- U.S. citizenship;
 - No felony convictions;
 - Possess a valid state-issued driver's license with good driving record;
 - Must be a minimum of 21 years of age and UNDER 35 years of age at the time of application unless otherwise exempt by State Statute 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6;
 - Possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent;
 - Possess a valid NIPSTA card - **OR** - equivalent criteria as per the State standard, **issued within 12 months of the written exam date (May 23, 2024)**.
 - POWER Test Cards issued by NIPSTA, Triton College or Joliet Junior College will be accepted.
 - Applicants must present the POWER Test card **NO LATER than the written exam date (May 23, 2024)**.
 - Any applicant who would like to schedule a ride along with a Wilmington police officer may call 815-476-2813.
 - Successfully pass a written examination with a minimum overall passing score of 70%;
 - Successfully complete an oral interview with the Board of Police Commission;
 - Successfully complete a background investigation, polygraph, and psychological testing;
 - Successfully complete a medical physical, to include drug and alcohol screening;
 - There is no application processing fee.
 - Applications must be submitted prior to May 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

To apply for this position or obtain additional information, please visit the following website: <http://www.applytoserve.com>
The City of Wilmington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Locally Owned

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

Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker

1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

NEW LISTING

MORRIS \$475,000

5 Acre farmette w/creek & woods in Saratoga sch. 4 BR, 2 BA, 2 car gar. 42x16 Pole Bldg. Jo 815-252-1724. RJ10625

NEW LISTING

MORRIS \$309,900

4 BR, 3 BA home in Hatcher's Woods! Fenced back yard. Near I&M canal, Gebhard Woods and towpath. Jo 252-1724. GB103

NEW LISTING

MORRIS \$246,900

3 BR, 1 BA, full bsmt. ranch. Move in condition! 2 car detached garage. Sold "AS IS" Jo 815-252-1724. WF600

NEW LISTING

MORRIS \$239,000

Previously used as a two-unit home. 3-4 BR, 2 BA, 2 car Garage. Near Downtown. Shawn 815-474-6670. NF230

NEW LISTING

MORRIS \$214,900

3 BR, 2 BA, ranch needs updating. Full bsmt., 1 car attached & 2 car det. garages. Jo 815-252-1724. 1stD623

SOLD

MORRIS \$379,900

4 BR, 2.5 BA, fenced yard with above ground pool, 2 car garage, bsmt & partial crawl. Call/Text Tom 815-368-5330. KS1945

GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER

SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT **C21.COM**

(815) 942-9190

99% Customer Satisfaction Rating

MORRIS \$329,900

All brick ranch w/4BR, 3.5BA, 2.5 car garage, fenced yard & finished basement. Call/Text Tom 815-368-5330. LW1510

MORRIS \$314,900

Commercial building w/2 commercial units on 1st floor, 2nd flr is a 2 BR apartment with a deck. Shawn 815-474-6670. MS513

MORRIS \$289,900

4BR, 2.5 BA, Living, Din, Family Rm w/fireplace. Partial fin. bsmt. plumbed for bath. Call Tammy SM927 325-0550.

WILMINGTON \$239,900

Sleeping beauty 3BR, 2BA ranch, 2.5 car garage on corner lot. Many updates. Call Tami 815-325-0550. DH401

MORRIS \$209,900

Updated 3 BR, 2 BA ranch w/ fenced yard, covered/screened patio & 2 car garage. Call/Text Tom 815-368-5330. LL36

SOLD

BRAIDWOOD \$145,000

2BR, 1BA Ranch. Large lot. 2.5 car garage with a loft. Schedule you private showing today! Kelly 815-823-6147. CH122

RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Including Wooded and Waterfront

Stay Connected With Your Hometown News



Photo by Zadie Sims

I'VE GOT IT—Catching a pop-up for the Comets is Landon Jankus.



Photo by Zadie Sims

DIVING BACK to first base after getting a sizable lead is Reed-Custer's Collin Monroe.

Comets win three in a row

The Comets came away with a pair of wins against Oakwood (7-6 and 20-4) on Saturday during a double-header on the road.

The Comets won Game One 7-6 behind 6.1-inning performance by Joe Bembenek. The Comet junior stuck out 7 and allowed 2 ER to earn the win. Dom Eddy picked up the save.

Offensively, the Comets were led by Landen Robinson who doubled and hit a home run. Luca Trucano added two hits. Cameron Smith and Collin Monroe each had a hit and 2 RBIs. Landon Jankus and Ben Lepper added a hit a piece.

In Game 2, the Comets won 20-4 in four innings. Nolan Smith fanned three batters and scattered five hits to earn the win.

Joe Bembenek led the way offensively with three hits and five RBIs. Brady Tyree had two hits and three RBIs, while Collin Monroe added two hits as well. Cameron Smith and Landen Robinson had a hit and two RBIs each.

Landon Jankus, Drew Emanuelson, and Nolan Smith had a hit a piece.

The Comets lost to Streator 7-1. Alex Bielfeldt struck out 2 and scattered 4 hits over 3.2 shutout innings. Landen Robinson allowed 2 ER in 3.1 innings of relief. Collin Monroe led the way offensively with 2 hits. Joe Bembenek, Cameron Smith, Bielfeldt, and Jake Reardon had a hit each.

Last Tuesday the Comets battled tough conditions, but fell to Herscher 4-2.

Brady Tyree scattered 4 hits and struck out 10 in a solid effort on the mound. Tyree also added a pair of hits at the plate. Bembenek and Monroe had a hit apiece.

The Comets started this week off right with a 16-1 win over visiting Peotone in four innings. The went up 3-0 after two innings before erupting for eight runs in the third and five in the fourth to upend the Blue Devils early.

They will host Coal City on Monday and then travel to their field on Tuesday.



Photo by Zadie Sims

TAKING CONTROL of the ball is Lady Comet Abi Koonce.

RC soccer team fall against two

The Reed-Custer soccer team went up against two tough opponents last week, losing both matches to fall to 2-8-1 overall, 1-4 in the conference.

On Thursday the Lady Comets were shutout by Peotone 7-0, having only two shots on goal which were stopped.

On Wednesday they lost to Herscher 7-3 as the visiting Tigers were relentless, keeping goalkeeper Margaret Dockery busy with 35 saves in the net.

Scoring for the Lady Comets were Aurora Hakey with two goals during eight attempts while Hailey Compton scored the other in five attempts. Assisting were Maria Bragg and Abigail Koonce.

Reed-Custer will host Coal City on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in front of a senior night crowd. On Monday they travel to Bishop McNamara and Tuesday to Lisle.



Photo by Zadie Sims

MAKING A THROW-IN for Reed-Custer during last week's home meet is Aurora Haake.

Lady Comets get a win over Peotone

One run did it for the Lady Comets on Monday at home when they edged

Peotone 1-0.

Mackenzie Foote hit a double in the bottom of the

seventh to score Morgan Toler for the game-winning run.

Addison Brown had 11 strikeouts while also hitting a double. Grace Cavanaugh also had a hit as the Lady Comets improve to 10-7 overall. They will play at Momenca today (Wednesday) before hosting Coal City on Monday. then playing at Coal City Tuesday.

Reed-Custer fell to Marquette Academy 9-4 on Friday.

Reese Brown and Addison Brown shared the mound with a combined total of five strikeouts.

Reese Brown, Grace Cavanaugh, Mackenzie Foote and Addison Hartman each had one single. Madison Keenan had on double on the day.

On Thursday Reed-Custer got by Bishop McNamara 5-3 by scoring two runs in the second and three runs in the fifth before cutting off the Irish in the sixth after they had narrowed the gap to 5-3.

The Lady Comets out-hit the Irish 11 to 6 while both team made three errors.

They lost last Monday's contest to Herscher 12-7 and then fell to the Tigers on Tuesday 14-4.



Photo by Zadie Sims

MAKING CONTACT at the plate for the Lady Comets is Reese Brown.



Photo by Eric Fisher

THROWING STRIKES for the Lady Comets is Addison Brown.