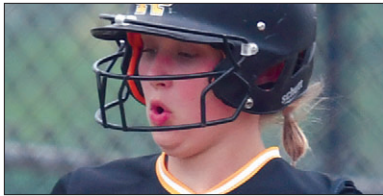




Booze & a beating
in Braceville, 1894

Lady Comets fall
to Wilmington



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Earley makes temporary appointments for administrator, attorney

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Braidwood Mayor Chris Earley conducted the business of the city at his first city council meeting on May 9 with quick efficiency, calling the meeting to order and going down the agenda in short order.

But the crowd of about 50 citizens in the chamber at City Hall was well aware that there was tension in the room, with little to no agreement coming from the mayor and four commissioners on who will fill the appointed positions within city government.

On Monday, the new mayor issued a press release about his intentions for the next four years.

“As promised during my campaign, I am instituting changes at City Hall and a new policy of open government and transparency for the ci-

zens of Braidwood,” the mayor stated in the release. “This will take some time, but rest assured that I’m doing my best to make things happen as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, the process is taking longer than I like.”

Earley noted in the release that last week, he let former Administrator Tony Altiery and former City Attorney Bryan Wellner know that he would be making new appointments to those positions. Earley said he was looking to make replacements by brining in “qualified, credentialed, and professional individuals to fill positions at City Hall,” who can “serve the citizens of Braidwood well” and who the mayor “respects, trusts, values, and shares the same visions with for the future of Braidwood.”

This week, City Clerk Hillary Bohac was also relieved of her duties.

By statute, the mayor a

commission form of government is the city’s chief executive officer and commissioner of public affairs as well as liquor commissioner. The mayor appoints, with the advice and consent of the city council, the city clerk, the city attorney, the city administrator, the chief of police, and members of the board of fire and police commissioners, zoning board of appeals, and the planning commission. The mayor also supervises those appointees.

But, without that advice and consent, the mayor has the ability to appoint interim or acting appointees in those positions.

On Monday, letters addressed to Commissioners Warren Wietting, Karen Hart, James Mikel, and Dale Walsh were posted at City Hall.

SEE EARLEY, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

IT WAS A FULL HOUSE FOR the first full City Council meeting for Mayor Chris Earley. This week, Earley announced that he has made temporary appointments for city administrator and the city’s general counsel.



Photo by Marney Simon

CALL OF THE QUARTER! Jeff Hartman (center) was saved after he went into cardiac arrest earlier this year, thanks to the quick actions of his wife Barb and daughter Addison. The Hartman family met with emergency responders at the Braidwood Fire Station on May 3, getting a chance to thank in person (from left) Deputy Fire Chief Michael Pemble, BPD Officer Adam Beatty, BPD Officer James Helsing, paramedic Austin Plumley, paramedic Cody Cabada, and Fire Captain Michael Shorkey.

‘We work as a team’ First responders help Braidwood man beat the odds

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

It was on a typical week-night in Braidwood this past February when suddenly, everything changed for the Hartman family.

At home on an otherwise uneventful evening on Feb. 27, Jeff Hartman collapsed in his home, as his wife Barb and daughter Addison were just in the next room.

It was a sudden and terrifying change to a normal and quiet winter night at home.

“It was a Monday night, he came home from work, [Jeff and Addison] went to the garage to change the oil in her

car,” Barb said. “They came in, we ate dinner, and he sat down on the couch. I went down the hall with Addison to help her with homework. We weren’t even down the hall for five minutes, and we heard a crash. We both looked at each other and thought, what did the cats do now? But both of the cats were in the room with us. So we knew that wasn’t it, and then I heard a very loud noise so we went to the living room and I found him slumped over and struggling to breathe.”

Barb, a nurse, instructed Addison to call 911 and immediately began performing CPR on her husband.

At 6:42 p.m., emergency

responders were dispatched to the Hartman home for a possible stroke. The call was upgraded enroute to a full cardiac arrest.

Jeff had no pulse when help arrived at his home just blocks from the Braidwood Fire Station.

“Even though I’m a nurse and I know CPR, when you’re put in that situation, you’re very thankful for the 911 operator,” Barb said. “She walked me through it.”

Barb said that after about 60 compressions, Jeff started to breathe, though it was irregular. Within moments, emergency responders were in the living room, taking over.

Jeff had an abnormal

rhythm, low blood pressure, and need for fluids en route to Riverside Medical Center, and had a pulse and an established airway by the time the BFPD arrived in Kankakee.

“I remember zero,” Jeff said of the night, adding that the last thing he can remember was several days earlier.

“I remember part of Friday night, a little bit,” he said. “No Saturday, no Sunday, all the way through until the next Friday. Once they finally got the tube out and woke me up in the ICU, the next day we were walking around and it’s been all uphill.”

SEE SAVE, PAGE 2

Altiery out at City Hall, back in at Public Works

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Former City Administrator Tony Altiery may be out as administrator. But, Altiery still has a place in the City of Braidwood.

On May 9, Altiery was appointed to the position of Supervisor of Public Works thanks to four upvotes by the city’s Commissioners during the regular meeting of the City Council.

The appointment is the prerogative of Streets Commissioner Dale Walsh, who made the motion to appoint Altiery.

Commissioner Warren Wietting seconded that motion.

“We have 12 pages of

accomplishments and responsibilities, development across the city and businesses and grants that were received... and comparable pay for local administrators,” Wietting said prior to the vote. “Mr. Altiery has done tremendous things for this city, and I would like to second that [motion].”

The position of Supervisor of Public Works was created by ordinance in 2008, but has been vacant in recent years.

By code, the supervisor of public works is appointed by the commissioner of streets and public improvements, with the advice and consent of the City Council.

SEE ALTIERY, PAGE 2

Braidwood’s ESDA answers the call

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Braidwood’s emergency responders are always quick to respond to a call. But working closely alongside those responders to help keep scenes organized are the volunteers from the Braidwood Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA), who provide city-wide support to law enforcement and the fire department for both emergency and non-emergency needs.

On May 9, ESDA Coordinator Josh Bolatto provided the agency’s annual report to the members of the City Council.

Braidwood’s ESDA is operated with the assistance of the Braidwood Fire Protection District, but is

under the financial control of the city, which provides an annual budget of around \$5,000 for maintenance, supplies, and fuel. ESDA also has rollover funds in its coffers, and receives reimbursements from special detail reimbursements as well as donations.

ESDA provides volunteer emergency services to the City of Braidwood and surrounding areas. ESDA is a volunteer organization that provides support and auxiliary services for the Braidwood Police Department and Braidwood Fire Department, including

SEE ESDA, PAGE 2



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Earley

“Per our City Ordinances... it is my prerogative to appoint people to these offices. However, you and your fellow commissioners have repeatedly indicated to me that you have no intent on approving anyone I would appoint unless it's the former administrator or the former attorney,” Earley wrote to the elected officials. “The city needs to move forward while we try to reach agreement on the proper people to serve in these positions. Without these key positions being filled, no progress can be made, and the City and its citizens will suffer.”

Earley announced that he will temporarily appoint Leo Hart to the position of City Administrator, and Bryan Kopman

and Matt Campbell of JGG, LLC as the City Attorneys. Kopman and Campbell have previously served in that role under former Mayor Jim Vehrs' administration. “These gentlemen are eminently qualified to serve in these capacities and will move Braidwood forward while Mayor Early continue his search for permanent appointees to these positions,” the release continued. “Mayor Earley hopes to be able to put his full administration in place with the assistance of Commissioners Hart, Mikel, Walsh, and Wietting soon so that the City Council can get down to business as quickly as possible and continue moving Braidwood forward.”

The pay scale for Hart or the hourly billing agreement for the city attorney was not immediately disclosed.

“These appointees shall serve until you indicate you are willing to work with

me on my permanent appointments,” Earley told the commissioners. “Thank you, and I hope that you can now begin to work with me to move Braidwood forward.”

Earley said via his press release that he has already spoken to interested individuals for various positions within his administration, and invited those interested in an open position to submit their resume and qualifications to City Hall.

This is not the first time a mayor has opted for an acting city official without the consent of the council. In 2008, Mayor Sue Grygiel appointed Brandon Myers as Acting Chief of Police, when an agreement could not be made between her and the council members on who should fill that position. Myers filled the role from the time of his appointment as acting chief through the remainder of Grygiel's tenure as mayor.

ESDA

monitoring weather events, providing traffic support for planned events such as Summerfest and the Red Carpet Corridor festival, and providing support in case of emergencies such as traffic control during fire or police calls.

Responses are broken down by incident hours—the total number of hours on scene, as well as manpower hours—the amount of time each individual volunteer spends working on scene.

The total incident hours for the last fiscal year was 388.5, with manpower hours topping out at 844.5.

“We don't record every little thing that we do, these are [incidents] that are based on an hour or more,” Bolatto said. “So, those numbers are lower than where they really should be.”

Bolatto reported the following activity for the 2023 fiscal year, which began on May 1, 2022 and concluded on April 30, 2023.

- Braidwood Fire

Department — 50 incident hours and 86 manpower hours for the BFPD for both emergency and non-emergency assistance, including incident traffic control, road closures, scene perimeter control, and public education.

- Braidwood Police Department, non-emergency — 177.5 incident hours and 464.5 manpower hours for requested assistance including event traffic control, event security, escorts, community events, and parades.
- Braidwood Police Department, emergency — 31.5 incident hours and 46 manpower hours for emergency requested assistance including incident traffic control, road closure, and scene perimeter control.
- Severe weather operations — 29 incident hours and 80.5 manpower hours for weather spotting, storm monitoring, damage/flooding assessments.
- Administrative Duties — 84 incident hours and 136 manpower hours for meetings, event prep and pre-planning, vehicle/equipment maintenance.
- Assistance to other Law

Enforcement Agencies — 8 incident hours and 18 manpower hours for emergency and non-emergency events such as traffic control and road closures for agencies including the Illinois State Police and Will and Grundy County Sheriffs Offices.

- Mutual Aid — 8.5 incident hours and 13.5 manpower hours for assistance to other EMA/ESDA agencies.

The fiscal year represents an continued increase in volunteer efforts by the agency over the past several years.

“Back when we basically took this program and rebuilt it from the ground up back in October of 2015, ever since our numbers have gone up,” Bolatto said. “This is an accomplishment for our team. As you know, all of us are volunteer, we don't receive any compensation for our services. So, it benefits the city of Braidwood's budget ultimately, the bottom line.”

Bolatto said there are currently eight members on ESDA's roster.

“When you take the national value of volunteer hours at \$31.50 and you multiply it by the number of hours that we put in for the year,

you're looking at a savings of about \$26,855 in volunteer services provided to the city of Braidwood. So, that's something that we're very proud of.”

In the 2016 fiscal year, ESDA was utilized for just 33 total incident hours and 58 manpower hours. That number has increased over the past six years, reaching a peak of 435 incident hours in the 2021 fiscal year, with similar hours reported over the past four years.

Bolatto also told members of the council that ESDA is working toward signing on with the Will County ESDA on an emergency alert system. Bolatto said a representative from the county will be addressing the council in the coming months on the process to sign up with that system.

ESDA also plans to purchase a weather station monitoring package in the near future thanks to a \$1,000 grant from Constellation Energy.

Information from Braidwood ESDA is regularly updated on their Facebook page, @BraidwoodESDA.

Altieri

While Braidwood operates on a commission form of government, public works duties fall under the departments of both Streets Commissioner Walsh and Public Property Commissioner Wietting.

By ordinance, the supervisor performs duties as an employee of both the department of streets and alleys and the department of public buildings and property and, in addition to any duties imposed from time to time by the commissioner of streets and alleys or the commissioner of public buildings and property.

Altieri's specific duties include:

- General supervisory authority over all employees of the department of streets and alleys and the department of public buildings and property
- Preparing and enforcing the work schedule.
- Authorizing time off, vacations, and sick leave as otherwise provided by ordinance or resolution.
- Preparing weekly time sheets and submitting such time sheets to the proper authority.
- Conducting a safety meeting of approximately one-half hour duration each Monday morning with all employees supervised.
- Attending one city council meeting per month without compensation.
- Arranging for attendance and assignments in emergency situations.

- Perform regular duties as a city employee.

Prior to the appointment, the members of the City Council met in executive session for approximately 30 minutes.

When it came time for the vote, the measure was approved by Commissioners Walsh, Wietting, Karen Hart, and James Mikel, however, Mayor Chirs Earley opted to abstain from the vote.

Altieri said that while he is an official appointee, his actual pay has yet to be determined by the City Council. Altieri said the council would be drawing up a comparison payscale for the same or similar positions in other municipalities in the region in order to determine the proper rate of pay.

Altieri said since his position works for both departments, the salary will be drawn from each department's budget.

The streets department budget for the current fiscal year, which began on May 1, shows \$220,771 appropriated for salaries, and a total of \$420,721 in total expenditures for the year. The public buildings department does not have a line item for salaries, and only shows an anticipated \$6,650 in expenditures for the current fiscal year. However, the budget can be amended as necessary to show any changes that may be necessary.

Altieri said there are no plans to let any of the current public works employees go. However, he added that one employee is set to retire this year, which frees up some of the budget earmarked for salaries.

Save

For 16-year-old Addison, seeing her dad fall ill and her mother jump to take charge during an emergency was a life changing event for her as well.

“She's normally been my rock for these past 16 years, and to see her so scrambled about how she felt, that sent me into reality, that this isn't a bad nightmare, this is my dad and there's a possibility that he might not make it through,” Addison said. “But, seeing her at work, I've never seen her in nurse mode other than at work. I've never seen her save somebody's life and do what she's been doing for her entire life. For me, that was different.”

Addison said she was grateful for her mom's quick action and her dad's recovery, which is going well.

The cause of his heart attack is still unknown, but Jeff now has a cardioverter-defibrillator, a battery-powered implant in his chest to detect and stop an irregular heartbeat.

He said there's a balance between making good choices all the time, and being thankful for everyday things.

“Live your life,” he said. “Life can be short. It was a quick wake up call. If they had diagnosed me with something and things were going downhill, we could prepare ourselves. But, this was out of the

blue. Every time I'd been to the doctor I was healthy, and then boom. So, just live life, just enjoy yourself, because tomorrow isn't guaranteed by any stretch of the imagination.”

The quick action of both Barb and first responders made the save an unusual one, if only because of the bleak statistics on cardiac arrest fatalities.

“It's not every day that we get somebody who we actually saved, who can come to the station. It is such a pleasure and so heartwarming,” said Tonya Cavanaugh, EMS coordinator for the Braidwood Fire Protection District. “We believe early CPR played a key role in his survival and his favorable outcome. It's not easy to CPR on a loved one.”

On May 3, the Hartman family as well as those first responders spent time together at the Braidwood Fire Station on Main Street, where the department was lauded by Riverside Medical Center's EMS team and awarded the “Call of the Quarter” for the second quarter of 2023.

Each year, about 400,000 Americans suffer a heart attack, but only 10% survive.

“So, when you look at that, what a success story,” said Al Ponton, EMT-P RN, MSN, who is the EMS System Manager for Riverside. “So, we're here to just look at everybody. From the dispatch that took that call, to law enforcement that got on the scene as first responders to assist, to the Braidwood Fire Department. At Riverside, we always want to promote

EMS and first responders for the job that they do well.”

Ponton also noted that learning CPR is a skill everyone should aim to acquire, as it can be a lifesaver just like it was in this case.

BFPD Captain Michael Shorkey thanked the first responders for utilizing their skills and training for a life-saving job well done.

“These guys hit a home run that night. There were a lot of things going on, but you see all the training, all the preparation. This doesn't work without everyone working,” he said.

Shorkey added that everyone on scene played a role, from helping to keep Jeff Hartman alive to carrying equipment to getting information and calming the family.

“It was a witness arrest, CPR was started,” Shorkey said. “By the time we get to the house, it's already going... That's why we train, that's why we work as a team. We saved this man's life, and that's a win. All the other stuff, we talk about it, we learn from it, and it gets us ready for the next call, which is coming. That's one guarantee, it's coming.”

Life Saving Awards were presented by Riverside to paramedic Austin Plumley, paramedic Cody Cabada, EMT/driver David Tatrow, paramedic Andre Olchawa, Captain Michael Shorkey, Deputy Chief Michael Pemble, BPD Officer James Helsing, BPD Officer Adam Beatty, and Wescom Dispatcher Krysyna Kovack.

Wilmington Coalition takes it to Springfield

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community (WCHC) visited our state capital, Springfield, on April 19th. Wendy Hill and Miranda Beeding embarked on an Illinois Prevention Network (IPN) trip help on the annual Advocacy Day at the state capital.



WILMINGTON COALITION'S Miranda Beeding and Wendy Hill traveled to the state capital to discuss discuss policy in regards to alcohol and cannabis products.

WCHC and IPN met with members of the Illinois House of Representatives and several Illinois Senators to discuss policy in regards to alcohol and cannabis products. WCHC's concerns include advertisements being targeted towards youth, the uncapped high amounts of THC found in retail products, and the availability of Kratom.

Cannabis advertisements that target youth include using bright colors, cartoons, and animals to catch the attention of persons who are too young to consume cannabis. This is illegal, but is seldom enforced due to the way the enforcement of the laws is written.

WCHC also expressed concern for cannabis when it comes to the amount of THC (psychoactive chemical in cannabis) in products, which can be up to 100% THC.

To put that in perspective, the average THC content in

cannabis flower in 1990 was 4%, and the average THC in consumables has increased 212% between 1994 and 2015.

Alcoholic beverages that look and taste like soda, known as “Alco-Pops”, were also among concerns raised to legislators. It has been noted that stores and gas stations often place alco-pops next to their non-alcoholic counterparts.

This can result in the accidental purchase of alcohol, or alcohol accidentally given to minors, such as the Georgia mother who accidentally packed an alco-pop in her daughter's lunch sack.

A current trend on TikTok shows how dangerous this

practice is, with many posts showing Four Loko, a caffeinated alco-pop, being mistaken for an energy drink and consumed at the gym.

Kratom is a substance that that is not FDA approved, therefore isn't regulated the way cannabis is. This opioid like drug can be found in at least two establishments in Wilmington.

Often the packaging tout's energy or health benefits without clearly stating dosage or concentrations contained in the product. Kratom has been under scrutiny by the DEA for many years, reporting that currently there are “no accepted medical uses and a high potential

for abuse.”

WCHC hopes that providing education to Illinois lawmakers about cannabis, alcohops, kratom, and about drug prevention in general, will help protect local youth and families.

Braidwood to host Memorial Day 5K

The inaugural Braidwood Memorial Day 5K, presented by Constellation, will take place on Saturday, May 27, with all proceeds from the event benefiting Honor Flight of Chicago.

The race will begin and end in the Braidwood City Park with the course winding through the residential streets surrounding the park.

Registration will begin at 6 a.m. Run will begin at 9 a.m. Registration can be found online at www.runsignup.com


Registration fee is \$30.00 (+\$3.86 sign-up fee). Registration is capped at 2,500 participants. Walkers are also welcome to participate. This will be a chip timed race on a certified course and awards will be presented in each of the following age groups: 15 and under, 16-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70+.

There will be additional activities taking place in the park before and after the race.

For questions, please utilize the “Questions” icon underneath the Race Contact Info on the above website to contact race organizers.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

A beer murder just down the road in Braceville

Although Braidwood has a reputation for being a rough town, the other towns of the coal field were no different. Today we look at one incident in Braceville.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

The miners and railroad men had just settled their four-month long strike. Men were going back to work, so they celebrated, a little too much. Set the wayback machine for August 1, 1894.

From the pages of the Joliet News:

Another brutal murder has aroused the people of Braceville to a high state of excitement. The dreadful crime was committed the night of August 1 on the heels of a drunken carousal. All the parties concerned are Poles.

The victim is Thomas Willonski. The murderers are two brothers, Adam and Joseph Sodiskie. The former and another man believed to have taken a criminal part in the affair are prisoners in the county jail at Morris, being taken there this morning.

Joseph is a fugitive from justice, having made himself scarce immediately after the crime. Officers are now in search of him, and there are good chances of his apprehension before long.

The trouble had its inception, it is said, in the uncalled for generosity of the brewing company, who gave away several kegs of beer to celebrate the return of the men to work in the mines. As a result there was a drunken orgy Wednesday night.

The Poles drank considerable of the liquor and about midnight got into a free for all fight. During the melee, Willonski was singled out by the Sodiskie brothers as the particular object of their wrath. They fell upon him with clubs, and beat him in a most brutal manner.

The unfortunate man fell prostrate, and the beating continued. A sickening feature is the fact that a sister of the Sodiskies took a hand in the affray and pounded the man with a beer bucket. Willonski was literally beaten to death,

his injuries resulting fatally about 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

Adam Sodiskie and a companion were shortly afterwards arrested, Joseph Sodiskie escaping. The prisoners were bound over to the grand jury, without bail.

A telegram has been received in Joliet from Constable Pope of Braceville, to keep a lookout for Joseph Sodiskie. He is five feet high, of dark complexion, and about 30 years of age.

Little is known of the victim, except that he came from Indian Territory a short time ago.

There has been altogether too much beer drinking and carousing of late in Braceville for the good of the community, and the wonder is that, as a result of the frequent fights, more fatal results are not recorded.

In this connection the deadlock between the saloons and the Board of Trustees of Braceville, resulting in the closing of all the saloons,, will be received with a good deal of satisfaction by friends of law and order.

The saloonkeepers wanted to close out their whisky deals altogether, and sell beer

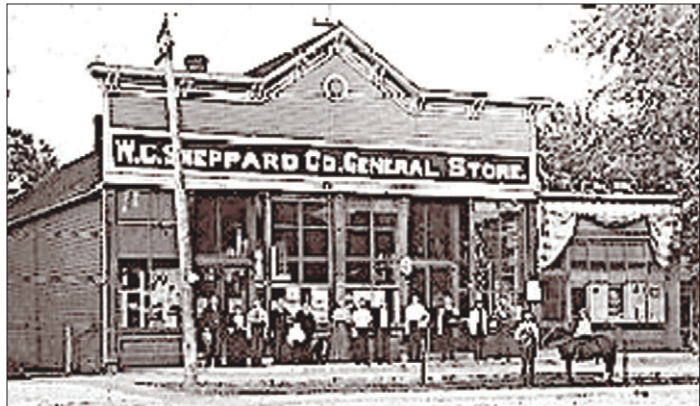
only, under a reduced license. They petitioned the trustees to this effect, but the trustees could not see it that way, and declined to rant he request.

This made Mr. Saloonman mad, and he forthwith declared that if he couldn't sell as he wanted to he would quit business for the next three months at least. The village board didn't scare a little bit, and as a result all the saloons are closed, and the liquor business suspended for the time being.

The village authorities, under existing circumstances, will see that none of the saloons do a moonshining business, and thus the people will have a chance to enjoy the benefits of a real temperance town - if the saloon men keep their word.

The mines opened up August 2 morning at Braceville and quite a large number of men went to work. It is expected that by next week everything will be in good working order and all the men will find employment.

Business will quite likely pick up again and the town will have a little more life in it than it has had for the past four months.



A PHOTO of the Braceville General Store from the late 1800s.



A PHOTO of the Braceville tipple and pond.

Wilmington mayor lobbies for cooperation on roads

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

WILMINGTON — Mayor Ben Dietz is not a fan of the word “politician.”

But, when it comes to getting work done, the mayor knows no town is an island, and building relationships with local, county, and state officials is as crucial as attending the regular meetings with the city's elected aldermen.

In April, Dietz and City Administrator Jeannine Smith traveled to Springfield to meet with state officials to discuss funding and future plans for parks, development, and most importantly, roads.

“We had meetings with Rep. [Anthony] DeLuca and Senator [Patrick] Joyce specifically on IDOT, specifically on [Route 53],” Dietz said. “It’s an ongoing battle.”

Dietz said that roads are the number one priority for the City of Wilmington. But, it’s never just a matter of maintenance and repairs.

Wilmington is surrounded on all sides by county roads including River Road, Arsenal Road, Wilmington-Peotone Road, West River Road, and Stripmine Road, with state Routes 53 and 102 coming to a crossroads in the center of town, with I-55 just a few short miles away. That means that while the city can plan for roadwork projects all over town, those major thoroughfares are out of its hands.

But that doesn’t mean the city doesn’t still have a seat at the table.

“The issues with Route 53 specifically, it’s working with our local Will County Governmental League... meeting and discussing our problems,” Dietz said. “We’re

in great alliance with Elwood, Braidwood, all about our issues with Route 53 specifically.”

Dietz said that while there is a lot of local support, it’s all about being the squeaky wheel to get something moving.

“Doing the lobbying, it does pay off. You just have to do it, and you have to do it often,” he said. “I am not a big fan, when people call me a politician I dislike that because in my opinion the mayor’s job is very simple, I’m pro-Wilmington for everything. It’s not a Democrat issue or Republican, if it’s pro-Wilmington, and it’s good for us, I am all on board.”

Dietz also noted that IDOT is investing \$150 million into the area over the next several years with regard to the Route 129 interchange at I-55. However, there are still issues to be addressed, something he and other city leaders are actively working on.

“My comments to the county executive and IDOT are, the three of us never sit at the same table and have those conversations,” Dietz said. “We have state roads that connect to county roads that connect through a municipality back through county and state roads, and there is no clear vision on why they are selecting [certain] roads [for maintenance]. They aren’t getting local input. They can build that nice new 129 interchange... but if they’re still going onto roads that are antiquated and can’t support the traffic now, we’ll have the same situation [as Route 53 through town].”

The mayor used Coal City Road as an example of the county and IDOT not always being on the same page, as trucks exit a state controlled road, onto a county

controlled truck route, back to a state controlled road.

“Now they’re putting that traffic through Wilmington,” he said, adding that he is pushing for all the various road authorities to work together, including municipalities, townships, counties, and the state.

Dietz said meetings like what took place during his recent visit to Springfield come down to lobbying other elected leaders for support on behalf of the citizens of Wilmington.

In addition to making those connections, Dietz said a significant portion of the time spent in Springfield was spent discussing the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), which is the designated portion of state income tax revenues that are dispersed to local communities.

“LGDF is a big push by all municipalities for a lot of reasons,” Dietz said.

In 2011, the percentage of that share was reduced for municipalities and counties, from 10% down to 6%, before being raised to 8% in 2015. In 2017, more changes came to the program, cutting the share for municipalities. The current rate is 6.16% of individual income tax collections, and 6.845% of corporate income tax collections.

Ultimately, that means the city collects just over 6 cents of each dollar that the state collects through individual income taxes, a number so low that it can create financial challenges.

In January, Rep. DeLuca filed HB1116 to restore that share to 10%. That bill is currently working its way through the rules committee.

Grundy Bank Joins 'Safe Banking for Seniors' Campaign

Grundy Bank is joining the national effort to protect seniors from becoming victims of fraud and financial abuse. May is Older Americans Month, and May 15 marked Senior Fraud Awareness Day.

Each year older customers lose approximately \$2.9 billion to fraud, but it is suspected that number is drastically underestimated because only 1 in 44 seniors report financial abuse.

Safe Banking for Seniors is a new financial education program established by American Bankers Association Foundation to help combat this growing problem.

“Scammers are always developing new ways to rip people off, and sadly, they often target our seniors for numerous reasons,” said Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales Director.

Scammers are always thinking of new ways to steal from seniors, but knowing the warning signs of scams will help stop fraud in its tracks.

Paying fees or taxes for sweepstakes or lottery “winnings”, acting immediately on an offer or insisting on secrecy are characteristics of some types of fraud. When in doubt, talk to a trusted advisor, family member or friend.

Some scammers are more interested in stealing financial identities to open new credit cards or loans in seniors' names. Shred receipts, bank statements and unused credit card offers before throwing them away.

Never give personal information, including Social Security Number, account number or other financial information to anyone over the phone unless you initiated the call and the other party is trusted.

For more consumer tips, see the Consumer Resources section at aba.com/seniors.

For locations and information on Grundy Bank call 815-942-0130 or visit grundy.bank.

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KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY!
Read Time Was... by Sandy Vasko
EACH WEEK IN
THE BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL

Register now for Braidwood Garage Sale Days

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood will host the annual citywide garage sale days Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with no rain date.

All interested families and organizations who wish to be included in the town listing should return the entry form and \$7 in cash or check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood) to: The Braidwood Garage Sale Days, 812 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408, no later than noon Sunday, June 4.

Each entry will receive town listings to post, hand out to customers and a special house marker for display to identify paid participants. The marker will also make houses easier to find. These items can be picked up at the First Presbyterian Church, 106 S. Lincoln St., on Wednesday, June 7, from 6-8 p.m. at the front entrance.

Additional maps along with a luncheon will be available the church. Advertising for the garage sale days will be in local newspapers and on radio stations.

Braidwood Garage Sale Days

Complete this portion and return it along with a check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood) for \$7 to the Braidwood Garage Sales, 812 W. Main Street, Braidwood, IL 60408, no later than noon Sunday, June 4

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

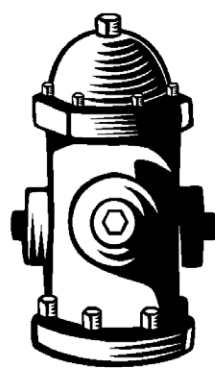
Partial listing of items to be sold _____

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loads of laundry on
these days because of
possible staining of
clothing.

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information call
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Braidwood Summerfest Parade Grand Marshal

The Braidwood Lions Club is accepting nominations for the honor of Grand Marshal for their 42nd Annual Braidwood Lions Club Summerfest Hometown Proud Parade. Nominations must be postmarked or email timestamped no later than June 16, 2023.

Nominations postmarked or timestamped after the deadline will NOT be accepted. Nominees must reside or work for a business or organization located within the Braidwood Lions Club's service area which includes the Braidwood, Godley and Shadow Lakes communities. Submit the name of the nominee along with the reasons you feel they deserves the honor of leading this year's parade, which will be held on Sunday, July 16th at 1 p.m.

The Braidwood Lions Club will not be responsible for lost, late or misdirected mail or emails. Nomination forms can be submitted to braidwoodlionsclub@yahoo.com or mailed to:

Braidwood Lions Club
c/o: Summerfest Committee
198 N. Lincoln St.
Braidwood, IL. 60408

2023 Braidwood Lions Summerfest Parade Grand Marshal Nomination Form

Must be postmarked no later than June 16, 2023.

Nominee name: _____

Nominee Phone: _____

Reason for nomination: _____

Submitted by (optional): _____

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

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

An illegal hire

BRAIDWOOD—It's just the first meeting of the new city council and the four commissioners have already shown that they are going to be ganging up on our new mayor in order to do what they want, regardless of what he thinks or what the public thinks. The appointment of Mr. Altieri to the Supervisor of Public Works position was done in the most back-door and non-transparent means possible. His name was not listed on the agenda for the public to be made aware and the position was never even advertised as a job opening with the city for interested applicants to apply. Is this position even included in the FY24 budget which was approved by the previous council? I don't think so. Is this position going to be included in the Local 150 Operators Union? I don't think so. Since this is not a union position, will he be able to operate machinery, backhoes, snow plows, etc.? I don't think so. Since he does not have the required EPA licenses and certifications, will he be able to supervise the employees of the water treatment and a sewer plants? I don't think so. If a position is not included in the budget, how can someone be hired for it? Those are all reasons why the previous Supervisor of Public Works stepped down to take a position within the union which resulted in the position not being filled by the previous council which Mr. Altieri was affiliated with. So what exactly did the four commissioners just illegally hire? Seems awfully fishy, doesn't it? Twelve pages of qualifications and achievements isn't a justifiable reason to an underhanded deed. All of this, on top of committing a violation of the Open Meetings Act which requires the public body to indicate in the motion the reasons as permitted by the Open Meetings Act for which they are entering into closed session. Hopefully someone will submit a complaint to the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor. The four commissioners need to learn that they cannot do whatever they feel like. Either play by the rules, be completely transparent or face the consequences. Oh wait, they all had extreme difficulty explaining to the voters what the word transparency meant during the Meet The Candidates night, so maybe they truly have no clue what it means.

Not Kamala

SHADOW LAKES—Biden said he appointed Kamala to be in charge of artificial intelligence, no joke. I hope it's Kamala the Uganda giant the wrestler from the WWF in the 90's? I would feel better after the wonderful job she did on the border.

Eddie

Miss The Grill

COAL CITY— Why did The Grill close so many years ago? I wish it was still here instead of the places we have now.

Good credit doesn't pay

WILMINGTON—How does it feel to know that you work all your life to pay your bills and have a good credit rating and now the Feds (Liberal Democrats) pass a bill that went into effect Monday that says we get charged higher mortgage fees than those with poor credit? This is what the Biden Administration is doing to take from the good and give to the free loaders. Tell me how this is any different than those who go into businesses, take what they want and walk out without paying for it? Thanks to the Democrats the whole world is turned upside down and the crooks have the right of way.

Too much liability

WILMINGTON—We finally got our islands back for the taxpayers to enjoy without having outsiders partying down and swimming in the river at the South Island with all the lawsuits and now you're moving all the trouble to the North Island with this kayak launch. Explain to me how you're going to do this without the financial liability when someone drowns making the Wilmington citizens being on the hook to pay for it. By the way our taxes have almost doubled this year and now you're dreaming up a kayak launch that's going to cost us at least over \$110,000 plus more if you don't get your \$80,000 grant. All I can envision is a lot of people partying with their kids swimming in the river and overloaded kayaks and someone drowning and big lawsuits plus our taxes going up to pay for outsiders' fun. Remember we have two car dealers leaving and another that just sold out so who's going to pay for your pipedream? How's that Ventrac 2120 sidewalk snow remover doing that was costing us \$36,392 plus \$6,000 maintenance? All this great spending for outsiders and we can't even find money to bring back the leaf vac which is something that everyone can use.

Sheer stupidity

MORRIS—New York has now banned gas

stoves for everyone and soon there will be a ban on gas stoves throughout the nation. But before this happens, every public servant and every Hollywood actor and actress, along with every millionaire, should be forced to have all gas stoves removed from their homes which they would never tolerate. Every other American citizen was bent through the will of stupidity that is being imposed upon the USA by individuals that will never abide by the same rules or laws that they are forced upon the American citizens. Natural gas is the purest form of clean energy but the woke says "do as I say, not as I do." If you don't listen to the woke then you will suffer at the hands of spoiled brat crybabies that do not know the difference between fantasy and reality.

What they wanted

BRAIDWOOD—So the city council had their first meeting and would you realize what happened. They took the mayor in the back and whipped him right into shape and he gave them what they wanted.

Who they hate

WILMINGTON—They got rid of Roe vs. Wade and now this fixation with drag queens. The Republicans have shown us they hate women and anybody who looks like one.

Keep landlines for seniors

WILMINGTON—Illinois' most vulnerable groups will be affected by a recent FCC decision that approves deregulation allowing telecom companies to replace copper wire landline phone service with Internet-based phone service. According to the FCC Order, the existence of landline service is preventing us from transitioning to the next generation of communication technology because it requires expensive infrastructure maintenance. However, this decision will negatively impact the 1.6 million seniors in Illinois who still rely on landline service, including my parents. They struggle to use their cell phone, and their Internet connection is often unreliable. It is irresponsible for the FCC to prioritize telecom giants' profit over the needs of rural communities, senior and elderly folks, and places with poor Internet connectivity. How can we tie the primary means of communication of these groups to something as unreliable as an Internet connection? They would lose Internet connectivity completely if the power went out. If the federal government does not protect the interests of vulnerable groups, it is the responsibility of the Illinois state legislature to step in and advocate for them. They must ensure that no one is left behind in this so-called "upgrade."

A good deed

BRAIDWOOD—I just wanted to say thank you to the person who paid for my stuff at Casey's this morning. I had an issue with my card and didn't have cash on me. I went out to check my vehicle for cash, came back in and she paid for it. Thank you so much. It's an embarrassing thing that can happen but I appreciate you stepping in and saving the day. Thank you so much. You are awesome!

Been done before

BRAIDWOOD—I saw a Facebook post by a previous city mayor and clerk complaining about Tony Altieri, being rehired as the supervisor of public works. In your post you talk about friends hiring friends. How can you complain about something like this when your son was hired as the foreman of the Street department under your friend Fay Smith when he was the street and public improvement commissioner? Based on your history nothing surprises me out of you and your regime.

Focused commissioners

BRAIDWOOD—In response to the three negative sound offs about the Braidwood election. It is obvious you had the information about what the mayor was doing before it was announced at the city council meeting. You are all the same group that once again tried to get re-elected for the 2nd time and failed once again. You know what's going on in advance because the mayor is your puppet. The new mayor won with 20% of the vote from all regis-



tered voters. If you look at the percentage the four commissioners won with you will see nobody wants any of you or your opinions in the city of Braidwood we have four commissioners who care about this city. Unfortunately until the mayor removes himself from your control he will never do what's right for Braidwood. Fortunately, the commissioners will continue to keep this city moving forward.

Better news

WILMINGTON— Must be short of good interesting news in the Wilmington paper as the front page carried an article of some woman giving birth in an ambulance. Really we don't need an actual account and description of her giving birth with our morning coffee. Seriously, is there not something else news worthy?

Four years of nonsense

BRAIDWOOD— It certainly didn't take long to learn that the top priorities of the present city commissioners is threefold: Don't work with the mayor, provide for your friends, and keep the public in the dark. When the mayor did exactly as he said he would during the campaign and did not re-appoint the administrator, the council gave their friend a new job as a supervisor of Walsh's and Wietting's departments in spite of the fact that each department already has someone in charge. The chain of command above that is supposed to be the commissioner of that department. I guess Walsh and Wietting simply want a paycheck on the backs of us taxpayers without having to do any work. There was no advance notice that Altieri was going to be appointed, no discussion on the topic, the public didn't have an opportunity to address the matter and there was absolutely no mention of how much he will get paid, what his benefits might be or anything else that the public should be informed of. The mayor very correctly did not vote for the appointment but with the clique it really doesn't matter. The commissioners have him outvoted. So I'm sure it will be four more years of the same old nonsense. After all, the commissioners have to work toward getting their friend vested in the city pension.

Town Hall lies

WILMINGTON—Watching the town hall meeting with the ex-president on CNN, I could only take 10-15 minutes of watching and hearing the tired old lies. Why didn't the moderator ask the ex-president these questions? "You say there is video evidence of voter fraud? So where is it? On Hunter Biden's laptop?" "You say you could end the Ukraine War in 24 hours. If you believe in democracy, as you say you do, why don't you share this master plan? Would it upset your boyfriend Putin?" "You said the U.S. should default on the debt, even though you had Congress raise the debt ceiling three times as president. Does that explain why you increased our national debt by over \$7 trillion in just four years?"

Commentary

Preident Biden's electric vehicle folly

America lacks the grid to power an electric vehicle fleet

BY ROBERT ZUBRIN

The Biden administration is currently preparing regulations to drastically cut the number of new combustion combustion-powered vehicles sold in the United States. The new regulation being prepared by the EPA would require that by 2032, 64% of all new cars sold in the U.S. would need to be electric vehicles, an elevenfold increase over their 5.8% market share now. According to the administration, this massively costly intervention into the market is necessary to save the world from the "existential threat of climate change."

Aside from its fantastic costs, which also include building millions of electric vehicle charging stations, the strategic, economic, and environmental consequences associated with vastly expanding our nation's reliance on Chinese rare earth metal exports, and the question of whether electric cars really do reduce overall carbon emissions, there is a fundamental problem with this initiative. Electric cars require electricity. Biden wants to use our grid to

drive America's vehicles. But we don't have the juice to power them. Not by a long shot.

In 2021 the United States used 26.9 quadrillion BTU's (or quads) of energy to power its transportation sector. At the same time, it produced 12.9 quads of electricity, over 99% of which went to existing residential, commercial and industrial users.

It's true that internal combustion engines only have an efficiency of 28% while diesels have an efficiency of 43%, so that between the two, America's vehicle fleet is about 35% in converting 26.9 quads of fuel into 9.4 quads of motive power. The electrical utility system is also about 35% efficient, outputting its 12.9 quads of electricity from 36.7 quads of raw energy input. That's why powering an electric car using grid power produced from fossil fuels does little to reduce overall carbon emissions. Furthermore, charging the battery of an electric car is typically around 83% efficient, and the car itself is 90% efficient in turning the electricity in its battery into motive power, for a net vehicle efficiency of about 75%. That means that it would take about 12.5 quads of electricity – roughly equal to the entirety of our current electric power output – to drive the current

American transportation fleet.

Of course, Biden is not demanding that we switch our entire fleet to electric vehicles instantly. He only wants two thirds of new vehicles to be electric by 2032, and it would take some time after that before they constituted a large portion of the fleet. This would give us time to expand our power generation capacity. So let's say we have 20 years to expand our grid enough to power half the current fleet – or about 40% of the anticipated fleet size of the year 2053. To do that, we would have to increase our power output at a rate of 0.337 quads per year. This is equivalent to adding 99 billion kWh of output (or 13.3 GW of capacity operating at 85% full load) to our grid every year for the next 20 years.

In contrast, for the past 15 years, The United States has increased its electric power output at a rate of 3.3 billion kWh per year. To implement Biden's plan, America would have to immediately start bringing new power plants online at 30 times the rate it now does.

In principle, that is not impossible. From 1957 to 1977, the United States increased its electric power output at an average rate of 70 billion kWh per year, 20 times

the current rate, and that was accomplished by a country with (in 1967) one-third of America's current GDP. Based on orders received during this period, from 1981 to 1991, U.S. nuclear electricity output alone was increased at a rate of 35 billion kWh per year.

But then regulators slammed on the brakes. U.S. nuclear capacity today is no more than it was in 1991, and total electric production capacity, from all sources combined, has barely increased at all since 2010.

If Biden's program is to be implemented without crashing America's power grid, what is required is a total reversal of the regulatory state's War on Energy. Furthermore, if the electrification of transportation is to actually result in a reduction of carbon emissions, the vast amount of new capacity required will need to come from a carbon-free source.

The only way to do that is through nuclear power.

Robert Zubrin @robert_zubrin is president of Astronautics, an aerospace R&D firm. His latest book, "The Case for Nukes: How We Can Beat Global Warming and Create a Free, Open, and Magnificent Future," was recently published by Polaris Books.

*THANK*YOU!*

The Wilmington Garden Club would like to thank everyone for their support of our annual Perennial Sale during Red Carpet Weekend. Thanks to our donors: The Flower Loft, Trinity Barkery, Begler's Auto Repair, Rich's Lock & Key, BTI Tire, Spins and Needles, Whitmore Ace Hardware, VFW#5422, and Vilt's Greenhouse.

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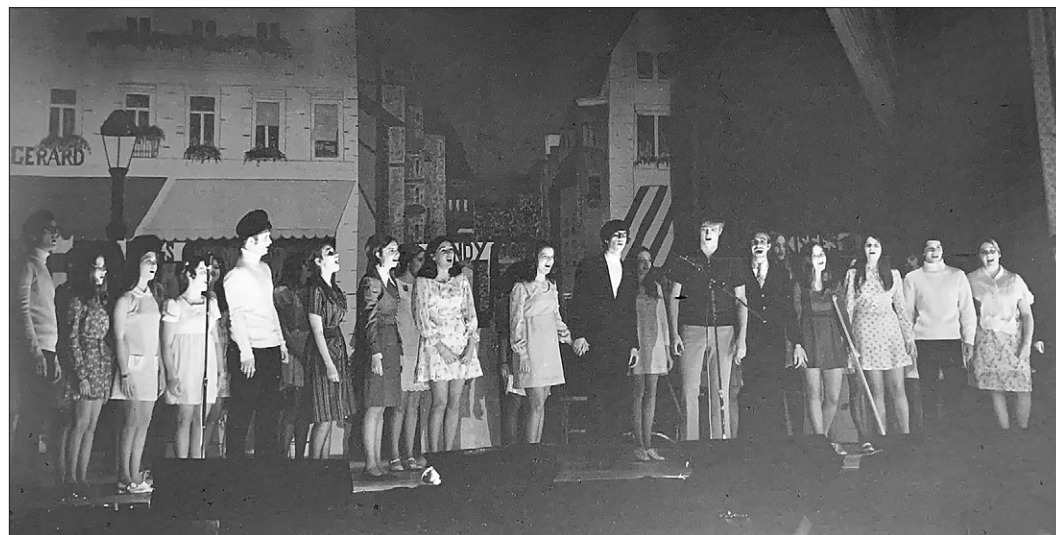
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A journey to Madagascar



THE COAL CITY High School Drama Club and Coal City Theatre Department will present "Madagascar, A Musical Adventure, Jr." on Friday, May 19. The musical features fourth and fifth grade students from Coal City Intermediate School and is directed by Coal City High School senior Derek Carlson with assistance from his fellow drama club members that include Amelia Fritz, Kilen Davidson, Izzy Kostbade and Stephen Byers, Jr. The single public performance of the show will begin at 7 p.m. in the Coal City Performing Arts Centers. Reserved seat tickets can be purchased on-line at bit.ly/CCTDTickets.

Celebrating 50 years of musical theatre



IN OBSERVANCE OF the 50th anniversary of the musical theatre program at Coal City High School, the Coal City Theatre Department is inviting the cast, crew and pit orchestra of the school's first musical, "So this is Paris," directed by Sue Borrer Boldt and Lynn Wright, to reunite and be recognized at its annual Broadway Revue performance on Sunday, May 28 at 2:30 p.m. in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by e-mail to agill@coalcityschools.org.

Grief support group starting in Coal City

A Grief Share Support Group is starting at Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road, on Tuesday, June 6, at 6 p.m.

The group will meet monthly and will be administered by Mary Baudino, certified grief counselor, and Karen Hart, parish nurse.

Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one is invited to attend this caring, supportive group. For more information, please contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808.

Extended hunting, fishing license may soon be available

Sportsmen in Illinois may soon get the optional of purchasing fishing, hunting and trapping licenses on a three-year basis instead of annually.

The measure, championed by State Senator Patrick Joyce (D-Essex), passed the Senate 56-0 Thursday to allow an easier way to obtain a hunting, fishing, trapping and sportsmen license.

"This is a commonsense measure that will save people time," said Joyce. "People will have more time to engage in outdoor activities without having to worry about if their license is expired."

The bill would allow residents to obtain the license at three times the cost of an annual one.

"This is a big convenience factor for people who hunt, fish and trap, but it also helps out our state's conservation," said Joyce. "By switching to three-year license options, we will save people the hassle of renewing their license every year while also helping generate more revenue at a time for the state's conservation efforts."

Five generations



A NEW ADDITION to the family. Terry Kernc, of Diamond, is excited to welcome the newest addition to her family, a great-granddaughter. The littlest member, Elizabeth Diaz, is pictured with [from left] her mother, Madalyn Fredericks; grandmother, Jillian Fredericks; great-grandmother, Terry Kernc, and great-great-grandmother Patricia Plough.

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WE ARE HAVING A PARTY!

Open House Retirement Party for Charlene (Charlee) Cohoon
Wilmington Lion's Club
805 River Street
Sunday, May 21 • 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Charlee is retiring, from the Ken Laczynski American Family Insurance Agency Wilmington, after 24 years of service, hope to see everyone there!

Letter to the editor

Let's do a little more to honor our veterans

Dear Editor:

Memorial Day is one of the most difficult days of the year for our service members, Veterans, families, and survivors. While some will celebrate the holiday with picnics and vacations, many of us will be remembering those we lost — our shipmates, battle buddies, wingmen, and Marines who died for our country.

Out of the many famous and impactful quotes I have heard over the years, one stands out in particular:

"Ceremonies are important. But our gratitude must be more than visits to the troops, and once-a-year Memorial Day ceremonies. We honor the dead best by treating the living well." — Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, former Governor of Michigan.

Those simple and impactful words serve as an "ah ha" moment to channel our energy into thoughtfulness, generosity, and kindness — throughout the year. We honor our nation's heroes by creating

positive experiences, harmonious communities, and a country that respects the freedoms they gave their lives protecting.

I have the incredible honor of serving Illinois' nearly 600,000 Veterans as the Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA). Each day, I witness a dedicated and talented staff serve Veterans through our Field Service Offices and our five residential homes in Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno, and Quincy.

Each day, our teams arrive at work to help Veterans thrive in Illinois. This is just one of the many ways we honor the Veterans who have gone before us.

Over the past two years, I have met Veterans who served our country in every major conflict beginning with World War II. We honor their legacy by learning about them and helping them reach their career, education, health care, and housing goals. Our

Veteran Service Officers are positioned around the state to work one-on-one with Veterans to discuss their personal and family aspirations and assist them in obtaining their earned benefits and services.

Illinois' Veterans are IDVA's north star, and we honor their service with support customized to their individual needs.

Returning to Illinois just a few years ago was a homecoming of sorts. My wife and I met at Great Lakes many years ago, married at the Bluejackets Chapel, and kicked off our lives right here in Illinois.

Thirty years later, we are wholly dedicated to honoring all Veterans: those who lost their lives and those who are still with us today.

Being a Veteran is a unique experience, one that less than one percent of our population will ever know. I'm asking everyone to remember the community's role in the

lives of our Veterans, their families, and survivors. Join us on Memorial Day (and every day) in tribute of those who served.

The smallest gesture — planting a tree, volunteering, or checking in on a Veteran who is alone, can make a tremendous difference. Simple gestures have enormous impact, and if we all share in this effort, we will continue to nurture a world that truly honors those who have given their lives.

We know there is so much love and support going on in our communities. This Memorial Day, remember the words of Gary Sinise (AKA "LT Dan"),

"While we can never do enough for our defenders and their loved ones, we can always do a little more."

Blessings to you on this Memorial Day.

Terry Prince
Director, Illinois Dept. of Veterans' Affairs

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Tips to avoid check fraud

Check fraud has been surging across Illinois, with criminals using elaborate and organized methods to target consumers and businesses.

Grundy Bank is partnering with the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA) to share tips for consumers to protect themselves, and their bank accounts, from this fraudulent activity.

Check fraud is one of the most common forms of identity theft. These criminals target their victims with sophisticated schemes that can involve a legitimate payment request, a blank check stolen from a checkbook, a previously paid or canceled check found in the garbage, or a check placed in the mailbox to pay a bill.

In addition to wiping out bank accounts, this form of identify theft can also tarnish the victim's credit report.

Data from the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, a bureau of the U.S.

Department of Treasury, shows that at least 23, 949 Illinois consumers and businesses fell victim to check fraud in 2022.

This is a whopping 86 percent increase from 2021, and a 347 percent increase over the last decade. It's estimated that the average loss per check fraud incident is \$2,412.

These losses can be especially detrimental to families struggling to get by amid the high inflation or small businesses seeking stability after years of pandemic-related disruptions.

These are steps consumers can take to protect their checkbook, including: ordering checks from a reputable source, properly disposing of checks, safeguarding checks and account information, imprinting digital checks with a bold font that is difficult to alter, tracking and monitoring bank accounts regularly, filling checks out properly and

completely while avoiding abbreviations and mailing checks at the post office instead of using mailboxes.

If consumers suspect suspicious behavior, they should contact their bank immediately.

"With this dramatic increase of check fraud in Illinois, it is imperative that individuals take steps to protect themselves," said Randy Hultgren, President and CEO of Illinois Bankers Association.

"These tactics are constantly evolving, and the best way to protect your hard-earned money is to be aware of these ploys and take the steps to avoid fraud before it happens."

The IBA encourages consumers to reach out to their financial institutions or visit Illinois.bank for more information about security features and safety tips.

Limit what you eat from IL lakes, streams

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced updated consumption advisories for sport fish caught in Illinois waters.

Methylmercury (PCB) advisories were relaxed for certain species in the Fox Chain O'Lakes, the Illinois River, and Waukegan North Harbor. PCB advisories were removed for certain species in the Fox Chain O'Lakes, Frank Holten State Lakes, Powerton Lake, and the Illinois,

Mackinaw, Mississippi, and Wabash Rivers.

Most notably, all PCB advisories were removed for channel catfish throughout the Mississippi River.

A statewide methylmercury advisory remains in place for all Illinois waters. It cautions sensitive populations (those who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant, and children less than 15 years of age) to eat no more than one meal per week of all

species of black bass, gar, salmon, and trout, as well as striped bass, white bass, walleye, sauger, flathead catfish, muskellunge, northern pike, and associated hybrids.

While there is no known immediate health hazard from eating contaminated fish from any Illinois water body, there are concerns about effects of long-term, low-level exposure to PCBs and methylmercury in fish. More information is at the IDPH Fish Advisories website.







Alex Nsengimana

Discover how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life...




OCC Shoebox Ministry Secret Tour

Date: May 20, 2023
Time: 11:00 am / Lunch 11:45 am (RSVP lunch)
Place: Island City Baptist Church | 120 Vine St. Wilmington, IL 60481 | 815-476-9750

Come on out to see someone who has received a Christmas Shoebox through Operation Christmas Child and the impact it has had on his life! General public is invited. We will provide a soup and sandwich luncheon afterward if you would like to stick around and ask more questions.


Growing up in midst of an unstable Rwandan government, ALEX NSENGIMANA experienced first-hand the tragedies of his nation's genocide. At the height of tribal unrest, the genocide claimed the lives of his caregivers. Fleeing for his life, Alex escaped gunmen and eventually ended up in an orphanage that was his home for the next several years. He received a shoebox from Operation Christmas Child one year after arriving at the orphanage and remembers being so excited to have a gift to call his own. The shoebox gift sowed seeds of hope and love that he desperately needed. He realized that God had a specific plan for his life. Alex now serves with Operation Christmas Child paying forward the hope and love he received through a shoebox gift. To find out more about how God protected and intervened in his life after surviving the Rwandan genocide, please join us for a special time of Alex telling his story of redemption and forgiveness.

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

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

Drawing by Aleks



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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of May 1, 2023, and rates subject to change. Rates may change after the account is opened.
^Minimum deposit to open the account is \$100,000 in new funds. Funds must originate from a financial institution other than Busey Bank. This is a tiered rate account, minimum balance of \$100,000 is required to obtain the premium APY offered. Offer applies to personal accounts only and to those who reside in Illinois, Missouri, Florida or Indiana. Fees may reduce earnings. No fee for electronic statements; or \$2.00 paper statement fee is charged per statement cycle. Ask your local Busey Bank associate for details, terms and current rates.

OBITUARIES

Michael R. Mizerka Jr.



WILMINGTON—Michael R. Mizerka Jr. “Mike,” 64, of Wilmington, passed away on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at his home.

Born on Oct. 2, 1958 in Hinsdale, IL, he was the son of Michael and Joanne (nee Muehlnickel) Mizerka Sr. He proudly served in the United States Navy from 1980-1984. For over 10 years, Michael has been employed by Eco-Lab. Michael had many hobbies including jeep club, fishing, morel hunting, R.C. trucks, metal detecting, geocaching, moonshine, crossbows, astronomy, four-wheeling, ice fishing, bicycling and fossil hunting. His favorite hobby was proudly showing off his sandrail, Toxic Tomato.

Michael is survived by his mother, Joanne Mizerka, of Westmount, IL; daughter, Kaley Smith, of Downers Grove, IL; brother, John (Amber) Mizerka, of Goose Lake; sister, Liz Mizerka (David Black), of Coal City; Uncle Rudy and Aunt Carol Majeske, of Goose Lake; nieces:



Cassy, Jessi, Nikky, Tyler, Faith and Alexis; as well as his beloved fur baby, T.J.

Michael was preceded in death by his father, Michael Mizerka Sr. and Cheryl Biniak Bear.

Funeral services will be held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home and Crematory on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at 1:30 p.m. at Bethania Cemetery in Justice, IL. The visitation will also be at the funeral home on Thursday, May 18, 2023 from 3-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations that can be made to the Michael Mizerka Legacy Fund through paypal: michaelmizerkalegacyfund@outlook.com.

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

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

David V. Scroggins

BRACEVILLE—David V. Scroggins, 52, of Braceville, passed away suddenly, Saturday, May 13, 2023 at Morris Hospital.

He was born March 31, 1971 in Joliet to Robert and Pamela (nee Worley) Scroggins. How do you sum up someone's life with a dash, especially when that life lived was only 52 years? In the words of David, “Tomorrow isn't promised and this thing called life is nothing but a test, no one makes it out alive.” His family meant everything to him, he was a devoted dad, husband, papa, and friend. He was brutally honest and he would tell you that he wasn't perfect, but he sure made it known that he loved God, his wife, kids and grandbabies. David had an amazing work ethic and never did anything halfhearted, it was all or nothing. Over the years he climbed out of poverty, earning his associates degree, eventually owning and operating his own HVAC business. He was sarcastic, had a great sense of humor and would get a kick out of this final joke, “Faced with the prospect of another 30 years of April's cooking, David chose to pass into the Eternal love of God.”

David married April on July 26, 1997. Together two families became one. April had her daughter, Breanne Elizabeth and David had his children, Amber and Angela Scroggins and in October 1997, their son, DJ was born.

Surviving are his wife of 25 years, April (nee Pritchard) Scroggins of Braceville; children: Breanne (Jon Wills) Wren, of Plano, IL; Amber



(Alex Vandenberg) Scroggins, of Land O' Lakes, FL and David “DJ” Scroggins, of Braceville; grandbabies: Isabella, Tripp and Lina of Florida; Grayson, Everleigh and Norah Wills, of Plano; brothers and sister, Robert “Bobby” (Brittney) Scroggins and their children, Cullen, Zadi, and Gavin of Tennessee; Brandy (Adam) Rochelle and their children, Ridge and River, of Tennessee; William “Billy” Scroggins and his daughter, Violetta, of Tennessee; sister-in-law, Stephanie Zaragoza, of Tennessee; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Angela and Rodney Ridgley and their children, Austin, Brandy Zack, RJ, the late Brittney, and Jason Pritchard; and mother-in-law, Patty Pritchard.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Pamela; daughter, Angela Lynn Scroggins and sister, Mildred “Millie” Scroggins.

Visitation for David will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 3 p.m. until the time of funeral services beginning at 7 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the family would be appreciated.

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

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

Neal E. Tjelle

SOUTH WILMINGTON—Neal E. Tjelle, 66, of South Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at Ascension Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Dec. 4, 1956 in Morris, Neal Edwin was a son of Harry and Nina (Horrie) Tjelle. He was raised in Gardner and graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School with the class of 1975.

Neal worked as a laborer with Local #75, and made his career with D Construction. He was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington, and belonged to the South Wilmington Firemans Beach and Park Club where he enjoyed camping for many years and was a member of the Hillbilly 500 Club.

Neal was a very kind and hardworking guy, who jumped at every opportunity to help family and friends. He took great pleasure in gardening and doing anything outdoors, including afternoons spent with his siblings. He was a loving dad to his daughters and the best “Papa Neal” to his grandkids. Throughout the years, he loved traveling and taking road trips, particularly spending time out west and in Colorado.

A friend to all, Neal will be remembered for his kind demeanor and great smile.

Survivors include his three daughters: Brittney (Kyle) Halliday, of Coal City; Karli (Jarad) Otloe, of Normal and Karla Price, of



Pana, IL; seven grandchildren: Jack and Elle Halliday, Owen and Avery Otloe, Chase and Layne Price and Noah Weddle; four siblings: Don Tjelle and John Dale (Villa) Tjelle, both of Gardner; Bruce (Deb) Tjelle, of South Wilmington and Susan Tjelle, of Gardner and numerous nieces and nephews.

Neal was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 203 Liberty St. in Gardner on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. in St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 165 Rice Rd. in South Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Rev. Stanley Drewniak presiding.

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Neal's memory to Make-A-Wish Foundation or to the Ronald McDonald House.

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

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

Harry W. Paulson

COAL CITY—Harry W. Paulson Sr., 66, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at his home surrounded by his family.

Harry was born on Feb. 9, 1957 in Chicago to Howard and Dorothy (Jeffers) Paulson. Harry was employed as a Manager of Vehicle Maintenance by the City of Chicago. He enjoyed working as a mechanic and only retired a few years prior to his passing. He spent his free time fishing out at his summer home in Shadow Lakes, spending time with his friends, children, grandchildren and granddogs. Harry was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend to all.

Harry is survived by his wife, Maureen Koranda; his daughter, Sarah Martinez and her husband, Brian; his sons, Harry W. Paulson Jr.



and his wife, Nicole and the late SPC Kevin Paulson. Also surviving are his dearest grandchildren: Angela Paulson, Michaela Martinez and Addyson Paulson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Dorothy Paulson.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City.

Cremation rites were accorded following services, as were Harry's wishes.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City were entrusted with arrangements.

Delphine Kozlowski

ELWOOD—Dephine Kozlowski, 92 of Elwood, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at the Ascension Living Villa Franciscan Place in Joliet.

Born May 23, 1930 in Chicago, Delphine Frances was a daughter of Peter and Jane (nee Nowicki) Skiba. She was raised and educated in the Southshore neighborhood of Chicago, and on May 1, 1954, she married Aloysius Francis Kozlowski.

Survivors include four children: Diane (Michael) Tomaselli, of Florida; Michael Kozlowski and David Kozlowski, both of Wilmington and Susan (Raymond) Schillaci, of Elwood; as well as seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Delphine was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Aloysius; one daughter, Karen Babczak-Harris; one granddaughter, Christina Kozlowski; and one brother and one

sister. Funeral services were held Monday, May 15, 2023 at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington to Saint Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington for a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding. Interment followed at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Memorials may be made as gifts in Delphine's memory to Saint Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington, IL 60481 where she was a member.

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

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

Francis Kulas



HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR—Francis “Frank” Kulas, 94 of Hot Springs Village, AR, and formerly of Wilmington and Chicago, passed away Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Born March 6, 1929 in Chicago, Francis Chris was a son of Francis Chris Sr. and Bridgett (Maloney) Kulas. He was raised in the Bridgeport neighborhood; graduated from De LaSalle High School and went on to attend American School of Banking. Frank honorably served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict, and was stationed in Germany. His career was in banking, and Frank retired from Exchange Bank in Chicago in 1989. He was a former member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Parish in Wilmington and was a life member of Hickory Hills Rod and Gun Club. In his free time, Frank enjoyed picnics, fishing and shooting.

Survivors include his children, Robert (Sandra) Kulas, of Hot Springs Village and Marybeth (Michael) Costello, of Addison, IL; three grandchildren: Matthew Gatz (Sarah), Francesca Gatz (Ken) and Samantha (Tyler)



Bice, and four great-grandsons, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters: Catherine Kulas, Margaret (Roman) Ziolek and Lorraine (Stanley) Gill, and one brother in infancy.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at St. Bernard Parish in Homer Glen and was celebrated with Father Joe McCormick, OSA presiding.

Burial followed in Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Justice, IL.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Franks memory to: The Veteran's Administration “Charities.”

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

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

Jessica Casey

On May 11, 2023, God reached down to Jessica Turner Casey and said, “Come with me.”

She was born Feb. 15, 1990, to Bobbi (Jerry) Curl, of Coal City and Kevin Turner, of Dwight. Jessica graduated Dwight High School in 2008. Her love for family and friends was present everyday she shared with each of us. Jessica will be remembered for her generosity and compassion for helping others. This love and compassion also carried on to the care of many animals particularly helping rescue dogs. Jessica was a devoted Kansas City Chief fan and loved to watch her favorite team with family. She will be sadly missed by each one of us.

Jessica is survived by her parents, significant other, Nathon Hogan, of Odell; her children: Audrina, Logan and Lorelai; brother, Tim



(Stephanie) Turner and niece, Emerson, of Newman IL; extended family: Steve, Megan, Calleigh, Talan, Kaysen VandeWerken, and Tyler, Cassidy and Emmett Curl and many loving aunts, uncles and cousins. She is also survived by her grandparents, Judy Schott, of Pontiac and Larry and Mary Ellen Turner, of Dwight.

Jessica was preceded in death by her Grandfather, Dave Schott and cousin, Don Foley, both formerly of Pontiac.

A celebration of life will be held at the Dwight United Methodist Church on June 11, 2023 at 5 p.m. Visitation will be held from 2 p.m. until the time of services, also at the church. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorials in honor of Jessica may be made to the Livingston County Humane Society.

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Become a subscriber and you'll automatically be entered into a weekly drawing for a set of four tickets to see the Joliet Slammers! We're drawing for sets of tickets to subscribers who sign up for home delivery or our e-edition before July 31, 2023.

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Take into consideration “No Mow May” for your lawn

Dear EarthTalk: What's the background on the "No Mow May" movement?

—J.D., via email

Lawns cover some 40 million acres—or two percent—of land in the United States, making them the single largest irrigated crop we grow. We mow, rake, fertilize, weed, chemically treat and water them—sucking up time, money and other resources.

And in spite of all that they provide little if any benefit to wildlife. In fact, they likely do more harm than good. Indeed, grass-only lawns lack floral resources and nesting sites for bees and other pollinators, and serve up a cocktail of toxic pesticides.

Addressing these issues is where the No Mow May campaign comes in, encouraging people to refrain from mowing their lawns during the month of May.

The idea is to let wildflowers and other plants grow, providing important habitat for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The campaign was started in the United Kingdom by the environmental charity Plantlife in 2018. Since then, it has gained popularity in other

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

countries, including the U.S. and Canada.

The goal of No Mow May is to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and to encourage people to take action to support pollinators.

Many people mow their lawns frequently, often using gas-powered mowers that emit carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

This can be harmful to the environment, as well as to human health. Mowing also destroys wildflowers and other plants that provide food and shelter for pollinators. By refraining from mowing their lawns during the month of May, people can help to create a habitat for pollinators.

This can include bees, butterflies, moths and other insects, as well as birds and

small mammals that feed on them. These creatures play an important role in pollinating crops, which is essential for the production of many types of food.

No Mow May is not only good for the environment, but it can also be good for your lawn. Allowing wildflowers and other plants to grow can help to improve the health of your soil, reduce erosion, and provide a natural fertilizer. This can lead to a healthier lawn that requires less maintenance over time.

If you decide to participate in No Mow May, there are a few things you can do to ensure that your lawn stays healthy and safe.

First, make sure that your lawn is free of any hazards, such as large rocks or debris, that could pose a risk to people or pets. You should also check for any weeds or invasive species that could harm native plants.

During the month of May, you can still perform basic lawn maintenance, such as watering and weeding. You can also mow any areas that are high traffic or that pose a safety risk. However, it's best to

avoid mowing any areas where wildflowers or other plants are growing.

No Mow May is just one example of how individuals can take action to support biodiversity and protect the environment. By making small changes in our daily lives, we can help to create a healthier, more sustainable world for ourselves and future generations.

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



PART OF NO Mow May is to let wildflowers flourish on lawns where they would otherwise be mowed away.

Local gas prices below statewide average

Six out of 10 area stations had gasoline prices Monday that were below the statewide average.

That's good news for motorists who saw the price at the pump drop 5.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.88/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

"With oil prices bouncing back over \$70 per barrel after

reaching as low as \$66 in early May, we've seen gasoline prices move higher in some states, while others have continued to decline- the national average has seen little change as a result. But overall, gasoline prices continue to see significant relief from year ago levels," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

The low price locally was

\$3.54/g on Monday in Braidwood. Nearby stations were \$3.56/g, while in Wilmington the average was \$3.74 with a low of \$3.68/g at Lorenzo Road. Coal City stations were priced at \$3.89/g to \$3.94/g.

Prices in Illinois are 19.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 95.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.26/g while the most expensive was \$5.19/g, a difference of \$1.93/g.

"We're likely to soon see gasoline prices slip to their largest year on year deficit since Covid hit, when prices fell over \$1 per gallon from 2019- so the relief at the pump as been significant, and even though the gas price decline hit pause last week, it's looking more likely that barring a major hurricane or series of refinery outages, the national average may not end up hitting the \$4 per gallon mark- something that will make most motorists very happy."

St. Rose to hold Memorial Day Mass

St. Rose will be hosting a Memorial Day Mass celebrated at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington on Monday, May 29, at 10 a.m., weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair if you are unable to stand for Mass.

Our nation pauses each year to remember the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their life in the service of our nation.

Please join us for the celebration of Mass and to pray and remember the faithful departed.

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One night only!

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Saturday, The Real John King
May 20

Time... 8:03pm

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Big Rich Greene

MC/Host
Bill Brady

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3 wks.- \$22; 4 wks.- \$25
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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Braidwood, 2 BR, stove and refrigerator, w/d hookup, C/A, garbage included, \$1,000 month plus security, no pets, call 815-474-4407. ca20-23

AUTOS

2002 Lexus ES 300, very well maintained, many new parts, service records, high miles, call 815-634-2452. cc19-20

GARAGE SALES

14th ANNUAL WILMINGTON ALL-TOWN GARAGE SALE
Thurs., June 1 (8 am-5 pm);
Fri., June 2 (8 am-5 pm);
Sat., June 3 (8 am - 2 pm)
Sponsored by First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington

Everyone is welcome to come out and explore all the great sales at the church and throughout the whole town. Stop by for lunch at the church Friday from 11:30-1:30. Listing maps will be available for pick up at the church beginning at 8 am on June 1 and throughout the sale dates. For more information, call 815-476-5474.

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood - 812 West Main Street. Thursday and Friday, May 18 & 19 from 8am-3pm. cc19-20

Braidwood - 984 N Center Street. Thur., & Fri., May 18-19 from 8am-4:30pm. Fishing items, hunting stands, man stuff, lots of household items, over 200 Blu-Ray movies, scrapbooking, Oreck XL vacuum cleaner, small Weber grill (new), clothing, lots of Christmas, books, jewelry, something for everyone! ca20

Morris/Goose Lake - Moving Sale. 6485 June Bug Ln. Thurs. and Fri., May 18-19 from 8am-4:30pm. Furniture, home decor, mens, womens, childrens clothes, toys, workout equip., tools. Too much to list cc20

Shadow Lakes Annual Flea Market and yard sale Non Residents invited

Memorial Day Weekend Sat., May 27 8am-3pm

Entrance only Gate 3 or 4a off Novy Road. Maps available at gates and pavilion. For info: 815-458-3647. (No entry after 2 p.m.) ch20-21

HELP WANTED

Experienced laborer wanted. 815-634-3976 ca19-22

HANDYMAN NEEDED

Custer Park couple looking for handyman for all types of work: yard work, painting, power washing, drywall, lifting and cleaning garage. \$18/hr., flexible to your schedule. Same day cash. Call 618-387-2245 ask for Ann

HOMES FOR RENT

Braidwood area - 3BR, 2 bath, stove; refrigerator; C/A; W/D hookup; storage shed. Large lot & deck, 169 N Vernon Dr., Godley. \$1,250/mo. 1st, last, security, credit check. 815-476-6462. cc19-22

Braidwood area - 3BR, 2BA, stove; refrigerator; C/A; W/D hookup, storage shed. Large lot. 1st, last & security. Credit check required. 745 E. Mary Ln., Godley. \$1,250/month. 815-476-6462. cc19-22

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- ELIZABETH BLACK et al Defendant 2022 FC 83 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 9, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on June 14, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 2406 LYNNWOOD STREET, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 02-33-229-012 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Prop-

erty Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-4650 You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-07787 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2022 FC 83 TJSC#: 43-1052 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 FC 83 13219373 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., May 3, 10, 17, 2023.

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERV-ICING LLC Plaintiff, -v- ERIC D EVANS Defendant 21 CH 21 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 11, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on June 21, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1923 TALLER ROAD, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 02-31-478-034 The real estate is improved with a townhouse with a two car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal

fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAY-MER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MCCALLA RAY-MER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 21-078751L 722031 Case Number: 21 CH 21 TJSC#: 43-1799 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 21 CH 21 13220141 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., May 17, 24 & 31, 2023

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cc9-24

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Senator puts threats in proper perspective

My associate Isabel Miller recently interviewed Sen. Robert Peters (D-Chicago) about the national controversy he found himself in after posting a statement on Twitter. I thought I'd share it with you this week. Here's Isabel...

A few weeks ago, Sen. Robert Peters posted a tweet that he knew would generate backlash. What he didn't know was that it would go national.

The tweet was in response to teens converging on downtown Chicago. The Chicago Tribune reported three teenagers were wounded in two shootings and 16 were arrested during the violence: "I would look at the behavior of young people as a political act and statement. It's a mass protest against poverty and segregation."

Now-former Fox News host Tucker Carlson jumped in, telling his millions of viewers: "So, what happens if you encourage this kind of behavior, if you cheer the mob rather than restraining the mob? Well, ugly and totally inevitable things will happen. Productive people will flee, innocents will die and ultimately you will get from this mob racial attacks. All of that is happening in Chicago right now. All of it."

Peters said he was paraphrasing a 1966 quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "A riot is the language of the unheard."

"If I actually said what Dr. King said, I think... [people] could've responded even more harshly," Peters said. "I don't want anybody to ever get hurt. I have a district where there's a lot of violence, particularly in a lot of working class areas. And I think everybody deserves to have their fair share of safety and comfort and I think we seem to be caught up responding to the same questions in relatively the same way. And I think a lot of people are sick and tired of it."

"And we have to look at it from both the historical context and the present context about what are we going to do to change things. If a kid has had their school closed, or healthcare institution closed, or they've had their housing foreclosed or they've been evicted, or they're living cooped up in housing too small, mismanaged, then we have to do whatever we can to change that. And it's clear that we need to push back on what has been a terrible, terrible status quo for people."

Despite receiving hate and threats for his comments, Peters said he remains committed to his stance.



Rich Miller
CAPITOL FACTS

and thought it would be good to come after me."

Peters said he struggles with whether speaking out is worth the threats. "I don't want to have to worry about not only my well-being, but the well-being of the people I care and love."

"Everyone's 'tough on crime' until they want to send dangerously violent, anonymous emails," Peters said. "There was a massive contradiction and hypocrisy by some people, and it just goes to show some people authentically want to bring safety to every community and make sure that every kid and every parent and every person, whether they're struggling with housing and health care, there are people who really want to do that. I think I belong to those people."

Peters is known for carrying a heavy workload in Springfield, and he also served on Chicago Mayor-elect Brandon Johnson's transition team. Asked how he balances all of his tasks, Peters said, "Well, I mean, I have the unfortunate thing of having been born with ADHD. And, you know, it has its ups and downs. But it's almost sometimes this work is kinetic; you know what I mean? It's moving quickly. And you have to make quick assessments and you need to power map what you can and cannot do, and you need to know... what is an immediate thing you can make happen and what is something that might be longer term."

"When I was younger, I was told I would amount to very little. After my dad passed away, I struggled with what the meaning of the world was and sort of figured that out and you combine all the sort of kinetic sort of ADHD energy with a drive that the meaning of my existence is to show that nobody has to go through the things that myself or my family, or the people I love around me had to go through."

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

Brandon Rd. bridge closed

Brandon Road bridge over the Des Plaines River, in Joliet, has been closed for emergency repairs. The closure is necessary to replace a mechanical component on the bridge that failed Saturday morning.

Motorists should cross the river at McDonough Street via

U.S. 6, U.S. 52/Illinois 53 and Laraway Road. Signage will alert drivers at U.S. 6, immediately north of the bridge, as well as near Larkin Avenue on U.S. 6. To the south of the Brandon Road bridge advance signs will alert motorists at Woodruff Road, Patterson

Road, and Laraway Road.

IDOT is working to get all traffic detours in place.

The evaluation of the necessary repairs is ongoing. A more definitive timeline for when the bridge can reopen will be announced later.

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14th ANNUAL
WILMINGTON ALL-TOWN GARAGE SALE

Thurs., June 1 ~ Fri., June 2 ~ Sat., June 3

The 14th Annual All-Town Garage Sale will be sponsored by the First United Methodist Church. We will be producing MAPS of listings throughout the town. All of the advertising will be done for you and bargain hunters will be out all over town. You may sign up for one or all three days, and specify your hours. We will also have sellers inside the church and vendors/crafters can have a space in our parking lot for an additional \$10 (for all 3 days). MAPS can be picked up at the church on Thursday, June 1st beginning at 8 a.m. through the entirety of the sale. Return the filled-out form below by May 26 with a \$10.00 donation to have your information in our Map Listing (60481 RESIDENTS ONLY). These forms are also available at Wilmington City Hall, Wilmington Library, FUMC church, or download from our website at: www.fumcwilm.org

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Yes, _____ I want a CHURCH PARKING LOT (10X13) SPACE for an additional \$10 (June 1: 8-5; June 2: 8-5; June 3: 8-2)

MAP LISTING INFORMATION:

Dates/Times of your sale: _____

Address of participating sale: _____

Subdivision/Neighborhood: _____

Items to be sold: _____

Make your check payable to First United Methodist Church and you may drop off or mail your check to FUMC, All-Town Garage Sale, 401 E. Kahler Road, Wilmington, IL 60481. Call the church office M-F 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 815-476-5474 with any questions. *(The First United Methodist Church of Wilmington is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items. All unsold items and trash must be removed after the sale.)*

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WILMINGTON, IL 60481

Felix Township to hold road district budget hearing

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FELIX TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET
Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for road purposes for the Township of Felix in the county of Grundy, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2024, will be on file and available to public at Felix Township Office, 6525 E. Whitetie Rd. Coal City, Illinois on May 11, 2023. Please call John D'Arcy-Supervisor at 815-634-7288 or e-mail felixclerk1@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.
Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:00 o'clock p.m. Wednesday June 14, 2023, at the Felix Township Office and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting to be held on Wednesday June 14, 2023.
Dated this 11th day of May 2023
John D'Arcy- Supervisor
Megan Wharrie- Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on May 17, 2023.

Grundy County seeking bids to replace HVAC systems at courthouse

PUBLIC NOTICE
Grundy County is inviting sealed proposals from responsible and responsive vendors for the full removal and replacement of two (2) existing RTU HVAC systems located at the Grundy County Courthouse 111 E. Washington St. Morris, IL 60450. Sealed proposals must be submitted in an envelope and clearly marked on the exterior "HVAC Replacement" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with an original signature. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee or agent for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.
Sealed proposals will be accepted until 3:00 pm (cst.) June 21st, 2023, at the Grundy County Administration Building, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At 3:00pm (cst.) June 21st, 2023, sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.
Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy County Purchasing Manager located at the Administration Building, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at www.grundycountyl.gov/proposals-and-rfp/ or Demandstar at www.demandstar.com. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website. The "Technical" and "Procurement Procedures" contact for this project is Alec Macdonald, the Grundy County Purchasing Manager. Any inquiries that prospective firms may have regarding this RFP should be directed to the Grundy County Purchasing Manager in writing via e-mail at amacdonald@grundycountyil.gov
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7, 2023.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

4. Chinese philosophical principle

7. Branch

8. Jewish spiritual leader

10. Slang for requests

12. "So Human An Animal" author

13. Rocker Billy

14. British Air Aces

16. Type of tree

17. "Tough Little Boys" singer

19. State attorneys

20. Goddess of fertility

21. Localities

25. Beloved singer Charles
26. Clue

27. Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface

29. Helsinki neighborhood

30. Farm resident

31. Ocean

32. Where ballplayers work

39. Unable to hear

41. Cool!

42. Cape Verde capital

43. One point north of due east

44. Kilo yard (abbr.)

45. Middle Eastern nation

46. It yields Manila hemp

48. People operate it (abbr.)

49. Regenerate

50. Not healthy

51. Chinese sword

52. Mild expression of surprise

CLUES DOWN

1. Unit of angle

2. Headgear to control a horse

3. Clots

4. Follows sigma

5. A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns

6. Greek units of weight

8. Radio direction finder (abbr.)

9. Systems, doctrines, theories

11. Stony waste matter

14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

15. Hostile to others

18. U.S. State

19. Not wet

20. Something one thinks up

22. Where beer is made

23. Clumsy person
24. Belonging to us

27. Canadian flyers

28. Greek goddess of the dawn

29. Snakelike fish

31. Unhappy

32. Fruit

33. Not good

34. Zero degrees Celsius

35. Goo Goo Dolls' hit

36. Crawls into the head (folklore)

37. Legally responsible

38. Move in a playful way

39. Regarded with deep affection

40. Partner to flowed

44. Native American tribe

47. Head honcho

Florence Township to hold annual Budget Hearing for three funds

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Public Hearing
Florence Township
Will County, Illinois
(Tentative 2023/2024 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance)
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Trustees of Florence Township, Will County, Illinois, to consider the tentative 2023/2024 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Florence Township Road District, Town, and the Multi Twp. Assessment, Will County, Illinois.
Said hearing will be held at the Florence Township Hall in Symerton, Illinois, at the hour of 7:00 p.m. on June 13th, 2023.
Notice is further given that the Township Board of Trustees, at 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 the public inspection in the office of the Road District Clerk, 30309 South Riley Road, Wilmington, IL, 60481. Call for an appointment at 815-953-3249.
Dated 5/9/2023.
John Seibert
Florence Township Clerk
Will County, IL
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

Attorney Wysocki files Webb 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 GLADYS WEBB, Deceased;
No. 2023 PR 187
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Gladys Webb. Letters of Office were issued to Dwayne Roberts whose address is 17 Arlington Drive, Romeoville, Illinois 60446 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki, 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 17th day of November, 2023, 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.
Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Gladys Webb, Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, May 17, 24 and 31, 2023.

Attorney Wysocki files Conway 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 PERCY CONWAY, Deceased;
No. 2023 PR 231
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of PERCY CONWAY. Letters of Office were issued to Lynetta Gwen Conway whose address is 1105 Spring Green Drive, Joliet, IL 60433 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki, 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 3rd day of November, 2023, 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.
Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Percy Conway, Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, May 3, 10 and 17, 2023.

Attorney Wysocki files Sukle 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 JOAN M. SUKLE, Deceased;
No. 2023 PR 230
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of JOAN M. SUKLE. Letters of Office were issued to Larry Briones whose address is 22445 S. Remington Drive, Channahon, IL 60410 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki, 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 3rd day of November, 2023, 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.
Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Joan M. Sukle, Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, May 3, 10 and 17, 2023.

Petition for name change of Maholovich minor

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 RALPH EDWARD MAHOLOVICH to RALPH ANTHONY MAHOLOVICH, Case No. 2023 MR 000117
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the request of Antoniette Marie Maholovich to change the name of minor. Ralph Edward Maholovich minor, shall appear in the Will County Court, Room 905, 100 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, Illinois 60432 at 9 a.m. on the 7th day of June, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Ralph Edward Maholovich be changed to Ralph Anthony Maholovich.
/s/ Antoniette Marie Maholovich
Petitioner
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 10, 17 and 24, 2023.

Attorney Black files Connor estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2023 PR 32
In the Matter of the Estate of GARY W. CONNOR, Deceased
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Gary W. Connor. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Elisabeth Y. Connor, 2432 Sycamore Dr., Morris, Illinois 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 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 to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
ELISABETH Y. CONNOR
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
Frank J. Black
Black & Black
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on May 3, 10 and 17, 2023.

103 Fossil Ridge sold for delinquent taxes

PUBLIC NOTICE
To: David Gerger, Gary W. Gerger as Trustee under the Gary W. Gerger living Trust Agreement dated October 23, 2003, MICHAEL F. TOMASEK as RA for Shadow Lakes II Association, Lauren Staley Ferry, County Clerk of Will County, Illinois, Unknown Occupants of 103 Fossil Ridge Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 103 Fossil Ridge Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481
TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX000143 FILED: 4/25/2023
TAKE NOTICE
County of Will
Date Premises Sold:12/9/2020
Certificate No. 19-03757
Sold for General Taxes of: 2019
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality):
And Special Assessment Number:
Warrant No. N/A
INST. NUMBER:
THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
Property located at: 103 Fossil Ridge Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 02-24-04-153-013-0000
This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 10/11/2023.
The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.
This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 10/11/2023.
This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Joliet, Illinois, on 11/6/2023 at 9:00 am in Courtroom 905, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432.
You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.
YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.
Redemption can be made at any time on or before 10/11/2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Will County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Joliet, Illinois.
For further information contact the County Clerk.
ADDRESS:
302 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432
TELEPHONE: (815) 740-4615
Everet, LTD.
Purchaser or Assignee
Dated: 5/2/2023
8139-932583
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 17, 24 and 31, 2023.

Village of Coal City seeking bids on surplus real property

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF BID ON SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY IN THE VILLAGE OF COAL CITY, ILLINOIS
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Sections 11-76-1 and 11-76-2 of the Illinois Municipal Code, 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and -2, that the Village of Coal City duly enacted Ordinance No. 23- 08, entitled AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE VILLAGE OF COAL CITY (Big Timber Parcels: Outlot A - 06-35-301-069; Outlot B - 06-35-301-032; Outlot C – 06-35-301-058) [the "Ordinance"] at a regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees on April 12, 2023. The Ordinance authorized the sale of multiple vacant and unimproved parcels of real property in the Big Timber Estates subdivision, as follows:
(1) Property commonly known as Outlot "C" of the Big Timber Estates subdivision, bearing permanent index number (P.I.N.) 06-35-301-058, and legally described as follows:
Outlot C in Big Timber Estates Subdivision, being a subdivision of part of the southwest of Section 35, Township 33 North, Range 8, East of the third principal meridian in Coal City, in Grundy County, Illinois.
("Lot C");
(2) Property commonly known as a public park known as Outlot "A" in Big Timber Estates subdivision, bearing permanent index number (P.I.N.) 06-35-301-069, and legally described as follows:
OUTLOT A IN BIG TIMBER ESTATES SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAN THEREOF RECORDED DECEMBER 16, 2003, AS DOCUMENT NO. 427943, AND CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED JANUARY 6, 2005, AS DOCUMENT NO. 443516, IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
("Lot A");
(3) Property situated off of East Big Timber Drive in Big Timber Estates subdivision, bearing permanent index number (P.I.N.) 06-35-301-032, and legally described as follows:
That part of the West 696.30 feet of the South 65 feet of the North 610 feet of the Southwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 33 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, which lies between the Easterly and Westerly lines of Lot 3 as extended Northerly in Murphy's Subdivision, a part of the Southwest Quarter of Section 35, Township 33 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, as per Plat recorded September 15, 1965 in Plat Book D, Page 60, in Grundy County, Illinois, situated in the County of Grundy and State of Illinois.
("Lot B");
Lots A, B and C are each located in the Village's RS2 zoning district. The Village favors single-family detached residential development on Lot A and desires to sell Lot B and Lot C together for development of one, single-family house on or across Lots B and C. The single-family home development(s) should complement existing residential uses in the vicinity of the properties. The properties are being sold as-is and the Village makes no representation as to the condition of the properties or suitability for any particular development plan. The successful bidder for Lot A, if any, should propose development of a cul-de-sac servicing Big Timber Drive and dedication thereof to the Village and/or grant of a permanent easement allowing the Village to maintain the cul de sac and the public to access it.
Any person may submit a written sealed bid for Lot A and/or Lot B and Lot C together. Lot B and C must be bid together for a single, unified development. There is no minimum bid(s). The bids should include a purchase price and a development plan for the subject property that details the proposed structure(s) or other improvements, if any, to be constructed and an estimated project schedule. The Village will consider development proposals consistent with the Village's Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, and the terms of this Notice. The terms of this Notice shall govern in the event of conflict or inconsistency. The Village has the right to accept or reject all or any portion of a bid in any combination and expressly reserves the right to sell Lot A to one purchaser and Lots B and C to another, or to reject all or any bid and withdraw either or all of the properties from being offered for sale.
The Village will negotiate purchase and sale agreement(s) with the selected bidder(s) which would formalize the terms of sale, establish the method of legal title conveyance, detail any required zoning relief, and provide a timeline for completion of the development. The Corporate Authorities may accept any bid(s) or portions thereof determined to be in the best interest of the Village by a vote of 3/4 of the Corporate Authorities then holding office. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any technicalities in the bidding if it should be deemed in the public interest. These decisions will be final and not subject to recourse. This request for proposals does not obligate the Village to pay any costs incurred by any bidder in the submittal of a bid or in making necessary studies or designs for the preparation of that bid.
Sealed bids for the all or any of the properties shall be marked "SEALED PROPERTY BID" and be sent to Administrator Matt Fritz, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway Street, Coal City, IL 60416. Said bids must be received on or before June 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The bids shall be opened and considered in accordance with 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2 at the regular meeting of the Village of Coal City Board of Trustees on June 14, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway Street, Coal City, IL 60416. For further information regarding the Property, interested persons may contact Village Administrator Matt Fritz at 815-634-8608 during regular business hours.
Respectfully submitted,
Pam Noffsinger
Village Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on May 10, 17 and 24, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICES
Because it's your right to know
Call 815-476-7966 to make sure you get them every week

Village of Carbon Hill to hold hearing on housing poultry

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT
VILLAGE OF CARBON HILL
Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held before the Village of Carbon Hill Planning and Zoning Board located at the Carbon Hill Village Hall at 695 N. Holcomb Street, Carbon Hill, Illinois on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., to consider a Zoning Text Amendment initiated by the Village of Carbon Hill Village Board to amend Chapter 320, of the Village of Carbon Hill Municipal Code regarding regulations and licensing for housing of poultry within the Village of Carbon Hill.
All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Questions or comments may be submitted orally, in writing, or both. A copy of the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 320 of the Village of the Carbon Hill Municipal Code is on file with the Village of Carbon Hill and available for inspection during normal business hours.
VILLAGE OF CARBON HILL
VILLAGE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
Published in the Coal City Courant on May 17, 2023.

So. Wilmington School District seeks bids for asphalt project

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE
The Board of Education for South Wilmington Cons. School District #74 is requesting sealed bids for an asphalt project at the Grade School. Sealed bids will be received by the district office at South Wilmington Grade School, 375 5th Avenue, PO Box 459, South Wilmington, IL until 2:00 p.m. local time, on Thursday, May 18, 2023.
Each bid shall be labeled "South Wilmington Grade School Asphalt Project" and shall be made to the attention of Mrs. Cindy Christensen, Superintendent.
No bids will be received at any time after the specified closing time. All interested parties are invited to apply. Bidding documentation may be obtained at the district office or by emailing Mrs. Christensen at christensen@swil74.org.
All work for the project is to be completed by August 10, 2023.
Heather Buck, Secretary of the board of Education
South Wilmington Cons. School District #74
Published in the Coal City Courant on May 10 and 17, 2023

Smith applies for property variance

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the fifth day of June, 2023, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:
To consider: Variance to allow a shed closer than 3ft to a property line and to allow shed over 100 sq. ft. without concrete pad.
At the following address: 75 Barney Way, Coal City.
Legal description of property: Coalfield Estates 3rd addition Lot 45, Section 2-32-8
Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Wayne Smith
Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof.
Persons may appear in person or by agent.
Dated this 5th day of May, 2023.
Published in the Coal City Courant on May 17, 2023.

COMET SPORTS



Photo by Zandie Sims

DOMINIC ALAIMO competes in Pole Vault for Reed-Custer and gets 8th place in the ICE Conference meet at 2.44m.

Comet track scores
at conference meet

Photo by Zandie Sims

COMPETING IN 100 METER HURDLES for Reed-Custer is Haylee Keymon. She got 6th place in the conference meet with a time of 22.08.

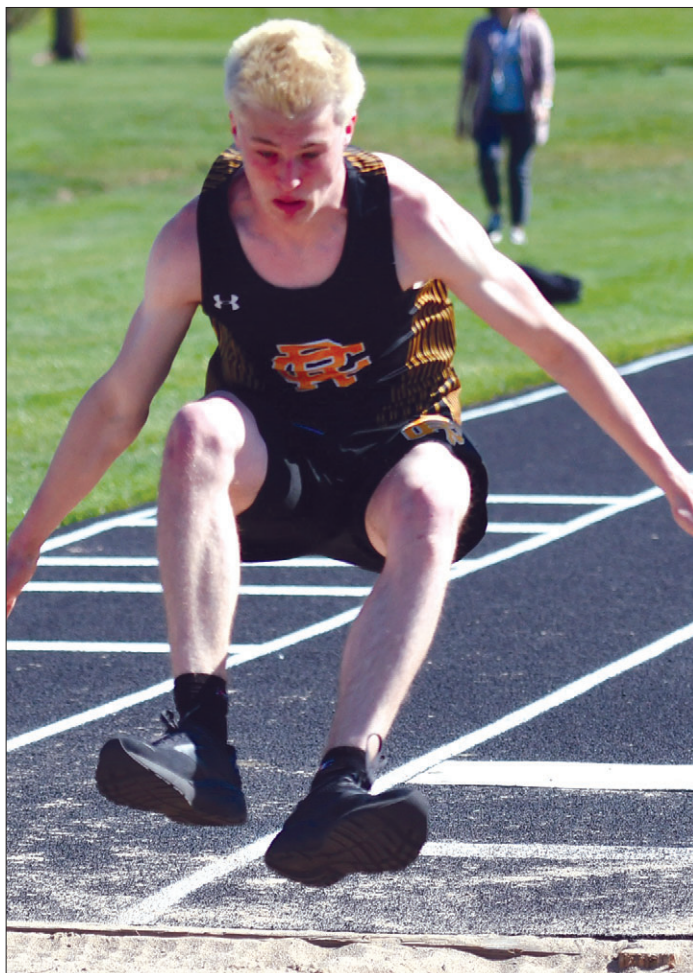


Photo by Zandie Sims

COMET JOEY ALYWARD competes in long jump on Tuesday's meet. Joey got 12th place and jumped 5.00m.



Photo by Zandie Sims

REED-CUSTER'S Tyler Winyinger runs 3200 meters against Streator, Herscher, Manteno, Lisle, and Coal City for ICE conference.



Photo by Zandie Sims

CONNOR ESPARZA from Reed-Custer throws the ball from second base to first during a recent game at home.

Comets sweep
Bulldogs just
before Regional

It's playoff time and the Reed-Custer baseball team is in its prime, sweeping Streator a week before the Manteno Regional.

The Comets play at 4 p.m. today (Wednesday) in Manteno, facing Beecher, an 11-7 winner against Mokena. If RCHS defeats the Bobcats they will battle either Manteno or Bishop McNamara at 11 a.m. Saturday in Manteno for the regional championship.

The Comets (21-7) beat Streator 5-4 in 8 innings on Thursday. They rallied from a 4-0 deficit, tying the game 4-4 with a lone run in the bottom of the sixth to force an extra inning.

Joe Stellano scattered 6 hits and allowed 2 ER, while striking out 5 in 6 innings. Ethan Slager fired 1.2 scoreless innings of relief to earn the win.

Joe Bembenek, Cameron Smith, Stellano, and Kyle Fordonski had a pair of hits each. Jake McPherson, Connor Esparza, and Cole Goodwin added a hit apiece.

The Comets traveled to Stretor last Tuesday where they held a 4-0 lead in the seventh inning. They gave up one run to Stretor but pulled the plug on the Bulldogs to win 4-1.

Senior Jake McPherson earned the win striking out 8, while allowing 3 hits and 0 ER in the complete-game effort.

Connor Esparza, Joe Bembenek, and Kyle Fordonski had a pair of hits each. McPherson, Cameron Smith, and Joe Stellano had a hit apiece.

If Reed-Custer claims the Manteno Regional they'll advance to the Joliet Catholic Sectional on Wednesday, May 24 with a 4:30 p.m. start

VISIT

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FOR COMET

SPORTS PHOTOS

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Greater Grundy County Readers' Choice Awards 2015

COMET SPORTS



Photo by Zadie Sims

GOING UP TO BAT is Shelby Jarchow. Shelby had one run and one walk on Monday.



Photo by Zadie Sims

ABBY SUNDAY throws the ball to first from second base playing on her senior night against Streator.



Photo by Zadie Sims

RUNNING HOME is Sydney Billingsley. She had one hit and one run batted in leading to the Comets win against Streator 11-1.

Lady Comets give up early lead in regional loss to Wilmington

Reed-Custer softball team watched the game slip away early in a 9-3 loss to Wilmington on Monday in the first round of the regional.

The Reed-Custer Lady Comets struggled to put runs on the board and had a tough time defensively containing Wilmington, giving up nine runs off 11 hits while making two errors.

In the first inning, Wilmington got their offense started when Raena DelAngel homered on a 0-1 count, scoring three runs.

Wilmington scored four runs in

the fifth inning. Wilmington's big inning was driven by singles by DelAngel, Tannya Gross and Taylor Stefancic to build a 9-1 lead.

The Lady Comets answered with two runs in the top of the sixth but the damage was already done.

Olivia Hansen was in the pitcher's circle for Wilmington. The fireballer surrendered three runs on seven hits over seven innings, striking out seven.

Addison Brown started the game for Reed-Custer. Brown surrendered nine runs on 11 hits over six innings,

striking out seven and walking one.

Wilmington mashed two home runs on the day. Stefancic had a four bagger in the third inning. DelAngel had the homer in the first inning.

Grace Cavanaugh led the Lady Comets with two hits in four at bats including a double. Jess Janopolous and Brown both hit a double while Abby Sunday, Leah Grace and Emma Wilson collected one hit each.

Wilmington saw the ball well racking up 11 hits. DelAngel went 3-for-4 including her homer and a double for 4 RBIs. Stefancic also went 3-

for-4 with two RBIs. Freshman Molly Southall had two hits and two runs.

The Lady Comets finish their season with a 7-15 record.

Beat the Bulldogs

Reed-Custer scored two runs in the top of the ninth inning to defeat Streator 6-4 on last Tuesday.

The game was tied 4-4 with the Lady Comets batting in the top of the ninth when Grace Cavanaugh singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Reed-Custer was hoping to win it 4-3 in the top of the seventh but

Streator's Augustine hit a solo home run, her second of the game, to force extra innings.

Brown toed the rubber for Reed-Custer, allowing nine hits and four runs over nine innings, striking out 10.

The Lady Comets launched one home run on the day. Mya Beard went for the long ball in the third inning. She finished 3-for-5 with two RBIs and scored three times. Cavanaugh had three RBIs off two hits and one walk.



REED-CUSTER softball senior Halie LaGrange is the daughter of Robert and Tesha LaGrange. In the fall, Halie will be attending Trinity Christian College while continuing her softball career and working towards a degree in Psychology. One of her favorite memories was going into 11 innings against JCA and the time that she hit 2 triples then another 2 triples at the following game. Halie will miss her teammates and the connections that were made on that team. She would like to thank Coach Zoltani for believing in the little 6th grader enough to put her on the 8th grade team and continuing to believe in her through her high school career.



Photo by Zadie Sims

LEAH GRACE throws the ball to her teammate on Monday's game at home against Streator.



REED-CUSTER softball senior Abigail Sunday is the daughter of Larry and Chrissy Sunday. After graduation, Abigail will be attending Augustana College and working towards a degree in Psychology. One of the memories that sticks out for her was the time she started 7th grade with a black eye after taking a grounder to the face. Abigail will miss Jessica's barbecue pretzels and making jokes with her teammates and coaches while playing the game she loves. She would also like to encourage the underclassmen to cherish every game, practice and moment of the season. These four years will go by way faster than you can imagine.



Photo by Zadie Sims

THE COMETS say goodbye to seniors Halie LaGrange and Abby Sunday as they play their last home game of the season.