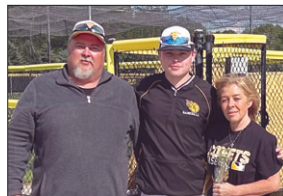




Peaceful times in Braidwood

COMET SPORTS

RCHS honors softball/baseball seniors



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BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 476-7966

Council agrees to pay bump for city workers

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

At the May 14 Braidwood City Council meeting, a vote was approved to give non-bargaining employees a pay increase.

The city council approved raises for the following employees:

- City Administrator: 5 percent
- City Clerk: 5 percent
- Police Chief: 3.5 percent
- Office Clerks (city

hall and police department): 5 percent

• Code Enforcement: \$3 per hour increase

The city council also passed ordinance 24-18, approving and authorizing the execution of a collective bargaining agreement between the city of Braidwood and the Policemen's Benevolent Labor Committee, effective May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2027.

The agreement recognizes the unions status as a representative of certain of

the city's full-time and part-time employees with the purpose to promote harmonious relations between the parties, an equitable and orderly procedure for resolving difference arising out of the employment relationship and the establishment of an entire agreement covering pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment.

All Town Garage sale

Sarah Weaver, the city clerk, announced the Annual Braidwood All Town

Garage Sale Days will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, June, 14 and Saturday, June 15. The event will take place rain or shine.

The event is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood. Entry forms will be available in the weeks prior to the sale. Participating homes will be identified on the sale map and listings provided. All participants will receive a yard marker.

Maps and sale listings will be available on the days

of the sale at the church, 106 Lincoln Street. The church will simultaneously hold a garage sale and sell hot dogs and Polish sausage and feature vendors. A public rest room is available for patrons.

Entry forms are available at the Braidwood Journal Newspaper, Braidwood City Hall, Fossil Ridge Library and on the church's Facebook page. The deadline to register is Sunday, June 9 at noon. Late entries will not be accepted as maps will be

printed that evening.

For information, call LuAnn Bolatto at (815) 790-7134.

Tall weeds and fully-loaded vehicles

Lincoln Street resident Elizabeth Dixon approaching council members with concerns about high weeds on properties on Lincoln Street. She also shared an observation about vehicles driven by city employees.

"My question is, if it's a car for the city to use to drive around... does it real-
SEE CITY COUNCIL PAGE 2



Photo by Rose Panieri

BRAIDWOOD MAYOR, KAREN Hart reminds residents of the meaning of Memorial Day on May 27.



Photo by Rose Panieri

NICK ALLEN, Chief of Staff, Illinois State Senate, District 40, honored veterans during the Braidwood Memorial Day ceremony on Monday.

Reed Twp. honors veterans

The Reed Township Memorial Day celebration was held at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 27, with a welcome by Dale Fraher, Senior Vice-Commander of the American Legion Koca Post 39.

Pastor Randy Adams of the Christian Life Assembly Church in Diamond and remarks by Braidwood Mayor, Karen Hart.

Guest speaker, Nick Allen, Chief of Staff from Illinois State Senate, 40th District, spoke about the meaning of Memorial Day and honored the veterans who lost their lives while serving out

nation.

The Reed Custer Madrigal Choir sang the Star Spangled Banner and the Reed Custer High School and Middle School bands played the Military Branch Songs.

Dale Fraher presented Reed Custer High School students, Beth Crater and Benjamin Lepper with the American Legion Post 39 scholarship awards.

Following the ceremony, attendees were invited to visit the Braidwood Area Museum to see veterans' displays.



Photo by Rose Panieri

REED-CUSTER HIGH School and Middle School bands, under the direction of Addie Dennis, played Military Branch Songs.

Braidwood ESDA busy with emergency response

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

The Braidwood Emergency Service Disaster Agency (ESDA) hides in plain sight. They're everywhere, but most of us have no real idea of the scope of their responsibilities.

Braidwood ESDA doesn't get the applause and adulation of the police and fire departments, but rest assured that neither agency would be nearly as efficient without the backing of the ESDA.

ESDA's efforts in management, safety, and disaster response include development of emergency plans, participation in disaster exercises, public awareness and education, and assistance to the police and fire departments.

At the May 14 Braidwood City Council meeting, Josh Bolatto, the man responsible for the vast success of the ESDA, provided a breakdown of tasks performed by the ESDA from April 30, 2023 through May 1, 2024, the

ESDA's fiscal year which runs concurrently with that of Braidwood.

ESDA recorded 449 total hours, with 843 manpower hours. Manpower hours equal the total incident/activity times the number of members participating. Following is the breakdown of hours:

• Braidwood Fire Dept. emergency and non-emer-

SEE BRAIDWOOD ESDA PAGE 2



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Braidwood ESDA, continued from page 1



Courtesy photo

GRUNDY AREA FFA members placed third in the Illinois (State) Envirothon competition in early May. Participating were [from left]: Evelyn Gonzalez, Minooka Community High School; Margaret Dockery and Courtney Klocker, Reed-Custer High School, Vivienne Forte, Minooka Community High School, and Bradley Burla, Coal City High School.

Grundy Area FFA places third at state competition

At the Illinois (State) Envirothon competition, Grundy Area FFA earned third place in the FFA division.

"This is truly a 'team' event where they listen to presenters and take a written test and complete a practicum in the areas of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future," said Brandy Biros, FFA advisor and agriculture instructor at Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC].

Grundy Area FFA team members include: Bradley Burla, Coal City High

School; Margaret Dockery and Courtney Klocker, Reed-Custer High School, and Vivienne Forte and Evelyn Gonzalez, Minooka Community High School. Two students were repeats to the state Envirothon, and the other three students experienced it for the first time.

"I am super proud of these individuals," Biros said.

Grundy FFA is comprised of students enrolled in the GAVC agriculture program housed at Coal City High School.

agencies (traffic control, road closures, scene perimeter control, etc.): 42 hours and 80.5 manpower hours.

- Braidwood Police Dept., non-emergencies (event traffic control, even security, escorts, parades, fireworks, etc.): 169.5 hours and 401 manpower hours.

- Braidwood Police Dept. emergencies: (event traffic control, road closure, scene perimeter control, etc.): 12.5 hours and 20 manpower hours.

- Severe weather operations: 33.5 hours and 45 manpower hours.

- Assistance to other law enforcement agencies: 22.5 hours and 62 manpower hours.

- Mutual aid given to EMA/ESDA agencies: 44.5 hours and 92.5 manpower hours.

- Administrative duties (meetings, event preparation, vehicle/equipment maintenance, etc.) 124.5 hours and 142 manpower hours.

History of ESDA

Bolatto has been with Braidwood ESDA for nine years next month. He began his tenure as assistant ESDA coordinator under former Braidwood mayor Jim Vehrs.

"At that time, now Deputy Fire Chief, Mike Pemble, who was a captain at the time, was appointed Coordinator and together we worked to build the program from basically the ground up," Bolatto said. "We literally had nothing to start with. No vehicles, no equipment, no communications, no members."

The ESDA had the backing and support of the city council and the police and fire departments. The goal was to transform the fledgling agency into a functional organization to provide services to local entities and become an integral part of the overall emergency preparedness and response matrix in the community.

When Pemble, resigned as coordinator of the ESDA in 2020, Bolatto stepped into his shoes, and Mike Compton took over the role of assistant coordinator. Slowly but surely, the ESDA grew. With the help of the police and

fire departments, as well as a grant from Exelon's Braidwood Station, the agency was able to purchase the equipment necessary to succeed.

Volunteers needed

Though, the ESDA has come a long way since 2015, calls for requests and assistance are the rise, Bolatto and his crew have their work cut out for them.

"Probably our most significant challenges is manpower," Bolatto said. "Just like every other volunteer organization in town or the country, everyone has their own personal lives to deal with, their full or part-time jobs to work. Ensuring that we have the manpower available to respond to calls and staff planned activities can sometimes be a struggle."

Other area ESDA teams face similar challenges. Those who explore the possibility are often discouraged when they find out the scope of responsibilities, which during some time periods, equate to a full-time job.

"Many communities have moved to a paid on-call program where their EMA/ESDA members receive payment for their services or their coordinators and directors receive a stipend for their services, or are even part-time or full-time city or village employees," Bolatto said. "Unfortunately, here locally, I can't see us doing something like that just because the budget simply isn't there for it."

Disaster mitigation

Despite the lack of manpower, Bolatto and his team are always willing to lend a hand. For example, during the May 14 Braidwood City Council Meeting, Commissioner Doug Money expressed concern, asking if the city or county had something in place in the event of a tornado.

Bolatto replied, speaking briefly about how ESDA works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, a comprehensive guide to assist local agencies like ESDA to institute a step-by-step plan to mitigate the threat.

Bolatto also spoke of Will County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), the lead source for developing, planning, analyzing, conducting, providing, implementing and maintaining programs for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Local agencies work with EMA to develop disaster-specific plans.

"When a disaster occurs, the event or declaration that local services or capabilities are overwhelmed and in need of assistance is made to the county level," Bolatto said. "The county level can then make resource requests to the state level and if needed, the state can make resource requests to the federal level."

Nuclear power plant accident

Living in a town that houses a nuclear power plant poses a special challenge to the ESDA. Bolatto and his team are well prepared for unforeseen circumstances.

While a nuclear "explosion" is unlikely, a serious incident might allow radiation to escape the plant, most likely as a plume or stream carried by the wind. The degree of risk would depend on the size of the plume and other factors.

The ESDA participates in full-scale emergency operations exercises during the Illinois Plan for Radiological accidents (IPRA) for Exelon's Braidwood Generating Station. As part of the drill, the ESDA is responsible for coordinating the emergency operations, including response, control, and evacuation.

If you're interested in volunteering for Braidwood ESDA, you must reside within the corporate city limits of Braidwood. Volunteers must be at least 18-years-old, have a high school diploma or the equivalent, have clean background and driving records, and be willing to attend training.

For information, email Josh Bolatto at jbolatto@braidwood.us or assistant coordinator, Mike Compton at mcompton@braidwood.us.

City Council, continued from page 1

ly need a Bose sound system, premium seven speaker with amplifier... Apple CarPlay and Android Auto Capable. I mean, is that really something we need to work in a car that we're going to use to drive back reports?"

Red Carpet success

George Kocek of Braidwood Area Historical Society commented on the Red Carpet Corridor May 4-5. He reported that 311 visitors signed the historical society's guest book this year, and visitors from Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and other states visited the historical society's booth during the event.

"Last, there was one person from Spain and one from Mexico," Kocek said. "It is still extremely popular around the whole country"

Comcast contract renewal

Mayor Karen Hart recommended, and the city council passed, a motion authorizing the city of Braidwood to renew the existing contract between the city of Braidwood and Comcast of California/Colorado/Illinois/Indiana/Michigan, LLC.

It was determined that the financial, legal, and technical abilities of Comcast are reasonably sufficient to provide services, facilities, and equipment necessary to meet the needs of the community.

Attorney Black files Vacca estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2024 PR 000274
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH VACCA, DECEASED
CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Elizabeth Vacca. Letters of office as Independent Administrator were issued to John C. Vacca, 26553 W. Old Farm Trail, Channahon, Illinois, 60410, 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 River Valley Justice Center, 3208 McDonough St., Joliet, IL 60431, 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.

JOHN C. VACCA
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
Frank J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Braidwood Journal on May 15, 22 and 29, 2024.

Fully-loaded GMC Terrain

Commissioner of Public Buildings and Property, Warren Wietting, recommended an ordinance to waive competitive bidding for a 2024 GMC Terrain from Arnie Bauer for use by the city of Braidwood. The cost of the vehicle is \$36,398 "fully loaded," which includes HD surround vision, front and rear park assist, head-up display, Bose sound system premium 7 speaker with amplifier, GMC Infotainment system with an 8-inch diagonal HD color touch screen and more.

With regard to Elizabeth Dixon's comment on city vehicles not needing "bells and whistles," Wietting said that the vehicle in question was already fully-equipped, and ordering a standard vehicle would require more time and travel, and the cost would not be significantly less.

"The vehicle is in stock, local, and available," said City Administrator, Tony Altiery.

The motion was approved.

Grasshopper

Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvement, Dale Walsh, made a motion to approve the purchase of a Grasshopper lawnmower 325D with a 61-inch deck for \$15,200 from Sitek

Sales. (The mower is not equipped with a Bose sound system.)

Mastodon Travel Center

Tony Altiery updated the city council on the progress of Ridgeway Petroleum's construction of the Mastodon Travel Center, that will be built at the site of the former Good Table restaurant. He said that the corporation will appear before the zoning board on Monday, July 1.

Fire ordinance updated

The city council approved a motion amending an ordinance to regulate large recreational fires. Section 58-169 of the Braidwood code of ordinances was amended, specifically Section 58-169 of Chapter 58 to 169, "Burning of grass or other materials" was deleted and replaced with changes to sections on "Open Burning, Recreational Fires," and "Large Recreational Fires." The authorities of the city determined it is in the best interest of residents to regulate open burning in manner compatible with the Illinois Administrative Code and Environmental Protection Act.

Other business:

- Approved payment of bills in the amount of \$721,881.46

- Approved total payroll in the amount of \$214,465.26

Mobile food pantry coming to Braidwood

Many families are struggling to bring food to the table. That is why The Village Christian Church is partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank and will host a Mobile Food Pantry at the Reed-Custer Middle

School, 407 Comet Dr., Braidwood on Monday, June 3, at 5 p.m.

Distribution will be first come first served. There is no registration, proof of income or I.D. required.

Braidwood Plan Commission to consider industrial zoning for W. First St. lot

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD PLAN COMMISSION

Please take notice on June 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., a public hearing will be held by the Plan Commission of the City of Braidwood at the Braidwood City Hall, 141 W Main St, Braidwood, IL 60408 for the purpose of considering and hearing a testimony as a petition for a map amendment for the property commonly described as West Vacant First Street, Braidwood, Will County, Illinois, PIN 02-24-07-117-001-0000, and legally described at the bottom of this notice.

The owner of the property petitioned the City for a map amendment from B-3 Region Commercial to I-1 Industrial.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. For more information, please contact the City of Braidwood City's Clerk's office at 141 W Main Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 or at 815-458-2333

By order of the Corporate Authorities of the City of Braidwood, Will County, Illinois City Clerk, Sarah Weaver

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Block 14, in Chicago, Wilmington and Vermillion Coal Company's Subdivision of the Northwest quarter of section 7, in township 32 North, Range 9 East of the Third Principal Meridian, excepting that part dedicated, deeded or used for highway purposes, according to the plat thereof recorded Feb 16, 1884, in book 4, Part 1, Page 22, as document no. 131176, in Will County, Illinois.

Published in The Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, May 29 and June 5, 2024.

RCMS Ace winners



Courtesy photo

RCMS ACE WINNERS for the month of May include (from left) Stella Kohl (8th grade), Cloey Herbert (8th), Ahna Hone (6th), Shelby Bohac (6th) and Zach Pruss (8th). Not Pictured: Johnny Buchanan (7th).

Award Winner

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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Peaceful times in Braidwood, really

The year was 1897. Places like L e m o n t , R o m e o , Lockport and Joliet were plagued with alcohol-related crime, including murder. And while Braidwood had a bad reputation for murder, by the last decade of the 19th century, life had calmed down significantly. Today we look at that peaceful time.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

First let's look at crime and alcohol. In January we read, "About 10 o'clock Tuesday night Marshal Allison noticed two persons at the back of William Fox's pool room. He started to see who the parties were and their object in being there when they took to their heels and ran away. Allison gave chase for some distance but they finally succeeded in making their escape. Next morning it was discovered that their object had been attained in breaking into the building through the back door and

stealing a couple of boxes of cigars and about a dozen boxes of sardines." A sardine thief!!! My goodness! I n February a string of crimes occurred.

(Pardon my pun) "A number of our people on the East side had the clothes they left hanging on the line stolen. Also, a number of chickens, one night last week. Our city marshal has been busy looking the matter up, but has not arrested the guilty party yet."

In March, "Jacob Wenz had a hearing before Justice Dando yesterday and was fined \$1 (\$37 today) and cost for plain drunk."

You see what I mean. When a plain drunk makes the news in Braidwood, you know things must be awful peaceful. So what were the good folks of the town doing instead of causing havoc? As near as I can tell, they were dancing. "A grand Catholic fair

and bazaar will be held at Music hall, commencing the night of Saturday, February 6 and concluding with a grand ball Friday night, February 12, when suitable prizes will be presented to the couple executing the neatest dance."

"A party of young people went to Jerome Shenk's last night and danced till an early hour this morning. All report a very nice time and hope in the near future Jerome will have another party."

"A social hop took place at the home of W. J. Watson Saturday evening. All present had a very nice time."

"A social time was had at the home of Superintendent R. H. Zoller Saturday evening. Games and dancing were the program."

"Don't forget the masquerade ball Monday evening at Vacco's hall given by the Italian Sporting club. Admission 50 cents." (\$18.50)

"Scott Raymond's comedians, a company of artists, will play at Music hall one week commencing Monday, February 22,



A PHOTO OF Music Hall where entertainment of all kinds took place.

singing and dancing each night."

"The Braidwood Athletic club will give a dance in Smolick's hall Saturday evening, February 22, singing and dancing each night."

"The Pythians of this city celebrated the 33rd anniversary of their order last night with a concert, banquet and ball, which was a grand success in every way. A number of Wilmington people attended."

I guess you get the picture. But surely you say, they must have done other things. Yes, they went to Music Hall for a variety of entertainments. There was roller skating, "Skating rink at Music Hall Tuesday evening, February 9."

And, "The wonderful baby singer, Miss Mildred O'Connor, 4 years old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. O'Connor, sang at the K. of P. concert Friday evening in Music Hall. She was enthusiastically

applauded and acknowledged by the packed house to be the finest baby singer in Braidwood."

"Music hall tonight, the Owens Comedy company in "The Bells." Prices 10, 20, 30 cents. Reserved seats on sale at Barr's drug store."

And so for once in her life, Braidwood was a calm, peaceful place where dancing, singing, skating and baby singing ruled the day.

Happy RETIREMENT

Wishing you a future full of cherished moments, leisurely pursuits, and all the joy in the world.

RCHS Principal wishes the best for retirees

Among the first things done Sunday during the Reed-Custer High School graduation was to honor teachers who are retiring.

Principal Chad Klover praised three teachers for their dedication to the district and best wishes that they enjoy their retirement.

RCHS retirees include: Karen Benoit...23 years in education; 20 years at RCHS. Mrs. Benoit has taught a multitude of Science courses in her years at RCHS, including Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, Forensic Science, Physical Science, Physics, Honors Physics, and Regular, AP, and Honors Chemistry.

Throughout her years at RCHS, Karen has also served in the Homework Depot, has been the Science Club Advisor, a

Teacher Leader, and moonlighted as an adjunct professor at Kankakee Community College.

Her favorite memories include the companionships found in the teachers' lounge over a cup of coffee, the lasting friendships made, and of course, the a-ha moments from the students.

In retirement, Benoit plans to enjoy spending time with her wonderful husband and 11 grandkids, who get the best part of her (playing Science), hitting the ski slopes whenever she wants, and travelling again to Europe. She is also eager to see what new career awaits her.

Dave Newsom...25 years in education; 18 years at RCHS

Newsom started as a full-time substitute teacher

for Anne Smith (a.k.a. Mrs. Mike Smith) when she went on maternity leave for their first son. Finished out the second semester of the 2005-06 school year and was then hired as a full-time teacher in the English Department beginning with the 2006-07 school year. He finished up teaching English 12 and Rhetoric.

Throughout his years at RC, Newsom has been an assistant FB coach, head scholastic bowl coach, director of the Comet writing Center, RCEA officer, serving as the President for 4 years.

His favorite memory is all the great teachers he has worked with over the years, and the long-lasting friendships they have formed

In retirement, he plans to spend time with his two daughters, with loved ones, and with family...travel more, read, write, relax, and explore a new second career

John Voris...35 years in education; 32 years at RCHS

Voris was hired at RC in 1992 to help students who were struggling in school and facilitate their goal to graduate. He eventually joined the Art dept, and teaches a wide variety of classes in that realm.

Throughout his years at RC, John was the head Track coach at RCMS, an RCHS Speech Team coach, Yearbook advisor, and brought back the Chatter in a different format.

His favorite memory is being fortunate enough to have had so many wonderful opportunities in his 32 years at RCHS to work with amazing teachers and creative students.

In retirement, Voris plans to devote more time to his art career, have more frequent visits with family and retired friends, and indulge himself in other hobbies of reading, going to the movies, bike rides, and visits to Hungary with his wife.

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs
Bingocize - Every Monday and Friday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Each session begins with a warm-up and ends with a cool-down. Participants rest while numbers are called for the bingo game, complete exercises or health education questions, rest during number calling, and so on. This pattern is continued until a Bingocizer wins the game. Exercises can be completed either sitting or standing.

Self-Defense Class
Tuesday, June 4, 11, 18, 25, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The class provides instruction in avoiding and handling conflict and physical confrontation. We will demonstrate and practice defenses against some of the most common attacks. A waiver must be signed for participation.

Adult and Teen Chess Club-Thursday, June 6, 5-7:30 p.m. From Josh Flores (Squarehopper Chess Events) and Eric Ortega (Old Biker Chess Dude), learn each of the six unique piece moves. Uncover the foundation of strategy-king safety, the weak f2 and f7 squares, Center, Time, Space, and pawn structures. These strategic principles are applicable not only in chess but also in various aspects of life. Explore the more advanced concept of imbalances.

Sharpen your tactical prowess. Or you may simply just find new friendships, play challenging games, and have fun.

Teen Programs
Graffiti Baseball Cap, Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Learn about the history and art of graffiti from muralist Milton Coronado. Throughout this session, he will teach you techniques to create your own graffiti design on a blank, white canvas of a baseball hat.

Tween Program
Tween First Aid and Babysitting lass. Sun day, June 0, 12:30-4:30 p.m. We are excited to announce our partnership with The Braidwood Fire Protection District for a Tween Safety and CPR/First Aid Class. In this class, your tween will learn essential skills such as first aid and child and infant CPR and earn their American Heart Association CPR certification. Along with that, the Braidwood Police Department will also provide safety tips for tweens. The class will be held at the Braidwood Fire Protection District, and a registration fee of \$20 is required. Lunch will be provided, so please let us know of any dietary restrictions by emailing us at shopf@fossilridge.org. Disclaimer(s) Food Allergies: We cannot guarantee that food served

at this program has not come into contact with tree nuts, soy, or other allergens.

Children Programs
Summer Reading Kickoff Party-Monday, June 3, 5-7 p.m. Join us for our summer reading program, "Read, Renew, Repeat," as we kick off with an open house. You can learn about the program and receive some giveaways. We will also have the Friendly Farms Petting Zoo, a bounce house, and family games. Light refreshments will be served. Please note that registration is required, and parents must accompany children under age 9.

Top Crop Wind Farm Tour-Friday, June 7, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Join us at Top Crop Wind Farm to learn about wind energy being an essential and sustainable resource. We will also learn how each wind turbine works and how each system is evaluated via digital systems at the Operations Management Facility. This trip is off-site, and patrons must provide their transportation. Event is for ages six and up, 20 patrons maximum.

Registration is required for all programs at the library. For more information call 815-458-2187.

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 14 and 15, 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 9.

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 12, from 6-8 p.m. at the front entrance.

Additional maps along with a luncheon will be available at the church. Advertising for the garage sale days will be in local newspapers, social media 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 9, at noon

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Partial listing of items to be sold _____

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

Geo's PIZZA

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"

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39th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$28.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 06/30/24.

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Any other day

COAL CITY—Can the Coal City School Board please adjust the schedule to not schedule the high school commencement ceremony on Mothers Day? It is terribly inconvenient for families and staff to have to juggle activities for multiple events taking place on the same day. Perhaps a weeknight or a Saturday. Actually, any day except Mother's Day.

We pay taxes too

WILMINGTON—FIX NORTH KANKAKEE STREET!

How far we have fallen

WILMINGTON—It was unthinkable only a decade ago that our president would attempt to overthrow a national election by using deadly violence. It was unthinkable that this same president would demand absolute immunity. And it was unthinkable that this same president would threaten to dismantle the Constitution by promising to establish a dictatorship for the purpose of assassinating his political rivals. When our nation was founded almost 250 years ago, it was truly unthinkable that any of these threats would plague our nation any time during its future. For example, just 20 years ago the outcome of the 2000 national election was in doubt but Al Gore graciously conceded to George Bush despite ample evidence that Gore was the true winner. Therefore it's essential at this time of chaos that true patriots tirelessly demand justice in spite of the evil that has plagued us in fewer than 10 short years from a failed businessman who is the first president to be impeached twice and the first president ever to be criminally charged.

Biden's list

DIAMOND—Someone last week mentioned some great accomplishments from Biden. He has produced 15 million new jobs and unemployment is at a record low. Why stop there? There are many more accomplishments we can thank Biden for. High interest rates affecting young people wanting to buy a home, along with a 40-year record high inflation that hits the poor the hardest. Let's not forget the high gas prices and open borders.

A sinister side

BRAIDWOOD—Imagine for a moment a man that flaunts his love for community and seemed so dedicated thereto suddenly declining to help and support that same community. Seems odd. That was the case when a former

chief and social media oligarch refused to help Braidwood's Cop on a Rooftop event. Paw Patrol's "Chase" was often seen waving at motorists and getting hugs and high fives from kids in years past. However, that appearance was denied by the former chief who took possession of the "uniform" when he departed. It's my understanding he was even offered compensation for the uniform and refused. Then, to further his job at Braidwood, he was rather quick to share and support the City of Wilmington's Cop on a Rooftop effort. I don't know, seems rather immature for someone that was so adamant about Braidwood's success and the good things that happen for this city. Perception is everything these days, and right now it seems there is a more sinister side to someone that says they'll run for mayor.

Can't afford that

BRAIDWOOD—To all of the people in Braidwood who have the expensive tastes for public amenities like a pool, expansive playgrounds, splash pad, recreation centers, programs for children, fitness center, etc., ask yourself this question. Would you be okay with, and able to afford a \$1,000 + property tax increase to pay for these things? You can't have expensive things and pay what currently is, in all reality, dirt cheap property taxes. If you want to pay Naperville or Bolingbrook tax rates, please move because the rest of us living in Braidwood can't afford that.

Selling out America

COAL CITY—If you don't believe that people crossing the southern border are receiving more benefits than the U.S. citizens, and do not believe that if the next election keeps this administration in office that your legal rights will decline and more taxes will be taken from your payroll check so you can support more people from foreign lands, then the only suggestion to you would be for you go find a mirror and take a good hard look at the brain behind the face you see. All you will see is distortion of true facts about how our country is being turned over to foreign governments. So answer this question if you can. Why is a foreign government allowed to purchase land or own any business in the USA?

All a farce

MORRIS—Veteran expecting help from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs can forget about it since they withhold documents from the veterans that they did not have the right to receive from a different government facility instead of the documents being sent to the veteran.

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And don't concern yourself about receiving any help from any other veterans organization because they promise everything and give nothing which all the veterans organizations have been doing for decades. Just ask yourself how many veterans have asked for help and received nothing from any veterans organizations and how many veterans are without legal rights or are forced to live on the streets without any type of funds. Veteran organizations that say they will help the veterans are speaking with a split tongue and each and every veterans organization is a farce which includes all the private veterans organizations.

Not your responsibility

BRAIDWOOD—I found it interesting this past week when a familiar face made a comment on the Braidwood and Surrounding Area page post about the idea of a splash pad within the city. The post said "On Aug. 16 of last year I sent every council member photos of a beautiful park with a splash pad, pickle ball courts, and basketball courts, along with a picnic area and gazebo. I think a park like this should be a priority, it would help bring the community together and provide family entertainment." Huh. Aug. 16 of last year. I do believe the author of that post was still chief of police then. So let me get this straight, you turned your focus to other issues other than the ones you were directly responsible for? You sent every council member information on this park project? Was that done on city time? I think you were paid rather well to work on the police department. So you'll come through on things that aren't your responsibility, albeit a nice thought and put the department and the employees you're directly responsible for on the back burner? Again, it's another social media post where you seem to want people to know you had the idea first, otherwise you wouldn't have put the exact date you had the idea. Again, if it wasn't your idea or if you didn't somehow benefit, you never would have made the comment. Just remember, you can only inflate a balloon so much. Hopefully the residents see that as well.

Honoring Veterans

BRAIDWOOD—At Memorial Day we remember those who died for our country. But not as "suckers and losers" the way Trump describes the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and not by the insults which Trump cast upon Senator John McCain who was captured and tortured for years by the enemy. Our military leaders and statesmen at the very top, such as John Bolton who views NATO as the most valuable accord ever created, also reveal that Trump endangers our national security because he is not savvy enough to value our international alliances dedicated to freedom rather than despotism. Furthermore, Trump's domestic policies discourage free speech and encourage a police state atmosphere similar to those authoritarian countries he loves of which we witnessed during his presidency. Let's return to our patriotic roots by honoring veterans and exposing the likes of Trump whose cowardice got his daddy to excuse him from military service.

To get more votes

WILMINGTON—Every week we are treated to a column two of democratic propaganda by the same person about how wonderful illegals aliens almost like we don't have TV news or the Internet and can't see the real truth. Why do the Dems want 12 million illegals in the country? 1) The census. White middle class are leaving blue cities so they have to keep the population up or loose seats in the House. 2) If the Dems win in November they can fast track illegals for citizenship and have 12 million new Democratic voters. It's that simple.

Before you vote

COAL CITY—What are the ideal traits of a leader? As Socrates said these qualities are essential to a leader: Wisdom, temperance, courage and justice. Before you vote in the November election please read "A Warning." It is an eye opener. Did you ever hear Bush or Reagan complain? So it's cold in the court room, try working outside in 10 below. What a crybaby! Wake up people, read and think twice before you vote!!

Letter to the editor

Prescription drug discount program threatened

Prescription drug discount program a vital lifeline to affordable health care. Time is running short on the Illinois legislative session, and we are dialing 911 for the critical 340B drug discount program to protect patient care.

We represent 54 community health centers across Illinois providing care to more than 1.5 million people - many who are low income, uninsured, or underinsured.

For more than 30 years, we have used the federally approved 340B drug discount program as a lifeline: It dramatically decreases the cost of prescription drugs, and we use those provide affordable access to life-saving drugs and prop up other care that is underfunded or not available at all without

these discounts. Free colonoscopies and mammograms, mobile clinics and free transportation to appointments are not a luxury for people without other options. They're a necessity, and they happen at our clinics and at hospitals across the state only through the 340B program.

Today, 340B is holding on by a thread - and time is running short. In some Illinois counties, patients are being forced to travel far out of their way to get vital medications. With the uninsured, that simply isn't an option - and their health will suffer greatly for it.

In a recent letter to the four legislative leaders, Governor and other leadership in Springfield, we warned that staff layoffs and service cuts are immi-

nent if something isn't done soon.

Five other states have approved, and 20 others are considering, a solution modeled in Senate Bill 3727 that would simply stop the harmful restrictions on 340B that are threatening care. We are confident it will work here if given the opportunity. In Arkansas, multiple court rulings have now upheld a similar law despite a hard legal fight against it by the drug companies.

We call on the legislature to approve Senate Bill 3727 now and assure Illinoisans we will continue to support and protect health care options that are under attack.

Ollie Idowu, President and CEO, Illinois Primary Health Care Association, Springfield.

New law targets litter

Garbage trucks that lose trash because they are not properly covered could soon be fined after a bill unanimously advanced out of the Illinois House and Senate.

House Bill 4848 would create a specific violation for law enforcement to cite when garbage or other

debris falls from a truck and litters highways. Each infraction would result in a \$150 ticket.

Sen. Donald DeWitte, R-St. Charles, said the legislation is an attempt to eliminate unsightly waste.

"You don't have to drive very far to see the fences along the farm

fields, the trees, all decorated with various pieces of plastic bags and garbage that might have flown off trucks," DeWitte said.

Take a drive in any direction of Interstate 55 and it's easy to spot why this law is needed. Motorists can help too by not littering.

Tips for your financial spring cleaning

As Americans kick off the spring season by cleaning, sorting and tidying up around the house, Grundy Bank is encouraging consumers to add financial organization to their spring-cleaning-to-do list.

To help, Grundy Bank has highlighted six tips for organizing your financial house.

"People are motivated to get things done when the weather warms up and the flowers bloom, which makes it an ideal time to look closely at your savings and spending habits," said Kevin Olson, President & CEO of Grundy Bank. "Putting in the work now will help you live your best life in the months ahead."

Grundy Bank recommends these six tips to help consumers organize their finances:

• Review your budget. A lot can change in a year. If you've been promoted, had a child, or become a new homeowner or renter, be sure to update your budget. Determine what

expenses demand the most money and identify areas where you can realistically cut back. Develop a strategy for spending and saving - and stick to it.

• Evaluate and pay down debt. Take a look at how much you owe and what you are paying in interest. Begin paying off existing debt, whether that's by chipping away at loans with the highest interest rates or eliminating smaller debt first.

• Set up automatic bill pay. By signing up for automatic bill pay, you'll never have to worry about a missed payment impacting your credit score. You can set it so that money is withdrawn from your checking account on the same day each month.

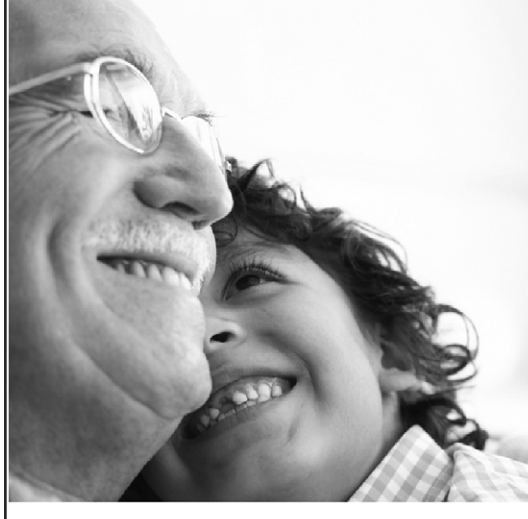
• Sign up for e-statements, paperless billing and text alerts. Converting to paperless billing will help keep your house - physical and financial - cleaner and more organized, and will help protect you from fraud.

• Check your credit report. Every year, you are guaranteed one free credit report from each of the three credit bureaus. Take advantage of these free reports and check them for any possible errors. Mistakes can drag down your score and prevent you from getting a loan, or cause you to pay a higher than necessary interest rate.

• Manage your money on the go. Utilize your bank's mobile app to check your balance, pay your bills, transfer funds, deposit a check and send money to friends or family wherever you are.

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



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\$4.49 when buying 5

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\$3.99 when buying 5

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 Single: \$16.99
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One of the strangest roll calls in IL House



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

I'm not sure I've seen a stranger roll call than last week's House vote on Senate Bill 2978. The data privacy bill is an initiative of Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, and he was on the House floor during the debate.

The far-right ginned up social media opposition to the bill by claiming that it would allow non-citizens to vote. More than 1,400 electronic witness slips have so far been filed in opposition.

Groups like the Illinois Freedom Alliance and the Illinois Conservative Union claimed on Facebook that the bill will "interfere with verification of citizenship of voters." The Illinois Family Institute went even further in a recent email blast, claiming, "As it is written, this bill will likely be used to allow non-citizens to vote in our elections."

Accusations from the far-right that Democrats will use the votes of undocumented residents to "steal" the 2024 election have gained significant national traction over the

past months. Usually, no evidence is presented, and you can chalk up this latest freakout to yet another misunderstanding of the basic lawmaking process.

The offending language is actually already in state statute, an official with the secretary of state's office explained during a House Executive Committee hearing last week. The bill drafters simply "re-coded" it. A search of state statutes shows those claims to be accurate.

The official also said that the secretary of state voter registration system "does prevent anybody that is not provided citizenship information from being transmitted to register to vote."

But the loud, conspiracy-minded opposition stampeded Republican committee members away from the bill, and so it passed the committee on a partisan roll call.

The ACLU of Illinois is also strongly opposed to the bill, but for an entirely different reason. The civil liberties

group claims the measure "could be read as permitting data-sharing with federal or out-of-state law enforcement who are investigating or enforcing laws that criminalize abortion or gender-affirming care in other jurisdictions."

"We believe that the bill should be amended to be clear that our data should not be used to identify people seeking, providing, or assisting with reproductive or gender-affirming care - health care Illinois has made a policy decision to protect," The ACLU IL continued. "This could be accomplished by enacting provisions similar to last year's automated license plate reader bill."

Secretary Giannoulias never convinced the group to drop its opposition.

Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago), a legislative leader on abortion and trans rights, rose in debate to point out that, "Indiana law enforcement could ask the secretary to provide information related to an Illinois license plate on a car used in connection with an Indiana resident accessing abortion care in Illinois."

Rep. Cassidy also objected to the bill by noting that it does not have the same standard language inserted "several

times" in other bills to make it "explicitly clear that the data would not be used to identify people seeking, providing or assisting with lawful health care." She also said she was "deeply concerned" that the data could be sold, "given that that's allowed as well."

In a shocking defeat, the entire Republican caucus and three House Democrats voted "No," while numerous other Democrats skipped the vote. The bill wound up with 57 votes, three shy of passage, as Secretary Giannoulias looked on. I don't think I've ever seen a legislative chamber reject a bill supported by a statewide officeholder while that official was standing among the members.

The sponsor, Rep. Margaret Croke (D-Chicago), put it on what's called Postponed Consideration, meaning she could bring the bill up for a vote again. Some House Democrats were legitimately absent, but this bill needs to be retooled.

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

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United Methodist to host blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church (located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City), will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Tuesday, June 4 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone willing to donate blood should contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 to schedule a pre-

ferred time or register online at versiti.org/il.

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended.

Bring a photo ID, eat a good meal, and be sure to drink plenty of water before donating. Please consider giving blood, one pint of blood can save up to three lives.

Visit Goose Lake Prairie June 1 for Cabin Fest

The Cragg Cabin on the grounds of the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area near Morris will serve as the backdrop for the Cabin Festival.

The event, sponsored by the Goose Lake Prairie Partners, will get underway at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 1. Programs and activities will continue to 3 p.m.

Originally located in Mazon, the reconstructed Cragg Cabin came to the park in 1975.

During the Cabin Festival, visitors to the park will have an opportunity to step inside and view the interior of the

cabin. There will be authentic pioneer crafts by Prairie Partners as they reenact life on the prairie in the 1830s.

There will be a food tent, mountain dulcimer music, children's games and more.

The event is free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to bring cameras.

The park is located at 5010 N. Jugtown Road north of Coal City. For more information visit the Prairie Partner's website at <http://www.goose-lakeprairie.org/craggcabinfestival.htm>

Price at the pump jumps nearly 18¢

Average gasoline prices in Illinois jumped 17.8 cents per gallon last week, just before the Memorial Day weekend, averaging \$4.02/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

The price dropped 10¢ overnight in Braidwood from \$4.29 to \$4.19 on Tuesday. In Wilmington the price ranged from \$3.79 (Mohsen) to \$4.19 yesterday while in Coal City the average was \$3.93.

Cheaper gas was being reported in Morris at \$3.74 and in Bourbonnais at \$3.56.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in southern Illinois was priced at \$3.18/g yesterday while the most expensive was in Chicago at \$5.19/g, a difference of \$2.01/g.

Prices in Illinois are 8.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 11.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The national average

price of gasoline has risen 1.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.56/g. The national average is down 6.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 1.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy.

"With the summer driving season now underway, average gas prices have seen ups in some areas and downs in others. Most states are seeing prices slightly below their 2024 peak thus far, with some refinery issues in the Great Lakes weighing on prices there, while other areas, like the West Coast, have seen notable relief with more coming," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"June tends to be a month of smooth sailing, where we see gas prices decline in most areas, and that's a trend that looks the most likely for drivers, barring unexpected refinery snags or a tropical storm developing."

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A \$70,000 CHECK was presented to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation by organizers and volunteers from Constellation who sponsored the annual "Fishing for a Cure" bass fishing tournament held at Braidwood Lake. A total of 47 boats entered this year's tournament. With the help of several sponsors, over \$906,000 has been raised in the 23-year history of the tournament.

Fishing for a Cure raises \$70,000

Constellation's "Fishing for a Cure" tournament, held Saturday, May 18 on Braidwood Lake, raised an impressive \$70,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, bringing the tournament's 23-year fundraising total to \$906,000.

Cystic fibrosis is a progressive, genetic disease that affects the lungs, pancreas and other organs of nearly 40,000 children and adults living with the illness in the U.S. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation serves individuals with cystic fibrosis and is working to develop a means to cure and control the disease and improve the quality of life for those afflicted.

Logan Kap, 25, was born with cystic fibrosis and spent many years during his childhood in and out of hospitals getting

treatment for the disease. Logan has benefitted from Cystic Fibrosis Foundation services over the years and participated in a game-changing drug study several years ago that successfully created the medication allowing many with cystic fibrosis to live a normal life.

"I'm just happy to be here and be alive," Logan said Saturday at the tournament, recalling how just 10 years ago before the new drug was created, he was in and out of hospitals from week-to-week and those with cystic fibrosis were considered fortunate to live to the age of 30.

Inspired by Logan, whose father Mike Kap works at the Braidwood Clean Energy Center, Constellation employees chose Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as the 2024 beneficiary of this year's

"Fishing for a Cure" event.

"We were absolutely thrilled and honored to be the benefitting charity for this year's Constellation Fishing for a Cure," said Meg Schneider, executive director of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. "In the last decade, scientific research in the fight against cystic fibrosis has been groundbreaking and transformative. It is because of support like this that the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be able to continue on this incredible path of success and find a cure for those impacted by cystic fibrosis."

A total of 47 two-person teams entered this year's Fishing for a Cure tournament. Trey Budach (Morris) and Mike Hzechio (Minooka) took home first place and the \$4,000 top prize. Their three-fish total of 13.49 pounds was best in the tournament field.

Coming in second was Matt Leimach (Braidwood) and Nick Stuedemann (Morris), who caught fish totaling 12.6 pounds for a second-place finish and \$2,500. Third place and \$1,000 was snared by Bryan Partak (Marseilles) and Anna Moody (Big Rock, IL) with 10.19 pounds of bass. Seven other teams shared the remaining \$2,500 in prize money.

ESPN's Chauncey Niziol broadcasted live for his "Chauncey's Great Outdoors" radio show from Braidwood Lake and served as tournament host. A children's fishing derby was held in the morning at nearby Godley Pond.

Braidwood Station and several local sponsoring businesses and organizations made contributions

to the event. All proceeds raised through tournament entry fees, employee fundraising initiatives and sponsorships go to the recipient charity, which is selected annually by station employees.

Organizations and businesses contributing included Siemens Energy, Allied Power, Berkot's, City of Braidwood, Electrical Builders, Inc., Eurest USA, NALCO, Northern Illinois Steel, Pullman, Reactor Services, Inc., J.F. Brennan Company, CSS Building Services, ChemTreat, Framatome and SCI Corporation.



Courtesy photos

FIRST PLACE WINNERS in the annual Fishing for A Cure bass tournament held at Braidwood Lake were Trey Budach (Morris) and Mike Hzechio (Minooka) took home first place and the \$4,000 top prize.



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This is a free fishing derby for children ages 2 - 16 years old. Bait will be provided by the Park District, please bring your own fishing poles. A big thank you to all the local businesses that have donated to make the fishing derby a free event! 2023 Sponsors: Berkot's Foods, Village of Godley, Bedford Sales, D Construction, Sistik Sales, Pepsi. If you'd like to donate, please call the Park District.

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OBITUARIES

Yvonne Monson

Yvonne Monson, 86, passed away Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Aperia Care in Niles, IL.

Born Jan. 20, 1938, in Channahon, Yvonne was the daughter of John G. and Marcella J. (Black) Barber. Yvonne's life was a tapestry woven from the vibrant threads of several Illinois cities, including Joliet, Wilmington, Diamond, Melrose Park, and Niles. Amidst her nomadic journey, she found solace and strength as a proud member of the First Baptist/Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington, where faith and community intertwined to shape her identity and values.

Survivors include her two children, Michael (Meena) Monson, of Chum Phae, Thailand and Eric (Liliya) Monson, of Lake Thunderbird, IL; one brother, Thomas Barber; eight grandchildren: Debra (Jay) Frazee, of Tarpon, FL; Christina Wallace, of Eau Claire, WI; Ashlie and John Maitrejean, of Muscoda, WI; Stephanie and Jeff Ahlers, of Pontiac; Alexis Monson, of Saint Anne, IL; Taylor Monson, of Coal City; Tiffany Monson, of Kewanee, IL and Vlad Stepanov, of Princeton, IL; 16 great-grandchildren: Kyah Robinson, Jessica Frazee, Trista Frazee, Parker Wallace, Jada Doval, Miles Maitrejean, William Maitrejean,



Emily Maitrejean, Madison Ahlers, Dallas Ahlers, Rayleigh Ahlers, Bentley Ahlers, Cassandra Collins, Donovan Collins, Walker Riley and Emersyn Knippenberg.

Special acknowledgements are extended to her wonderful friends, Pat Dempsey and Bonnie Huston.

Yvonne was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Milton E. Monson; her daughter, Denise Henson and son-in-law, Thomas Henson, and her sister-in-law, Marsha Barber.


Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 9 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

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

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

Anthony Farrero

 M A N T E N O — Anthony Louis Farrero, 80, passed away May 12, 2024 at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno.

Born on July 30, 1943 at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Joliet, Anthony was the son of Louis and Caroline (Stepnosky) Farrero.

Raised and educated in Coal City, Anthony lived the typical childhood of the times. Spending time with the neighborhood kids taking apart their bikes just to see who could reassemble them the fastest and fishing at Whitetie. In addition, he was active in Rainbow Council Boy Scouts of America (Troop #66) where he advanced to Explorers Crew. Anthony attended Coal City High School where he played on the baseball team and participated in track before graduating with the class of 1961. It was during these formative years he also acquired the nicknames: "Anchor" and "Tony."

Following high school, Anthony went on to graduate from University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Administration. While later being admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He was a member of the Honorary Commerce Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, and the Society for Advancement of Management. Anthony was recognized by the Department of Professional Regulation to practice as a Professional Engineer.

Anthony honorably served his Country during the Vietnam War for two years from May of 1966 until his honorable discharge in May of 1968.

Anthony was employed at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida where he was recognized for his dedication and support to the Space Flight Program. During his tenure with the Space Center, he will be remembered for acquiring hydrated ice cream from NASA for all to enjoy. Anthony later took on a position



with Dresden Nuclear Power Station in Illinois from where he formally retired.

Anthony was a member of Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council Union Local #916; belonged to the National Rifle Association and the National Archery Association, and was a lifelong member of Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City.

Anthony is survived by his daughter, Regina (Ken) West, of Rock Hill, SC and three grandchildren: Adam, Ryan and Lynzi; his sister, Carol (Matthew) Thraen; niece, Courtney Caroline Thraen and nephew, Matthew Louis Thraen, as well as several cousins.

Anthony was preceded in death by his wife, Bobbi Sue (Dubin) Farrero; parents and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, May 30, 2024 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City at 6 p.m. Reverend Josh Miller will preside with Deacon William Dunn assisting.

Following Mass, military honors will be rendered, and a private graveside held in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Braidwood, where Anthony will be laid to rest with his parents.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Anthony's memory to Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City or to SamaritansPurse.org

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

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

Rennea Ruddy

LEMONT—Rennea Ruddy (nee Pawloski), 78, of Lemont and formerly Plainfield and Goose Lake Township, passed away on May 20, 2024, in Joliet.

She was born on Nov. 16, 1945, to her loving parents, Albert and Loretta Pawloski. Rennea was raised in Lemont and graduated from Lemont High School with the class of 1964. She continued her education at St. Joseph's Nursing School from where she graduated and went on to dedicate her life to helping others. Rennea spent her career as an ICU and Recovery Room Nurse and was instrumental in establishing District 202's first PTO group, as well as volunteering with numerous other Plainfield school programs. Rennea's dedication and quality of work were recognized by the State of Illinois after the 1990 Plainfield Tornado for her efforts and aid in feeding and caring for hundreds of displaced residents in the following days and weeks following the tragedy.

After retirement, Rennea kept busy with her husband, Tom, aboard their boat and traveling to many different places. She loved tending to her garden, fishing with the grandkids, and spending time with her dear friends. Rennea cared for Tom after he suffered a stroke, becoming his 24/7 caregiver. She never gave up on trying to give him a better quality of life. Determined, compassionate, and caring would be a few words to describe Rennea,

but to encapsulate her life and persona into this summary would be impossible.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Thomas Ruddy; her children: Todd (Jennifer) Ruddy, Julie Ruddy (Jeff Zwolinski) and Brian (Staci) Ruddy, as well as her grandchildren: Shawn (Alyssa), Jacob, James, Samantha, Jill, John, Conner, Peyton and Kaitlyn. Rennea was also cherished by her dearest friends: Darrell (Pat) Herman, Ron (Kathy) Kazmar, Deb (Mark) Arabajief, and many others she loved deeply.

Rennea was preceded in death by her parents.

Cemetery committal services will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Friday, May 24, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. Those wishing to attend are requested to assemble at the cemetery by 1:15 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials in Rennea's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital (www.StJude.org or www.StJude.org).

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

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

Irene E. Schaefer

MORRIS—Irene E. Schaefer, 91, of Morris, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 25, 2024 at The Gardens of Park Pointe in Morris with her daughter by her side.

Born Sept. 20, 1932 in Morris, Irene Elizabeth was the daughter of Adam and Mary (nee Kulof) Elinewski. She was raised in Morris, where she attended grade school and then graduated high school from St. Angela Academy. On Oct. 21, 1956, Irene married Robert William Schaefer, who tragically passed away on Dec. 5, 1969.

She continued her employment with First Midwest Bank in Morris, to support herself and her daughter. Irene was a devoted employee, holding several positions during her tenure with the bank, and retired from loan support after 30 years of loyal service. She proceeded to work part time at Hancock's Jewelers in Morris for several years, where she was a friendly and familiar face to many clientele.

Irene was a lifelong member of Immaculate Conception Church in Morris and was a devoted mother to her daughter, Nancy Jo. Everything she did was to make sure that Nancy was provided for and knew she was loved. Irene took great pleasure in craft shows, dancing, and elaborately decorating her home for every holiday. She especially enjoyed her regular Sunday outings with her daughter and Rich and his kids. These outings almost always starting off with cinnamon rolls which she would bake at home, creating treasured memories for all involved. Irene loved to cook for her family, constantly displaying her nurturing instincts by



preparing lunches for herself and her daughter, even after she was grown and moved out. She simply loved being with the people she loved, devoting her life to being the best mom and friend she could be.

Survivors include her daughter, Nancy Jo Schaefer, of Joliet and numerous nieces and nephews.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents, Adam and Mary Elinewski; her husband, Robert W. Schaefer and one brother, Walter (Lauretta) Kulof.

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

A visitation will be at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 600 E. Jackson St., in Morris on Friday, May 31, 2024 from 9 a.m. until the time of funeral services at 10 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Jason Stone, and burial will follow at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris, where Irene will be laid to rest with her husband, Robert.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Irene's memory to: Operation St. Nick, P.O. Box 781, Morris, IL 60450 or Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com, upload photographs, and share Irene's memorial page via social media.

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

Sign-up for senior citizen property tax freeze

Will County Assessment Office representatives will be at the First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Tuesday, June 5.

They will answer questions and assist with exemption forms for Senior Freeze (total household income of \$65,000 or less), disability, and veteran exemptions.

Will County homeowners age 65 and older can also apply for the senior homestead exemption.

Those who were mailed an application should bring it with them along with their 2023 federal income tax return.

For more information visit www.will-countysoa.com or call Barb Valek at 815-740-4648.

Witness music history with Wilmington Public Library

Calling all music enthusiasts! The Wilmington Public Library District is thrilled to present an exclusive journey to witness the legendary Million Dollar Quartet at the Stolp Island Theatre in Aurora, IL. Join in for an unforgettable experience on Wednesday, Aug. 7, departing promptly at 10 a.m. from the library and returning by 5:30 p.m.

Immersed within the newly crafted ambiance of the Stolp Island Theatre, this captivating experience will transport you back to the moment when Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl

Perkins spontaneously united for a legendary jam session that etched its place in history!

The cost of this event is \$50, which includes both the ticket and transportation. Lunch will be on your own, offering you the opportunity to explore the various dining options located near the theatre.

Registration for this bus trip is underway until June 30, and the non-refundable payment is due at the time of registration. For further details, please don't hesitate to reach out to the library at 815-476-2834.

Harriet Y. Luce

CREST HILL—Harriet Y. Luce, 86, of Crest Hill, IL passed away May 26, 2024 at Lightways Hospice House with her daughter and son-in-law by her side.

Harriet was born in Braceville, the youngest child of Frank and Dorothy (Cook) Yoder. She grew up in her hometown and later graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington High School class of 1955 which had 31 original classmates. Their alumni still meets occasionally over the recent years. After graduation she worked at the Joliet Army Ammunition plant in Wilmington and in various secretarial roles then finally retiring from Deaton-Kennedy Company after 28 years. She never passed up the opportunity to talk to people whether she knew them or not about almost anything. She was always ready with a quip or a saucy comment.

Harriet really loved gardening, her flowers, and took pride in her yard so much so that she achieved her Master Gardener certificate. She enjoyed crossword puzzles and started each day with at least two. She loved her animals, especially her dogs. Camping with husband, Bud in their various campers and 5th wheel and traveling to various states was a favorite pastime. She also loved a yummy cocktail and chocolate in all forms.

Harriet believed in giving back to the community and volunteered as a Respite Care worker for Joliet Area Community Hospice, now known as Lightways



Hospice, served at Will County Animal Shelter and delivered Meals on Wheels.

She was a long-time congregant of Hope United Methodist Church where she served in various capacities and sewed with the "Bag Ladies" who sewed totes for school children in foreign nations as part of an outreach program.

Harriet is survived by daughter, Terry (Matt) Karales, of Joliet and numerous nieces, nephews and dear friends and two stepdaughters, Suzonne Pulaski and Myrna Luce.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 26 years, Harold "Bud" Luce; parents, Frank and Dorothy Yoder, sisters, Arlene (Lloyd) Decker and Delores (Glenn) Hammond, all formerly of Braceville; Shirley (Elmer) Rolando, formerly of Diamond and one brother, Lester Yoder, formerly of Braceville.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made in her name to Hope United Methodist Church, 2506 Caton Farm Road, Joliet IL or Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a celebration of life will be held on Friday, May 31, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a chapel service beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Tezak Funeral Home, 1211 Plainfield Rd. Joliet. Inurnment will be held privately at a later date at Braceville Gardner Cemetery in Braceville.

Strawberries off to early start

BY PHYLLIS COULTER FARMWEEK

Fruit season got off to a quick start with strawberries in southern Illinois this year.

Strawberry picking started about two weeks, said Chris Eckert, president and CEO of Eckert's family farm.

"People are coming out. We are pleased with the amount of traffic," he said of customers' interest in the crop.

At Flamm Orchard in Cobden, strawberries started a full 10 days early. "We're not used to having it that early," Mike Flamm said. "Demand has been good."

It looks like apple season might start early this

year as well. And Flamm believes a pretty good apple crop could be on the way. Eckert's apples look good, too, with no frost damage. They are past bloom and pollination. "We are pleased with the potential," Eckert said.

However, the next challenge is rain and keeping disease at bay, said the eighth-generation farmer.

Eckert is looking forward to The Cider Shed season which features hard cider and live concerts. "It's been a fun new adventure," he said of the cider bar that opened in 2022.

Blackberries are also looking good and will likely be ready the first week in June, he said.

Timing is notable this year, Eckert said of what appears to be early fruit seasons in southern Illinois.

Farm Market opening season for Rendleman Orchards is coming near the end of June in Alto Pass.

Sirles is looking forward to the flower fields and developing the natural pollinator areas. They are working on getting a bee program started to eventually produce their own honey and honey products at Rendleman Orchards, which celebrated its 150th anniversary last year.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



Team Penske photo

CAITLYN BROWN (third from left), from Wilmington, is a member of the pit crew for No. 2 Shell Powering Progress Indy car team that set a record time of 10.792 seconds in the Pit Stop Challenge.

Brown on two-time Indy 500 championship team

STAFF REPORT

Caitlyn Brown, a 2017 WHS graduate, continues to make history on the Indy car circuit.

On Sunday the Wilmington native became the first female crew member to win back-to-back Indy 500 championships.

Brown is the left-front tire changer for Team Penske IndyCar driver Josef Newgarden who made a thrilling last-lap pass to win the 108th running of the Indy 500.

Newgarden became the first repeat winner of the race since Helio Castroneves won in 2001 and 2002 for Team Penske. Newgarden also achieved the record-extending 20th victory in the Indianapolis 500 for car owner Roger Penske.

After starting the race from the third position to help Team Penske lockout the front row, Newgarden methodically worked on the handling of his No. 2 Shell Powering Progress Chevrolet over the majori-

ty of the race to set himself up for when it mattered the most.

Over the last 25 laps of the 200-lap event, Newgarden, Alexander Rossi and Pato O'Ward threw punches and counterpunches at each other at over 220 mph with the race inevitably roaring to a last-lap pass for the win.

That is exactly what the fans that stuck through the heavy rain earlier in the day were treated to when Newgarden - seemingly left with no more moves after O'Ward raced around him on the last lap - kept his foot to the floor in the third corner of the final lap to move back around the No. 5 Chevrolet and race to the checkered flag.

For Newgarden, it is the 30th win in an illustrious career that now counts two Indianapolis 500 wins and two series championships among his accolades.

The win capped a record weekend for Brown and her crew mates who set a new record time of

10.792 seconds in the Pit Stop Challenge.

For Caitlyn it was proving ground that with determination and hard work you can achieve your dream job.

Her parents, Danielle and Joe Brown, owners of BTI Tire in Wilmington, were thrilled to again witness a second victory for their daughter. They know first hand how hard Caitlyn has worked to become the female mechanic that sends her over-the-wall to change tires in a male-dominated sport.

This was the fourth Indy 500 race for Caitlyn. As a rookie in 2021, Brown was on an all women's crew for Beth Paretta's Autosport Indy 500 team that drew praise but did not win. She went from a backup tire changer to a front-line team leader in less than two years.

"I knew we could win this race again," Newgarden quoted in the Team Penske news report. "I'm just so proud of the team. They crushed it."



Courtesy photo

CAITLYN BROWN with her parents Danielle and Joe Brown at the Indy 500 raceway.

Illinois State Police warns residents of phone scam

The Illinois State Police (ISP) has received several phone calls from individuals reporting a person claiming to be an ISP investigator telling them their identity has been stolen.

This is a scam. ISP special agents will not make cold calls requesting personal or financial information, or ask you to confirm personal or financial information.

If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to be an ISP investigator, ask for the caller's name, badge number and phone number, and then hang up.

Never provide or confirm personal or financial information over the phone to an unknown caller. You can verify if a caller is an ISP special agent by contacting one of the seven investigative regions

in the state, which can be found on the ISP website.

If you have provided personal or financial information to a caller, or think someone may have stolen your identifying information, ISP recommends contacting each of the three credit bureaus to put a free security freeze on your credit. This will prevent someone from opening credit in your name:

- <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>
- <https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html>
- <https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>

You can call the Illinois Attorney General's Identity Theft Hotline at 1-866-999-5630. You will be assigned a consumer advocate to guide you through the recovery process.

Morris Hospital offers babysitter training course

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers is offering the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course for youth age 11 and older on Friday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Morris Hospital Training Classroom at Shabbona School, 725 School St., Morris.

Participants should bring a doll to class along with an e-mail address so their certificate can be sent to them by the American Red Cross upon completion of the class. Registration is \$40 and includes lunch. Register online at www.morris-hospital.org/events. Questions can be directed to 815-705-7360.

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Exploring orbiting solar plants for clean energy use on earth

Dear EarthTalk: How feasible is creating orbiting solar plants that can beam energy down to Earth? If it's possible, when can we expect to see such tech implemented?
 -PR., via email

closer to reality as international space programs and research labs test the technology necessary to bring it to life. Traditional solar technologies convert sunlight into usable energy here on Earth. However, their use is limited to daytime hours and restricted by weather and geography. The idea of an orbiting solar plant bypasses these restrictions, allowing energy harvesting above the clouds.



There are different designs, but the principles are similar: A large satellite transforms solar power into electricity using photovoltaic cells made of material that generates voltage and electric current when exposed to light. The power is then beamed down to earth by microwaves (or lasers) to dedicated receiving stations that turn the

energy back into electricity to get fed into the local grid. Entities such as the European Space Agency (ESA), Space Solar (a startup in the UK), and the California Institute of Technology are investing working on launching this type of project. Besides the obvious benefit of having all sun, all the time, orbiting solar plants have various other benefits. There are no dangerous byproducts as there are for other energy production methods: no fly ash from coal or radioactive waste from nuclear power. The entirely renewable—it will not run out in the age of humanity—so it is harmless could help limit the impacts of climate change if adopted on a global scale. So why don't we already have these power-generating stations orbiting in space? There are still

challenges to overcome. The cost is prohibitive, the structure would need to be about 2,000 metric tons, roughly equivalent to the weight of 286 male African elephants and need to be a mile and a quarter in diameter, with a little over a half-mile-long transmitter. Another challenge is engineering, particularly the parts used for such power-beaming structures. Given the difficulty of reaching the satellites for maintenance and repairs, it is suggested that parts must withstand at least 15 years in space. Additionally, there's a need to improve the efficiency of current wireless power transmission to ensure that all the energy can be collected down to Earth. There are some significant drawbacks, too. Solar plants orbiting closer to Earth would transmit ener-

gy more easily, but light pollution would be difficult for humans and both flora and fauna to cope with. Research also suggests that exposure to artificial light at night can increase health issues in humans, including obesity, depression, diabetes and more. Whether Asimov's proposal from nearly a century ago will be implemented remains to be seen. The ESA has recently sought ideas to make it more feasible. "The potential of this concept to contribute to long-term sustainable energy is very high," says ESA Engineer Advenit Makaya. For the time being, you can invest in solar power on Earth and keep your eyes on the sky as the technology advances and costs drop. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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815-468-2015 FISHER-GENTRY EYE CARE

501 S. Locust St. (Rt. 50) • Manteno

District 209-U seeking bids for diesel fuel

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Wilmington Community Unit School District 209U, Will County, Wilmington, Illinois will receive bids for the purchase of diesel fuel for the 2024-2025 school year. Bid specifications may be obtained upon request from the Office of the Superintendent, Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209U, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL 60481 - Phone (815) 926-1751. All bids are to be received in the Office of the Superintendent at the above address on or before 2:30 PM, CDST, Tuesday, June 4, 2024 and will be opened publicly at that time. The Board of Education will make its decision on Monday, June 10, 2024, and reserves the right to waive any technicalities or irregularities and to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof.

By and for the Board of Education
 Wilmington Community Unit School District 209U
 Peggy Kunz, Secretary, Board of Education
 Published in the Free Press Advocate Wednesday, May 22 and 29, 2024.

Elwood Fire Protection District seeking bids for new doors, windows

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Elwood Fire Protection District will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase and installation of replacement windows for 6 doors and 13 fixed windows at the Elwood Fire Protection District. Bid specifications/packets must be picked up in person at the Elwood Fire Protection District 309 W. Mississippi St., Elwood, IL 60421, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-2:30 pm. A mandatory pre-construction meeting will be held on June 6, 2024, at 10:00am at the Elwood Fire Protection District (address above). Bids must be submitted by 9:00am, June 10, 2024. The bids may be mailed to: Elwood Fire Protection District 309 W. Mississippi St., Elwood, IL 60421, or dropped off in person 8:30am-2:30pm, Mon-Fri. The Fire District will not receive bids after 9:00am on June 10, 2024. All bids shall be opened at the Elwood Fire Protection District on June 10, 2024, at 1:00pm. The Fire District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Any questions should be directed to Chief Locacius at clocacius@elwoodfpd.com. Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 29 and June 5, 2024.

Sheriff's sale of 112 Wyndstone Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RICHARD WHEAT, DECEASED; KIMBERLI EVON; SCOTT WHEAT; RICHARD WHEAT JR; VILLAGE OF ELWOOD; WYNDSTONE VILLAGE TOWNHOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.; AMIR MOHABAT, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD WHEAT, DECEASED, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant.
 No. 22 FC 0483

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 12th day of October, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 13th day of June, 2024, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

THE WEST 38.12 FEET OF THE EAST 131.97 FEET OF LOT 2 IN WYNDSTONE VILLAGE TOWNHOMES UNIT 1, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 10 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 13, 1992 AS DOCUMENT NO. R92-80523, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Commonly known as: **112 WYNDSTONE DR, ELWOOD, IL 60421**

Description of Improvements: Single Family 10-11-20-308-017-0000

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

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

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

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
 120 W. MADISON STREET SUITE 718
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
 P: 312 444-1122 X102

F: _____
 Plaintiff's Attorney
 Will County
 Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 22, 29 and June 5, 2024.

Mike Kelley
 Sheriff of Will County

Wesley Township Road District to do cleanup

PUBLIC NOTICE

Wesley Township Residents and Landowners,

Wesley Township Road District will be cleaning the ditches, cutting shoulders, and reclaiming the Right of Way throughout the township. The replacement of driveway entrance culverts will be evaluated at time of ditch cleaning. If the township deems it necessary to replace the culvert it will be done at no cost to the homeowner. Culverts will not be installed on vacant residential lots. Any structures on the Right of Way must be removed. Any structures on the Right of Way at time of construction will be deemed debris and disposed of. Any mailbox post that must be removed will be reinstalled by the Road District at no cost to the landowner. During the upcoming monthly township meeting on June 11, 2024, the Road District will be presenting an ordinance to the Wesley Township Board for their approval that will prohibit constructing on, and or filling in ditches throughout the township. If you have any questions on the project or the proposed ordinance, please attend the monthly meeting on June 17, 2024, at 6:30 pm @ 21333 W Ballou Rd. Wilmington, IL. Leonard McCubbin Road Commissioner
 Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.



Bring your little princess out for
Princess Night
Friday, May 31
6:35 p.m. game time

Calling all princesses to the grandest ball in town — Princess Night at the ballpark!
 Bring the family for a fun-filled night including fireworks.

Schedule of upcoming games:

Saturday, June 1 — Pride Night, 6:05 p.m.
 Sunday, June 2 — Harry Potter Night, 1:05 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 4 — Pajama Night, 6:35 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 5 — Polish Heritage Night, 6:35 p.m.
 Thursday, June 6 — 80's Night Party, 6:35 p.m.

CALL 815-722-2287 FOR TICKETS

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815-722-2287 | WWW.JOLIETSLAMMERS.COM | 1 MAYOR ART SCHULTZ DRIVE, JOLIET, IL

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 Presents:

Longest Day
Bowling Night!
WE'RE BACK..

\$100 A TEAM
6 PLAYERS
3 HRS OF BOWLING
SHOES INCLUDED

AWESOME RAFFLES
 6 FOR \$5 OR
 WINGSPAN FOR \$20!

Annual Event to Support:
GAFA
 A Parent's Association of America

June 20, 2024 / 5-8:00 PM For Questions Call:
 402 S Water St, Wilmington, IL 815-476-2105

Step 1: Follow the QR Code to register for your lane.
 Step 2: Call Ashley at 815-476-2105 to confirm your lane!

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CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

Cost
 Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
 1 wk.- \$17; 2 wks.- \$21;
 3 wks.- \$25; 4 wks.-\$29*
 \$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
 *plus .0399% with credit card

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

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including dry-wall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc21-28

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
 815-530-0200
 - No Deposit - Starting at \$50
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

SHOP LOCAL!

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

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

Free pickup 7 days
815-210-8819

AUTOS

FOR SALE: 2022 Ford Maverick, 14,000 miles, Area 51 blue. Contact: 847-323-9048. cc22-23

GARAGE SALE

BRAIDWOOD GARAGE SALE DAYS
 Friday and Saturday, June 14th & 15th, 8AM-3PM. Maps available at the First Presbyterian Church on Main & Lincoln St. Look for the Tye Dye banners at each sale. No rain date. cc22-24

Wilmington, Pole Barn Garage Sale. 210 Stewart, Thurs., Fri. & Sat., June 6, 7, 8 from 8AM-5PM. Crafts, tools, hardware, real barn wood, beehive boxes, Wildcat stuff, crafted furniture, flag pallets, engine stand & carrier, interior doors. Lots more. ca22-23

HELP WANTED

Lifeguards needed at local sportsmen's club in Wilmington. Must be certified or able to become certified. Please send inquiries to wpsc1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. cc17-22

Looking for part time help for local cleaning service, must be able to work early mornings, no weekends, all holidays off, background check, call 815-458-0883. cc21-22

The Wilmington VFW at 557 W. Baltimore St is hiring a full-time cook. Must have manager's certification or take class to get one. Hours noon to 8pm Tues. through Sat. Stop in for application at the bar. ch21-24.

HELP WANTED

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a full-time office employee. Must have experience with Microsoft Office, POS systems, and phone etiquette. Please send inquiries to wpsc1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. cc17-22

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a reliable Maintenance Worker. Must be able to operate the Skidsteer, Backhoe and other equipment. Please call the office at 815-476-6561 or email: wpsc1946@gmail.com cc17-22

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

HPZ Pet Rover Run performance stroller for dog. Made in USA with heavy-duty tubing. Holds up to 50 lbs. Life-time warranty. Retails for \$363. Asking \$100. Call Eric 815-922-7966.

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DOGS PETS LIVESTOCK

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal healthcare products for cats, dogs, & horses. At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com).

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 112 WYNDSTONE DR, ELWOOD, IL 60421 (Single Family). On the 13th day of June, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff V. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RICHARD WHEET, DECEASED; KIMBERLI EVON; SCOTT WHEET; RICHARD WHEET JR; VILLAGE OF ELWOOD; WYNDSTONE VILLAGE TOWNHOMES ASSOCIATION, INC.; AMIR MOHABBAT, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF RICHARD WHEET, DECEASED, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;** Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 0483 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time

REAL ESTATE

of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION** 120 W. MADISON STREET SUITE 718 CHICAGO, IL 60602 P: 312 444-1122 X102 F: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., May 22, 29 and June 5, 2024.

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 385 N. Second Ave. Coal City
Mandy Eaton
 815-791-2913

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BOAT FOR SALE

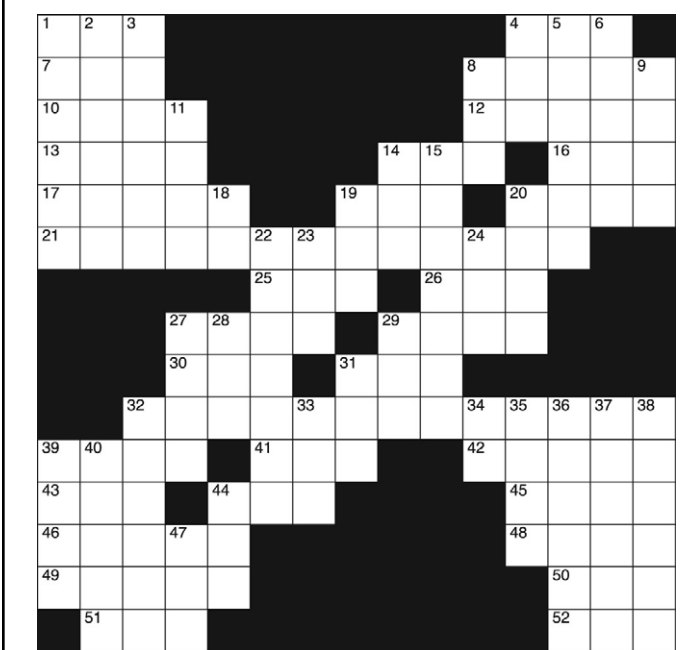


NEW OUTBOARD MOTOR - Lowe 2002 14 feet Jon fishing boat with 2023 9.9 Mercury electric start motor. No trailer. Selling because we bought a pontoon for grandkids. \$1,500. (Motor worth that alone). Call 815-735-4384.

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 815-634-0315 or 815-476-7966. tfn/45a

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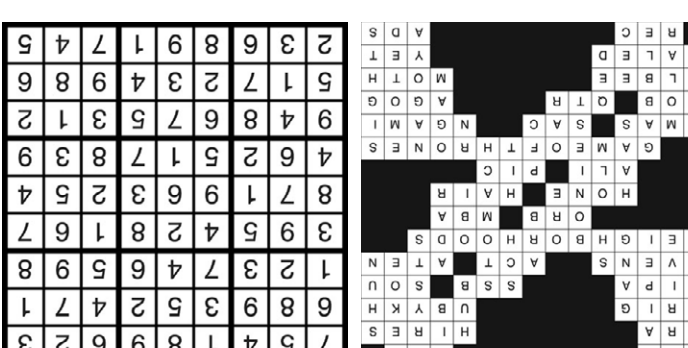


CLUES ACROSS

- Fashion accessory
- Engine additive
- Small, faint constellation
- Gives a job
- Self-righteous person
- Caucasian language
- Surinam toad
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Former French coin
- Levels the score
- What stage performers do
- Egyptian Sun god
- Localities
- Spherical body
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Perfect
- It's on many people's heads
- Boxing's GOAT
- Photo
- Popular HBO show
- Popular music awards show
- Pouch
- Lake in Botswana
- Unruly group
- One-fourth
- Very eager
- Edward __, author and writer
- Flying insect
- Dragged forcibly
- Thus far
- Not just "play"
- Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- Occur
- Show up
- Capital of Taiwan
- Brother or sister
- Secret get-togethers
- Type of tea
- Where the action is
- Cast out
- Crime group
- Type of vessel (abbr.)
- Accept and handle
- Sacrifice hit
- One who buys and sells securities simultaneously
- Month
- Most thin
- Naturally occurring material
- Luke's mentor __-Wan
- Postmodernist Austrian "House"
- Aquatic salamander
- Baseball stat
- Beginning military rank
- Talk rapidly and unintelligibly
- Paddle
- Caregiver (abbr.)
- Old Irish alphabet
- Japanese city
- In a way, acted
- Things to see
- Nursemaid
- Type of tooth
- To be demonstrated
- Defunct European group



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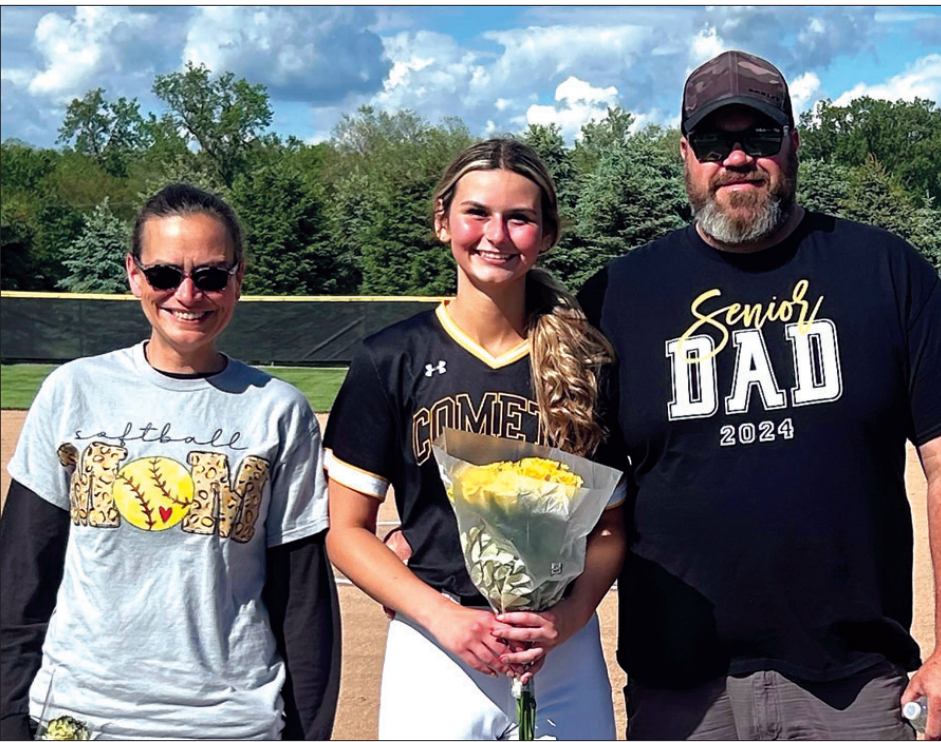
Courtesy photo

RCHS SOFTBALL SENIOR Mya Beard is escorted by her parents Jason and Kristie Beard. Although undecided about the college she is going to attend, Mya plans on working towards becoming a trauma nurse in the medical field. Mya will miss the fun memories and all of the friendships she has made over the years playing softball.



Courtesy photo

RCHS SOFTBALL SENIOR Grace Cavanaugh is escorted by her parents Frank and Nichole Cavanaugh. In the fall, Grace will head out to McKendree University to continue her academic education as well as her softball career. One of her favorite memories was the trip to Ottawa where she got to ride in the SUV with Coach Zoltani and Coach Reents. Grace would also like to add that she will miss her coaches who have supported her the entire way and have always been her #1 fans.



Courtesy photo

RCHS SOFTBALL SENIOR Madison Keenan is escorted by her mother and step-father, Angie and Brian Beasley. In the fall, Madison plans on attending college and working towards a career as a pediatric surgeon. She would like to add that it was an amazing experience to get to play besides some of the same girls since she was 5 years old.



Courtesy photo

RCHS SOFTBALL SENIOR Jessica Janopoulos is escorted by her parents John and Jennifer Janopoulos. After graduation, Jessica plans on joining the Culinary Institute of America and major in baking and pastry. She also plans on getting her Bachelors in Business Management so she can one day open her own bakery. One of Jessica's favorite memories was the game against Pontiac where she hit her first home run.



Courtesy photo

RCHS BASEBALL SENIOR Joe Stellano is escorted by his parents Brian and Holly Stellano. After graduation, Joe plans on attending Lincoln Land College in Springfield, IL so he can continue his education as well as his athletic career. Joe's favorite memory playing for RCHS Baseball was having the opportunity to play an entire season with his older brother. Joe would like to add that he has appreciated all of his coaches over the last four years of being on the RCHS Baseball team.



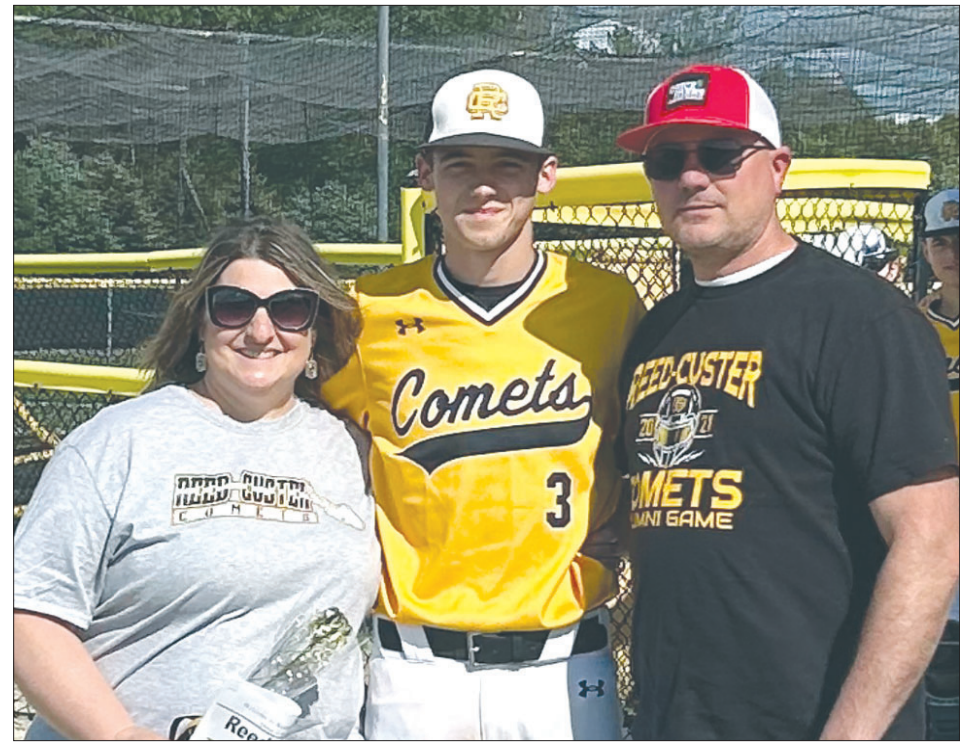
Courtesy photo

RCHS BASEBALL SENIOR Landon Jankus is escorted by his parents Steve and Marysa Jankus. After graduation, Landon plans on attending Olivet Nazarene University and work towards a degree in sports management. One of Landon's favorite memories is being part of a team that were regional champs. He will definitely miss the memories and the laughing with his teammates and coaches.



Courtesy photo

RCHS BASEBALL SENIOR Cameron Smith is escorted by his parents Chris and Julie Smith. After graduation, Cameron plans on continuing his education and attending Joliet Junior College. One of his favorite memories was winning a regional championship during his junior year. Cameron will miss catching for RCHS Baseball and being a part of the team.



Courtesy photo

RCHS BASEBALL SENIOR Ben Lepper is escorted by his parents David and Jen Lepper. In the fall, Ben will start working towards a business degree at Joliet Junior College and then transfer to a 4-year university. His favorite memory was when Ethan hit one of the coaches in the back while warming up in the bullpen. Ben will miss spending time with his best friends and playing a sport he loves.