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Hart sworn in as Mayor of Braidwood

Altiery returns as city administrator

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

Following the sudden resignation of Mayor Chris Earley just three weeks into his term, the Braidwood City Council has a new look, with a new mayor, finance commissioner, and several appointments approved.

On May 23, Karen Hart was sworn in as Mayor. Hart, who was elected as Finance Commissioner in April, was elevated to the role of mayor per the regulations of state code on how a Commission Form of Government operates.

Hart appointed Doug Money, as finance commissioner, a seat he held for the past several years under the administration of Mayor Bob Jones. Money lost the mayoral election to Earley on April 4.

In addition, the council formally appointed Todd Lyons as Chief of Police and Bryan Wellner as City Attorney, both of whom served in those capacities under the last administration.

But it was the appointment of city administrator Tony Altiery that brought residents to the council chamber for public comment, with a handful of public comments both objecting to and in favor of Altiery returning to the role that he held under Jones.

"I trust [the council] to make the

right decisions because you've had the luxury of working with this man for years," resident Greg Cholek said. "And, if you don't think he can do the job, then I trust you to vote no. But, if you've worked with him for years and you think he is doing a good job and has learned and is getting better and better like most people do when they're in a job, then I trust you to vote yes, because that's the right thing to do."

But not everyone agreed. "Yes, we can trust you to know Tony, but, more than half the voters, the commissioners we voted for you," said Sylvia Lamping. "But you'll notice that Doug [Money] is not up there [as mayor]. I believe that the votes were not against Doug, but we

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

TAKING THE OATH — Braidwood Mayor Karen Hart is sworn in by Judge John Anderson during the regular meeting of the City Council on May 23.

Thank you to those who served



Photos by Marney Simon

AMERICAN LEGION KOCA Post 39 Commander Jim Chappell and Illinois Dist. 79 State Rep. Jackie Haas place a wreath at the Reed Township Veterans Memorial during the annual Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 29



REED-CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL rising junior Emma O'Neill plays Taps during Monday's Memorial Day ceremony.



THE VETERANS DISPLAY at the Depot Museum was also on display for the public following Monday's ceremony.



City leaders promise order, transparency

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

With a new City Council in place, some residents said what they want the most from the city's leaders is transparency.

After several residents voiced their thoughts on open government, newly re-appointed city attorney Bryan Wellner gave an overview on how the city handles agendas, paperwork, and accessibility to the public.

In particular, Wellner addressed how the city prepares an agenda for a public meeting, and the procedures for running each meeting from start to finish.

The city follows Roberts Rules as Order, which outline the parliamentary procedures for public meetings, including how motions are made and passed.

The Illinois Open

SEE OPEN, PAGE 2

Meetings Act sets the legal rules for how a meeting is held, including posting the agenda at least 48 hours prior to a public meeting agenda. The act specifies what items are legally required to be discussed in open session, and what is allowable for closed session.

"Your suggestions are great, we take them and we incorporate them," Wellner said. "I will tell you, I created this agenda tonight. I created it with way more information than is required by the law. Roberts Rules of Order does not pertain to this agenda whatsoever. Roberts Rules of Order pertains to how business is conducted at a meeting. It's very specific to the meeting and how it's run, that's what requires a motion and a second and a discussion if needed and so on. Nobody follows it verbatim, and if you've

Local agencies awarded pandemic funds

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

Several agencies in Wilmington and Braidwood will benefit from Will County's latest allocation of American Rescue Plan funds.

The latest allotments were approved by the Will County Board on May 18, and include a combined \$43 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars for infrastructure updates, payroll assistance, and health and well being programs.

Of those funds, \$15.9 million were reserved for infrastructure improvements in 37 agencies in Will County, including municipalities, townships, water districts, fire districts, and a museum.

One of the big winners is the city of Wilmington, which is set to take away \$500,000 in

funding earmarked for removal of the hydraulic roller and installation of a rock ramp to decrease turbidity to address life and safety at the dam on the Kankakee River.

City leaders said that the project is currently in the preliminary stages, so details are limited.

However, based on a 2017 study conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) that compared the costs of changes at the dam, those funds, while helpful, will only extend so far.

Options for modification of the dam would cost the city

SEE FUNDS, PAGE 2



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Council

knew that the votes for Doug would be a vote for Tony. And, more than half of the voters voted against Tony. So, yes, we might trust you, we don't know. But, I think that we should have provided that same trust to Mayor Earley, because that's who we voted for."

Members of the council, however, said that they were pleased with Altiery's performance as administrator under Jones, and wanted to keep that continuity going.

"I have had experience working with Tony for well over a year now," said Commissioner Warren Wietting. "I've watched his accomplishments, I've watched him gain tremendous ground in development in millions and millions of dollars. He has worked diligently, after 40 hours he has given much of his free time around city events and he's done a very good job."

In addition to the appointment, the council also approved a benefits package for Altiery. The benefits include salary of \$115,000 annually, 35 vacation days, 72 hours of sick time, and a vehicle for use for city business only. Altiery will be considered a full-time employee with Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund benefits, and will be subject to an annual raise each fiscal year. Altiery may also opt for health insurance coverage.

The council approved both the appointment and the benefits package unanimously.

"He's still way underpaid compared to all of the other municipalities in the area. I think it's a fair package compared to what other administrators in the area are making," Wietting said.

Commissioner Dale Walsh also explained his reasoning behind appointing Altiery as Supervisor of Public Works, an appointment that was approved earlier in the month, with then-Mayor Earley abstaining.

"My reasons for nominating Tony Altiery two weeks ago, I don't know Tony Altiery very well. I've lived here 23 years, I know of him, I know that he's very involved in the community," Walsh said. "Am I



DOUG MONEY RETURNS TO the position of Finance Commissioner after being sworn in by Judge Anderson.

friends with Tony Altiery? No. To dispel any ideas, we don't go out and socialize together. But after speaking with him, I found out that this man has an exceptional work ethic, and that is important. Whenever anybody complains or has negative comments, it's usually I don't like him... they don't concentrate on the good things he's done for this city.

"But just speaking to him the few times that we have, I have asked Tony and I'll ask you folks, would you like to have a town hall meeting with the administrator and have Tony up here, and he said any time," Walsh continued. "So, I think it's a good idea, let me know, we'll get it together and just have a town hall. And Tony will tell you the things that he's told me in the past. What he does. It's all up here. If we hire a new administrator it would take them years to figure out what they have to do with this city, I think. I've talked to other elected officials and the president of the school board, he said it took him into his second term before he was even getting comfortable with his job. So, I felt that it was vitally important to keep some consistency in our government, something that is sorely lacking in Braidwood. I've been here 23 years, I've been silent, and I'm not going to be silent anymore. Also, I don't have to like who is in office. I would rather have somebody I don't like who gets things accomplished than someone I really like but is an empty suit. That's how I



TODD LYONS WAS OFFICIALLY reappointed as Chief of Police.

feel about government and elected officials."

Walsh said that Scott Howard has now been appointed as foreman of the streets department.

"It's something that is long overdue," Walsh said. "He got the shaft when the current foreman was put in there. He has more experience and seniority, it's a union, seniority. Scott Howard is the foreman of the streets."

Meanwhile, attorney Wellner said the new council is set to move ahead with plans for progress in Braidwood.

"Thank you for having me back. I've enjoyed working with the city for the past four years and we've gotten a lot done. I really look forward to the next four years and I really think that we're going to get a

lot more done in these four years. I think we have a great team up there, I think we have a lot of institutional knowledge that's been in place for the past four years," Wellner said. "The biggest thing that I see stifle municipalities is turnover. That's administrative and with the elected positions, when you have new people in the administration, nobody knows how to pick up the pieces that were left behind and no one knows how to continue that development that was started. No one knows how to take those leads on development and carry them over the finish line. We have that now, so the city of Braidwood is really going to prosper with all that institutional knowledge going forward, and I'm really looking forward to being a part of it."

Open

ever read it, it's hardly even English. It was written a long, long time ago. The city does follow it for the most part, nobody follows it perfectly because things come up, the order of business will change and so on."

Robert's Rules of Order were created to establish parliamentary procedure in 1876 by U.S. Army Major Henry Robert. The rules are utilized not just by governing bodies, but also by corporations and organizations. For example, the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition, which is a non-profit organization, also runs meetings utilizing Robert's Rules of Order.

Wellner said it's the Open Meetings Act that map out transparency.

Per the act, the agenda

must "set forth the general subject matter of any resolution or ordinance that will be the subject of final action" at a meeting.

"What needs to go on it, is for us to take final action [the agenda] needs to provide the public with the subject matter that you'll be voting on," Wellner said. "So, for instance, for appointment of mayor, all it needs to say is appointment of mayor. It doesn't need to say approval of the appointment, it doesn't need to say Karen Hart or anything else. But, we have had concerns and questions about transparency and what's going to happen at those meetings. So, to make it a little bit easier, I incorporated a lot more information in there.

But, I would encourage you, we can't put every single thing on this agenda, because that's what the resolutions and the motions and everything sort of behind that agenda will incorporate," Wellner contin-

ued. "Those documents exist, I promise you, if you have questions, call the city. If you want copies of them, you'll get them. You don't even need to submit FOIAs, if you want to see a resolution that's going to be on the agenda for a meeting, I guarantee we have copies and someone will provide them to you. So, ask the questions before you criticize. The city is more than welcome to give you the information, I am more than welcome to give you the information, we want you guys to understand what action is going to be taken."

The Illinois Open Meetings Act was created as public policy of the state, noting that "public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business and that the people have a right to be informed as to the conduct of their business." The act is intended to "ensure that the actions of public bodies be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly."

Wellner also encouraged residents to keep showing up, and keep making those questions and comments that hold city leaders accountable.

"I'm excited that all of you guys are here," he said. "Civic engagement is exactly what we need. When you come to these meetings on a regular basis, we have a good group but I'd say it's probably 10 or 15, the same 10 or 15 people every time and we don't get a lot of feedback at these meetings. So, I welcome everyone here and I hope to see everyone at a lot more meetings going forward."

The full text of the Illinois Open Meetings Act can be found in the state's list of compiled statutes online at www.ilga.gov, under 5/ILCS 120/Open Meetings Act.

City Administrator Tony Altiery noted after the meeting that the city is working to update its website, in an effort to provide more paperwork online similar to what is done in Wilmington and Coal City, where agendas, minutes, ordinances, resolutions, and related documents are posted on the municipal websites.

The next regular meeting of the City Council is June 13. In other business before the full City Council on May

23:

- Mayor Karen Hart said the city is still looking to fill some empty positions at City Hall.

"As you can see, we're without a city clerk. We are going to be posting for a city clerk, it will be a part time position," Hart said. "We are also looking for a person to help us out with our web page and media, and if you know anybody or you are somebody like... please get in touch with us."

- Public Health and Safety Commissioner James Mikel said that from April 24 through May 7, the Braidwood Police Department responded to 184 calls for service, which included a total of five arrests made.

- Mikel also announced that the police department will be hiring a full time officer, to replace a departing officer from the department. The officer will be hired based on the recommendation of the police and fire board, which met on Wednesday, May 24.

- The council approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$98,814.

- The council approved the payroll in the amount of \$83,007.

Funds

between \$3 million to \$4 million to complete, per that analysis, which is already six years old.

City leaders noted that now that the funds have been allocated, discussions will be slated for a future meeting.

ARPA allocations for infrastructure improvements were capped at \$500,000, meaning Wilmington will receive the highest amount available for this type of project.

Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant said the funding is "an investment into the health and well-being of our communities" and will "play a critical role in elevating services and supporting our community's infrastructure needs."

Will County has received \$134.1 million in ARPA funding from the federal government as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The county allocated funds based on the "pillars" of Health, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Local Government Unmet Needs, and Revenue Replacement.

Of the totality of the funds, \$43 million dollars was made available for county-wide entities to apply for funds to support programs supporting Economic Development, Health, and Infrastructure.

"The money distributed through the Infrastructure pillar will allow many communities within Will County to have quality water and sewer for many years to come," said Will County Board Republican Leader Steve Balich.

The ARPA fund allocations extended to several agencies locally. Included on the list are:

Fire Protection Districts

Four local fire protection districts were awarded funds for payroll reimbursement. Those funds are intended for public sector capacity to restore and bolster government's ability to deliver critical services for Public Safety, Public Health, and Human Services Staff.

- Awards include:
 - Braidwood Fire Protection District - \$76,245
 - Custer Fire Protection District - \$66,232
 - Wilmington Fire Protection District - \$80,229
 - Elwood Fire Protection District - \$70,477

Park Districts

Braidwood Park District was allocated \$38,388 for infrastructure upgrades, including a new HVAC system.

Wilmington Park District was awarded

\$34,152 for ADA infrastructure upgrades, including installation for an accessible bathroom, and an ADA asphalt walkway.

Godley Park District was awarded \$25,000 for infrastructure upgrades to include a HVAC work.

The village of Elwood was approved for \$25,000 for new construction of a multi-use learning center/children's garden project.

Libraries

Fossil Ridge Public Library District was awarded \$20,000 for systems upgrades, to include remote locker pickup.

Wilmington Public Library District was awarded \$20,000 for facility improvements and infrastructure work, including the addition of an outdoor story walk, hand dryers, fountain installation costs.

Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District was awarded \$30,000 for systems upgrades for a new smart locker system.

Infrastructure

Godley Public Water District was awarded \$500,000 to replace aging equipment to sustain the public water system's operations.

Townships

Reed Township was awarded \$68,542 for infrastructure and technological upgrades, which will include HVAC improvement and an update to the township website.

Wilmington Township was allocated \$56,477 for technological upgrades and infrastructure upgrades, which will include computers, office equipment, parking lot grade and drain repair, office expansion and improvement

Wesley Township was approved for \$59,399 for stormwater management by way of road ditching.

Health Services

515 Fitness of Coal City was allocated \$100,500 for behavioral health programs, which will be put toward new space, support staff, and behavioral health services support.

The Northern Illinois Food Bank was also allotted \$1.5 million for food stabilization programs, to assist in purchasing of food that will be available to all partner agencies including Kuzma Care Cottage in Wilmington and Community Cares Food Pantry in Braidwood.

Funds were also awarded to non-profit organizations and small businesses impacted by the pandemic.

An online dashboard has been launched to allow the public to view the full listing of allocations and to learn how to access services expanded by ARPA funding. The dashboard is available online at www.willcounty-illinois.org/dashboard.

Honoring Memorial Day



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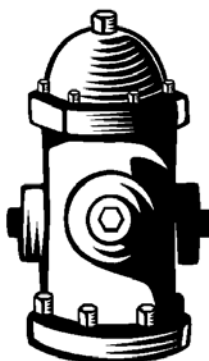
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The City of Braidwood will be **FLUSHING HYDRANTS** **Wednesday, May 17 thru Friday, June 2.**

We will be flushing the hydrants from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day.

We recommend that our customers avoid washing light-colored loads of laundry on these days because of possible staining of clothing.



For more information call **815-458-2333**



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Display Advertising: Friday, noon
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs

June 1-Well Read Book Club, 6-7 p.m. The Well-Read book club meets on the first Thursday of each month to discuss memoirs, biographies, true crime, or a book selected by one of the members.

June 6 and 13-AARP Safe Driving Course, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The course is \$20 for AARP members (with ID card); \$25 for non-members. No charge for members insured by Hartford Insurance. Make checks payable to AARP. Payment is required first day of class. There will be no discounts for only attending one day. This 2 day program is for individuals 60+ to teach them safe driving techniques.

Teen Programs

June 8-Teen Advisory Board, 4-5 p.m. Registration required. Teenagers attending this program will gain volunteer/community hours, design and lead library programs, and advise on library projects and collections.

Child Programs

June 5-T-Rexplorers Program, 5-7 p.m. Come out and see authentic dinosaur

fossils, hear stories from our digs and see some of T-Rexplorers latest finds.

June 6-Tween First Aid and Babysitting Class, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. This course is designed to present beginning babysitters with advice and tips for caring for children, as well as offers some skills in good planning that every babysitter should have

June 7 and 21-Barbie Club, 10:30-11:30 p.m. We provide the dolls, accessories and playsets - just bring your imagination. Caregiver must attend with their child.

Toddler Time-Every Thursday of June, 10-11 a.m. Bring your toddlers and explore with various toys and sensory materials each week. They'll improve their gross and fine motor skills, as well as their social interaction and language skills.

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

Five straight years of perfect attendance



RCMS Zoey Miller graduated eighth grade with perfect attendance in grades 4-8 (5 straight years).

Kathy C. Davis petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name of KATHY C. DAVIS to the new name of KING INFINITY DAVIS, Case No. 23MR6

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Kathy C. Davis adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 705 at 9:00 a.m. on the 17th day of July, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of KATHY C. DAVIS be changed to KING INFINITY DAVIS.

/s/ Kathy C. Davis
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, May 31, June 7 and 14, 2023.

Vendors needed

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood still has vendor spots available for June 9 and 10. It is the annual all town garage sale days and the Church lawn is the perfect location to sell your items.

The cost is \$10 a day. Please call Lori at 815-458-2495 If you have any questions or are interested in signing up.

Reed Township taking bids for West Bergera Road property

PUBLIC NOTICE

REED TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF SALE OF TOWNSHIP REAL PROPERTY

In accordance with 60 ILCS 1/30-50(d) of the Illinois Township Code, notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern:

On August 16, 2022, the electors of Reed Township, at a special town meeting, adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of Township-owned real property commonly known as Vacant Lot 14 on W Bergera Road, Braidwood Illinois 60408 (PIN 02-24-07-200-029-0000).

The property is currently zoned for Residential use and is vacant. The approximate size of the property is 132 X 297.33 or approximately 39,394 Sq Ft. Interested parties must submit sealed bids in the office of the Township Clerk, 440 North Division Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408 on or before 5:00 p.m. Monday June 26, 2023. Bids will be read at the June 28, 2023 meeting of the Township Board. The Township Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The sale shall be a cash sale. The property is being sold as is. Closing costs, Title Insurance and Survey to be paid by the buyer.

The following is the resolution adopted by the electors on August 16, 2022:

Legal Description of the Property

LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL COS SUB, IN THE E1/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E.

RESOLUTION NO. 08162022 A RESOLUTION OF THE REED TOWNSHIP ELECTORS AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN TOWNSHIP REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL CO'S SUB, IN THE E1/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E

WHEREAS, Reed Township is a unit of local government operating under the laws of the State of Illinois ("Township"); and

WHEREAS, Section 30-50(a) of the Illinois Township code, 60 LCS 1/30-50(a), authorizes the electors of the Township to make all orders of the sale of the Township's corporate property, including real property, that may be deemed conducive to the interests of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Section 30-20 of the Illinois Township code, 60 ILCS 1/30-20, delineates that such power of the electors so designated in Article 30 of the Illinois Township Code is applicable at Special Township Meetings of Electors and

WHEREAS, Section 1/30-50(d) of the Illinois Township code, 60 LCS 1/30-50(d), requires the electors of the Township to adopt a resolution stating the intent to sell real property; and

WHEREAS, the Township is interested in selling a portion of the Township property known as Vacant Lot 14 on W Bergera Road, Braidwood Illinois 60408 (PIN 0224-07-200-029-0000), as more fully legally described in the Exhibit A ("Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Township, by its electors, finds that it is in the best interests of Reed Township to sell and convey the Property to and interested party for the property's appraised value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the electors of Reed Township, Will County, Illinois, at the Special Township Meeting held on August 16, 2022, as follows:

Section 1. The Reed Township Property legally described on Exhibit A is hereby authorized to be sold and conveyed by the Township Board to any for the sum determined to be appropriate by the Township Board in accordance with law consistent with the fair market value of the Property and authorize the sale of the Property by the Township Board for such amount.

Section 2. Upon formal adoption and execution of this Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Township Real Property, the Electors of the Township hereby authorize and direct the sale of said real property by the Township Board pursuant to any and all requirements set forth in the Illinois Township Code.

Section 3. The Reed Township Supervisor, Clerk, Board and Attorney are hereby directed and empowered to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the sales of the Property pursuant to the terms described above.

Section 4. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid, the validity thereof shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Resolution.

Section 5. All resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from after its passage and approval as provided by law.

ADOPTED by a vote of to by the electors of Reed Township on August 16, 2022.
APPROVED This 16th day of August, 2022.

REED TOWNSHIP
Sherrill Knor
Township Supervisor

ATTEST: Angela Hutton
Township Clerk

Exhibit A

Legal Description of the Property

LOT 14 IN BLK 20 IN CHICAGO WILMINGTON COAL CO'S SUB, IN THE E1/2 OF THE NE1/4 OF SEC 7, T32N-R9E.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, May 31, June 7, 14 and 21, 2023.

City of Braidwood issues 2022 drinking water report

Public Notice

Consumer Confidence Report

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

BRAIDWOOD
IL1970150

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The source of drinking water used by BRAIDWOOD is Ground Water

For more information regarding this report contact:

Name **Gary Phebus**
Phone **815-458-2333**

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Source Water Information

Source Water Name	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
WELL 1 (20359)	GW	Active	REAR OF VILLAGE HALL
WELL 2 (20360)	GW	Active	NORTH OF MAIN 8TH CENTER A LOW
WELL 3 (20361)	GW	Active	703 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
WELL 4 (00766)	GW	Active	APPROX. 1000 FT NORTH OF WELL 3
WELL 5 (00767)	GW	Active	SE CORNER OF SCHOOL A 3RD STRT.

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at **815-458-2333**. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Source of Water: BRAIDWOOD Based on information obtained in a Well Site Survey published in 1987 by the Illinois EPA, three potential sources or possible problem sites were identified within the survey area of Braidwood's wells. Furthermore, information provided by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank and Remedial Project Management Sections of the Illinois EPA indicated several additional sites with ongoing recommendations which may be of concern. Based on information received by the water operator, the following site status had changed, the City of Braidwood, below ground fuel storage has been removed. The Illinois EPA has determined that the Braidwood wells source water is not susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including; monitoring conducted at the wells; monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system; and the available hydrogeological data on the well.

2022 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper

Definitions:
Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08/10/2020	1.3	1.3	0.11	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	08/10/2020	0	15	2.1	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results

Definition:	The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.
Avg:	Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Level 1 Assessment:	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Level 2 Assessment:	A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:	The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Water Quality Test Results

na:	not applicable.
mmrem:	millirem per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppb:	micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm:	milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
Treatment Technique or TT:	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Regulated Contaminants	
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	
Chlorine	Collection Date: 12/31/2022, Highest Level Detected: 0.8, Range of Levels Detected: 0.6 - 1, MCLG: MRDLG = 4, MCL: MRDL = 4, Units: ppm, Violation: N, Likely Source of Contamination: Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2022, 1, 0.886 - 0.886, No goal for the total, 60, ppb, N, By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2022, 5, 5.33 - 5.33, No goal for the total, 80, ppb, N, By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Inorganic Contaminants	
Arsenic	Collection Date: 03/16/2021, Highest Level Detected: 2.45, Range of Levels Detected: 2.45 - 2.45, MCLG: 0, MCL: 10, Units: ppb, Violation: N, Likely Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Chromium	03/16/2021, 5.37, 5.37 - 5.37, 100, 100, ppb, N, Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	03/16/2021, 0.98, 0.98 - 0.98, 4, 4.0, ppm, N, Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]	2022, 1, 0.64 - 0.64, 10, 10, ppm, N, Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	03/16/2021, 9.15, 9.15 - 9.15, 50, 50, ppb, N, Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Sodium	03/16/2021, 364, 364 - 364, ppm, N, Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
Radioactive Contaminants	
Combined Radium 226/228	2022, 2, 2.4 - 2.4, 0, 5, pCi/L, N, Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	2022, 608, 6.4 - 6.4, 0, 15, pCi/L, N, Erosion of natural deposits.

Violations Table

Consumer Confidence Rule			
The Consumer Confidence Rule requires community water systems to prepare and provide to their customers annual consumer confidence reports on the quality of water delivered by the systems.			
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
CCR ADEQUACY/AVAILABILITY/CONTENT	07/01/2022	2022	We failed to provide to you, our drinking water customers, an annual report that adequately informed you about the quality of our drinking water and the risks from exposure to contaminants detected in our drinking water. Corrective Action: The Radium results were cut off in the newspaper last year. Sizing of content was missed by editor and Operator.
Diquat			Some people who drink water containing diquat in excess of the MCL over many years could get cataracts.
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2020	12/31/2022	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. Corrective Action: This sample of SOC analytic was missed by the lab. Resulting in a violation. The corrected action we had to do, was too take double samples this year.
Endothall			Some people who drink water containing endothall in excess of the MCL over many years could experience problems with their stomach or intestines.
Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR	01/01/2020	12/31/2022	We failed to test our drinking water for the contaminant and period indicated. Because of this failure, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during the period indicated. Corrective Action: This sample of SOC analytic was missed by the lab. Resulting in a violation. The corrected action we had to do, was too take double samples this year.

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

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A joyful story

WILMINGTON—This is in response to a article from last week's Sound off "better news". What kind of miserable life must someone be living to complain about an article that honored the Braidwood paramedics who went above and beyond and brought a healthy baby into this world. If you don't like it read the Chicago Tribune, it's usually about people being shot at and killed. That sounds more your style. Get a life.

Move forward

BRAIDWOOD—To the small pool of people who have been complaining about the Braidwood election. Mr. Earley resigned for whatever his reasons were. He has not been in office for a month yet. If he can't take a few no's as his children are saying he shouldn't be mayor but whatever his reasons they are his. Ms Hart won her election by a large majority of votes. There is no conspiracy. She is being moved up to mayor because Earley resigned. That is all there is to it. If you want to blame someone it is on him. If you did not vote or you don't live here, keep your opinion to yourself. Quit the rumors you start when nothing has happened. The same select few have done nothing but bully the last council and are continuing the trend. Votes for every single person on our city council prove no one wanted any of you in any office here. Our city is in great shape now. Good luck to this city council and new mayor. Glad to see Braidwood will keep moving forward.

Miss the B&G

COAL CITY—Why does Subway no longer sell biscuits and gravy. I go there to buy some and they say they stopped. For the love of god why?

Move out

BRAIDWOOD— This is to the individual that repeatedly whines and complains on the Braidwood politics and news, the City of Braidwood, and Braidwood and surrounding areas Facebook page about not only the city elected officials, but any elected officials of any organization such as the Reed-Custer School board. If you dislike everything so much run for an office, or move back to Braceville and leave our town alone, it's that simple.

Just the opposite

BRAIDWOOD— There are two Braidwood residents on Facebook who are just plain downright ignorant, rude and demeaning. When others voice their opinions on the various local groups, these two residents go on the attack by belittling, degrading and cutting down others. However, when they post their opinions and others do unto them as they have done unto others, they play the victim card. These two residents are an embarrassment to our town and our citizens. They believe they are doing justice for those in political positions whom they support but in actuality, they are doing just the opposite. Obviously no names have been mentioned, but as the saying goes, if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it should be pretty obvious to them.

Riding in fear

DIAMOND— Village of Diamond, today, Sunday 5-21-23 a young man with special needs was knocked off his bicycle by three young motorcyclists plus leaving him not knowing if he was hurt and his bike broken. You put this dangerous path in with no foresight so now you should be responsible. There are fewer walking it since all of the motorized vehicles have taken over out of fear of being hit. But obviously you don't care. I don't have a solution, maybe cement barriers. Maybe just close it? Maybe dissolve Diamond and become Coal City? We use their schools, library and fire dept. and zip code. Tired of sitting in fear that someone will be seriously hurt. If you can't control this maybe it's time to move on. A concerned citizen.

Lost an honest man

BRAIDWOOD—I've lived in Braidwood long enough to become disgusted with the elected officials. Mr. Alieri was in my neighborhood trying to convince everyone they should vote for his five puppets. Those of you who fell for his lies and voted for the four that won should be ashamed of yourselves. They refused to work with Mayor Earley. He is a great man. I met him and have talked to people who know him. Now that he is gone our town has lost honesty plus integrity. I say the real disap-

pointments are the ones who continue to be puppets and are blind despite the obvious.

Target on Target

DIAMOND—FYI - Target stores have embraced a trans gender line in their children's department. I'm sure most parents need this new information. Budweiser is losing money hand over fist since using a transgender in their TV ads . Each of us has purchase power whether we be left or right, just use it. Sharon

From what I've heard

BRAIDWOOD— I would just like to say that I have never heard of so much corruption coming out of Braidwood since the Al Capone days. I truly hope that this group of commissioners don't break so many laws that it ends up costing the tax payers tons of legal fees. I have never seen so much bullying and threats and just carrying on to get their way. It's like the tax payers don't even matter. I don't know what kind of personal gain they've got going on but all I can say is Al Capone would be proud.

Credit is due

WILMINGTON— Hey Margo, you forgot to thank President Biden for lowering prices after all you blamed him when prices went up. So give credit where credit is due. Your pal, Penny Lane.

Letting computers rule

COAL CITY—There was an article in the Sound Off column that the telecommunications industry is going to replace home land-line telephone service with computer telephone operations. Which does not even tell the story of how bad it will be for every American when the computers can be manipulated to listen to telephone calls of any individual. What I was wondering if anyone really thinks the public servants or the board of directors at the communication industry really care about anything but money when they have destroyed the life of one of their own employees. There have been illegal activities committed against that employee for years which has been documented. While public servants cater to their whim because of money. These people do not care about any Americans and will do anything to monitor their lives. According to the public servants and other industries they want the computers to run everything because they don't have to be paid any money which means more for their pockets and the American citizens can starve and live in the streets and if any work is needed they will hire people from foreign lands. Who runs the FCC and how much money are they paid to destroy the lives of the American citizens.

Slogan proves untrue

WILMINGTON—The Right like to say the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. This is the one year anniversary of the Uvalde school shooting. As I recall there was a lot of good guys with guns but they were too afraid to go in and stop the bad guy with a gun. So maybe they can come up with a new meaningless slogan.

What boys do

WILMINGTON—I noticed that Sharon ignored the question about trans boys in boys sports in boys locker rooms. Maybe that is because we know what would happen. That trans boy would be beaten and raped because that's what boys do. If you think that is an exaggeration think back a few years when male playing field athletes were hazing other males by sexually assaulting them under the banner of team building and the excuse that boys will be boys.

Fact checked

SHADOW LAKES—To the person that said as a disabled vet that veterans benefits would be cut by the GOP, I, as a veteran using health care looked in to this. Fact check said no known truth to this. Thank you for your service. Eddie

No respect

WILMINGTON—There's no respect in Saint Rose operated Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington. A cemetery should be a special and unique place. When operating a cemetery, there are some basic rules that should be followed in respect to the visiting families as well as the departed who have been laid to rest. Our mother was buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in December 1994. At that time, the cemetery was kept up fairly well. Today, the cemetery is a disgrace. The lawn is rarely mowed and when they finally do mow, they leave grass clippings cov-



ering all the gravesites. The statue of the Virgin Mary as you enter has weeds and small trees growing up all around it. The fence that is on Kahler Road is barely standing and has been in need of tearing down for years. In speaking with other families while at the cemetery, there are many that have complained in the past and feel the same sadness and discontent as we do. As of current, there are multiple trees and tree branches that have fallen down and are laying over gravesites. Our family has been planting flowers and displaying appropriate small grave ornaments for the past 30 years. We planted in May of this year and visited about a week later to water only to find that all the flowers had been cut down and destroyed by a weed whip. Yes, destroyed with all the petals just left on the gravesite. This is not acceptable. It is disgraceful not only to us as a family, but to the people who have passed on and buried in the cemetery. We are going to reach out to the Catholic Diocese to see what can be done. We will not give up and will continue to have this issue rectified until something is done about this mess.
Ernie and Jana Bianchetta

Another hoax

GARDNER—To the ever fearful reader all bent out of shape, ranting and raving about the so-called homeless vet/immigrant/hotel story. Sorry buddy, but it was all a lie as usual. It was a hoax, lie, made up, or "fake news" as you people like to call things. That's what happens when you only watch Fox lies. After going crazy with the story they finally said "whoops, sorry, we think it was a made up story, but we'll get back to you on that." Doubt if they ever did. The station and Republican party of lies, fear, grievance, and projection use it to make you even more scared of your own shadow. Please watch some real news once in a while or a newspaper. Also remember that the only true Americans are the Native Americans and look what we did and are still doing to them. Christian values?

Drag queens

WILMINGTON—I have read that the Catholic Church has continued to not report sexual abuse of children in Chicago. Maybe this is why some people think drag queens are a threat. To many of these people any man in a dress is suspect because of these sick priests.

Out of line for Braidwood

BRAIDWOOD—On Tuesday, May 23, the council approved the mayor's appointment and also approved the benefits package for the administrator which is way out of line for the city of Braidwood, \$115,000 a year for benefits? This job should pay around \$75,000 per year. The council stated they compared what neighboring towns are paying but there is no comparison. Braidwood is about 10-15 years behind their neighbors. Paying salaries like this is why our water and sewer rates continue to go up. If the city is in such great shape financially let's pass some of these savings onto the citizens of Braidwood. So citizens, there will be an election in less than two years. If you want change, remember to vote.

Bring on pickle ball

COAL CITY—Pickle ball is becoming one

of the fastest sports in the country. Everybody is into it. Morris has re-purposed tennis courts by the swimming pool for pickle ball and they have a total of nine courts in Morris. Coal City could do well to re-purposed one or both of their tennis courts at North Park. Just as in Morris, people can use the high school tennis courts. Coal City has six. It would be very cheap . The fence and the surfaces are already there. All they need is a few lines and a couple of nets.

Capitalism vs. Socialism

DIAMOND—Capitalism is a form of "economic democracy" with customers in charge of the economy. In capitalism people vote with their dollars while companies become profitable by meeting the needs of the people. Socialism involves the elites controlling the economy. ESG which means Environment Social Governments is a socialist form of investing in which the focus is on "accomplishing leftist political agenda" as opposed to enhancing investor's returns. It is simply a socialist plot by a group of "Corporate Elites" being falsely presented as the free market. Sharon

Pray for America

DIAMOND—I will faithfully pray for the binding and defeat of the demonic forces inspiring and motivating the wave of Socialism, Communism, Wokism, Atheism, transgenerism, and terrorism that has been sweeping across America. I will faithfully pray that God will give success to those who risk so much to defend America from destruction. I will faithfully pray that God's mercy and comfort will touch those who are grieving what they have lost. I will faithfully pray that America will stand as a strong defender against all threats. I will faithfully pray that God will continue to use the alliance of America, the navigators, the faith in freedom, the faith in family and the countless prayer warriors to stand in the gap as a defense to the American people and as a source of hope and a demonstrating of love to hurting hearts. Sharon

Honor those who serve

WILMINGTON—I would like to thank American Legion Commander Ken Watts, the men and women of the American Legion and the men and women of the VFW for the Memorial Day parade and ceremony. It's very important to honor those who served our country and no matter where I see a veteran no matter where I'm at I go up to them, shake their hand and say thank you for your service. It's truly amazing what those five words mean to someone who served their country. Because of the men and women who served our country and for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice I have the freedom to call into the Sound-off column, to worship any place I want to, grocery shop any place I want to, live any place I want to it's very important to honor those who served our country. So once again thank you to the American Legion and the VFW for the service in honoring your friends, your family, your neighbors and those who you served with. May God bless the United States of America and may God bless Wilmington. Sheri Michaels

Illinois ranks low for retirement

BY ZETA CROSS

THE CENTER SQUARE

Retirees are better off in North Dakota and Nebraska than in Illinois, according to a new analysis from WalletHub. Illinois came in seventh from last compared to other states, according to the ranking.

The study measured a state's affordability, quality of life and health care. WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez said Illinois wound up in the bottom 10 of the 50 states because of how its economy is made up.

Illinois ranked 44th overall.

"Illinois is much less affordable than the other Midwest states," Gonzalez told The Center Square. "In general, it costs more to retire in Illinois than it does in most other states in the country."

Despite Illinois not taxing retirement income, general tax policy and lack of taxpayer friendliness were the main factors in Illinois' low ranking, Gonzalez said.

"Taxes are a huge part of

why Illinois loses out to other states like Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Nebraska," she said. "Special tax breaks for seniors and tax policy for retirement income just aren't there in Illinois."

High sales taxes, high property taxes and high inheritance taxes are among the main reasons why Illinois came in 47th for affordability, she said.

Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia, Wyoming and Delaware all made the top 10 of WalletHub's list with Florida squeezing in at number nine.

As far as good quality of life for retirees, Illinois climbs back up to the top half of states, Gonzalez said. Illinois ranked 22nd out of 50 states for quality of life in retirement.

Minnesota, Massachusetts, Florida and Pennsylvania all beat out Illinois for high quality of life in retirement, WalletHub found.

Looking at adjusted cost of living for retirees, Illinois ranked in the middle of the 50

states. The most expensive states for retirees are Alaska, New York, California and Massachusetts, with Hawaii taking the number one spot, the study said.

When states are ranked for access to health care, Illinois drops back down to 27th place, Gonzalez said. When states are compared for the number of family medicine practitioners per capita, and access to health care, Illinois comes up short, Gonzalez said. Illinois has top ranked health-care providers, but many residents do not have access to them, the study found.

The overall best states for retirement are Virginia ranked number one, followed by Florida at number two, and Colorado at number three.

WalletHub named Kentucky as the worst state, largely because of its problems with health-care access and affordability, Gonzalez said. New Jersey was named the second worst state for retirement, right behind Mississippi.

Commentary

While filming 'Schindler's List,' Spielberg took calls from Williams

THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER LIFE

Steven Spielberg is one of the world's most artful directors and storytellers. While he was in post-production with "Jurassic Park," he was also shooting the epic film "Schindler's List."

Recreating such a horrific part of history, one that personally affected his own family, weighed heavily on Spielberg. He describes his state of mind while jumping between the films as having a "tremendous amount of resentment and anger." The schedule alone would be stressful enough, but the subject matter of "Schindler's List" left Spielberg emotionally depleted after each day.

So he turned to the good doctor, or at least the funniest man ever to play one: Robin Williams. Patch Adams is right. Laughter is the best medicine. Williams would call Spielberg just to lift his spirits.

"Robin knew what I was going through, and once a week, Robin would call me on schedule, and he would do 15 minutes of stand-up on the phone," recounts Spielberg.

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Pink Lady Apples

Stamp Out Hunger nets 1,200 pounds of food

THE ANNUAL EFFORT by the National Association of Letter Carriers to Stamp Out Hunger generated 1,200 pounds of food for Kuzma Care Cottage, the Wilmington food pantry. City carrier Ryan Heath (left) and Wilmington Postmaster Regina Dickover roll out two bins of food to be loaded onto the Kuzma Care Cottage pickup van during the recent food drive. Wilmington residents were asked to place food donations beside their mailbox on the second Saturday of each May for postal carriers to collection and give to the local pantry. The Wilmington Post Office thanks everyone who participated.



The Village to hold a Mobile Food Pantry

The Village is a church that works with the community to help where it is needed the most. Many families are struggling to bring food to the table. That is why The Village is partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank and will host a Mobile Food Pantry at the Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Drive in Braidwood on Monday, June 12 at 5 p.m. Families in the Braidwood and surrounding communities will be able to get enough groceries (bread, dairy, meats, veggies) for a week or two. Distribution will be first come first served. There is no registration, proof of income or I.D. required. Learn more about The Village at: thevillagechristianchurch.com.

Gas is 55/g cents cheaper downstate

To buy the cheapest gas in Illinois you'd have to drive to Pekin, IL where Monday's price was \$3.15/gallon. Locally, the best you could pay is \$3.68/g at one Lorenzo Road service station as the average price in Illinois rose 0.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.92/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 10.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 107.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. "Gasoline prices have drifted higher in the last week due to some relatively minor refinery kinks and low gasoline supply, but it may not be a trend that lasts

too much longer," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "As we unofficially start the summer driving season, the national average is likely to spend much of the summer in the range of \$3.35-\$3.85 per gallon, though it could go higher if unexpected refinery outages flare up, or we see a major hurricane or economic development." Area pump prices were within a dime of each other in Wilmington where stations were charging \$3.69 to \$3.79 depending on which side of town. Braidwood, Coal City and Morris stations were priced \$3.74/g to \$3.79/g while in Bourbonnais the lowest was \$3.59/g.

The national average price of gasoline is \$3.55/g. The national average price of diesel has fallen 4.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.91 per gallon. "While gasoline prices have inched up slightly, we're still faring much better than we did last year, when the national average started to soar after Memorial Day on its way up to the \$5 per gallon mark. In addition, gas prices may temporarily rally if there's a debt ceiling deal that passes through Congress in the week ahead, based on the optimism that such a deal could avert a major recession, keeping oil demand stronger this summer."

Free book reuse and recycle event this weekend

The Will County Land Use Department's Resource Recovery and Energy (RRE) Division will host its annual three-day book reuse and recycling event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 2-4, at Joliet Park District's Pilcher Park Nature Center, 2501 Highland Park Drive. "Our goal for this event is twofold: to promote literacy and improve the environment through recycling," said Dave Hartke, Director of the RRE

Division of Will County's Land Use Department. "This is a popular annual event, and I'm grateful for Joliet Park District for hosting it again." Schools, libraries, and individuals may bring unused and unwanted books for reuse and recycling. Hardcover and paperback books will be accepted and shared for free to attendees. Categories include fic-

tion, non-fiction, children's, romance, hobby, travel, health and living, religion, textbooks, periodicals, and cookbooks. The annual event prevents thousands of books from going unused or dumped into landfills. Books are redistributed at no charge to promote literacy in the community. Books that are not reused will be shipped for recycling at

the end of the three-day event. The event is sponsored by the Resource Recovery and Energy Division of the Will County Land Use Department and is hosted by the Joliet Park District. For more information, residents can call event coordinator Tim Anderson at (815) 727-8834 or visit www.will-countygreen.com.

Hiking and yoga

The Forest Preserve will be hosting "Happy mornings yoga and hike" on Sunday, June 18 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon. This outdoor program includes 35- to 45-minute of all-levels yoga and a 35- to 45-minute hike. Bring a yoga mat, water and comfortable hiking shoes. Free, ages 14 or older. Register by June 17.

Support group helping Alzheimer's caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter would like to invite anyone caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia to a monthly Caregiver's Support Group held the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Rt. 113 in Coal City. The church is located one mile west of Coal City on Highway 113. Alzheimer's caregiver support groups have many benefits for both caregivers and patients. Caregiving takes a heavy toll on the caregivers' mental and physical health and the health of the patient

with dementia is directly related to the health of his or her caregiver: the healthier the caregiver, the healthier the patient, and vice versa. Support group participants benefit from social and emotional support while learning more factual information about dementia. Increased education about dementia makes caregivers more effective: they are better able to respond to patients' needs when they understand and can anticipate them. This meeting is for caregivers only. For more information, contact Becky Haldorson at 815-791-2658.

Braidwood Lions to host broom sale fundraiser

The Braidwood Lions Club will be holding a broom sale fundraiser on Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., during the Annual Braidwood All Town Garage Sale Days. Brooms can be purchased just inside the front entrance of the First Presbyterian Church located at the corner

of Main St. & Lincoln St. in Braidwood. House, Heavy Duty and Whisk Brooms will be for sale. Proceeds from the broom sales will benefit the club's sight and sound humanitarian services for the visually and hearing impaired. For more details, please visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

Register now for Braidwood Garage Sale Days

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood will host the annual citywide garage sale days Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with no rain date. All interested families and organizations who wish to be included in the town listing should return the entry form and \$7 in cash or check (payable to First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood) to: The Braidwood Garage Sale Days, 812 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408, no later than noon Sunday, June 4. Each entry will receive town listings to post, hand out to customers and a special house marker for display to identify paid participants. The marker will also make houses easier to find. These items can be picked up at the First Presbyterian Church, 106 S. Lincoln St., on Wednesday, June 7, from 6-8 p.m. at the front entrance. Additional maps along with a luncheon will be available the church. Advertising for the garage sale days will be in local newspapers and on radio stations.

Braidwood Garage Sale Days

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Partial listing of items to be sold _____

Reed-Custer Comets to host youth basketball camp

Reed-Custer will host a boys basketball camp for students entering grades 3-8 this summer. Camp will run from July 10 until July 13 at the Reed-Custer Elementary School. Grades 3rd-4th will run from 8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., Grades 5th-6th will run from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and Grades 7th-8th will run from noon until 1:30 p.m. The goal of the Reed-Custer Basketball Camp is for the players to improve their individual and team skills through summer competition. The fundamentals of basketball will be stressed in a fun atmosphere where the players can develop a love for the game. High School players will also be assisting with camp. The campers will be grouped by ability and age. The purpose of the camp is to prepare the athletes for basketball competition at their respective grade levels. There will be skill contests for every age group as well as daily games. All youngsters are encouraged to attend camp regardless of their basketball background. Bring basketball shoes and a water bottle every day. The cost of the camp is \$40 per child. Cash or check made out to Reed-Custer High School or RCHS. Walk ins are welcome the first day of camp but you may not get a camp Tee shirt. Please return the camp form by June 30 to the Reed-Custer High School or Middle School offices or show up the day of the camp.

2023 Reed-Custer Comets Basketball Camp

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Grade next year: _____

T-shirt size (circle one): Youth - L _____

Adult - S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

I hereby authorize the directors of the Comets Basketball Camp to administer first aid in case of an emergency. The participating student is physically fit according to our family physician.

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date _____

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Simon Says: Take a Hike on the Wauponsee Trail



SIMON SAYS...
Marney Simon

There's a popular meme out there about how "we all have that one friend." The meme shows a map where the starting and ending points are several miles away, and the bottom caption reads "we can walk there," referring to the friend who has a vastly different idea from the majority of what "walking distance" means.

I am that friend.

In grade school, after missing the bus one day, I picked up the payphone to call my Mom for a ride, but no one was home. There was a sidewalk all the way back to the house, so I walked. It was only 1.5 miles, but that was far for an elementary aged child all alone. Turned out, I enjoyed it quite a bit, and "missed the bus" often on days when I knew my mother wouldn't be home.

In 2022, following a stress fracture, I was diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis in my left foot and was sidelined for more than six months. Since that condition is chronic, my walks today have now been reduced to three to five miles at a time. Not as far as I wish they were, but still a good distance to stretch your legs.

When I was in high school, I would regularly walk home during the times when the weather permitted it. The distance was only slightly further than my elementary school—now it was 2 miles—but my friends often thought it was wild that I would walk that far without being forced to by a gym teacher yelling over my shoulder.

It's with all this backstory that I want to invite you to come along with me as I visit the trails that make me love to lace up my shoes and get out there. I hike year round, but now that the weather is warming, I'll be writing about some of my favorite hikes, hoping to inspire some of you to get out there and enjoy nature and walking the way that I do.

Since my youth, walking and hiking has always been my main form of regular exercise, with my outings usually lasting

anywhere from two miles to 10 miles. At one point I even walked 17 miles through Washington D.C. without even meaning to.

ers were out enjoying the afternoon. The section of the Wauponsee Trail between Custer Park and Manhattan was originally part of the southern portion of the Wabash/Norfolk Railroad that ran between Chicago and Decatur. Constructed in 1880, the last passenger line departed Decatur in 1971, and the southern portion of the railroad was eventually abandoned in 1991. The northern portion between Manhattan and Chicago was acquired by Metra and is still in use. Conversion of the old line into the trail that exists today was completed in 2007.

The trail includes the old railroad trestle bridge over the Kankakee River, where there are lots of opportunities for photos and a place to sit and relax.

The trail is operated under the jurisdiction of the Forest Preserve District of Will County.

Know Before You Go

Distance to the trail
This portion of the trail can be accessed from two points—Custer Park, at the corner of Route 113 and Washington Street, or Rivals Lookout Park in Wesley Township. No matter which side of the river you start your hike, the drive will be roughly six miles or less, with the distance calculated from the Free Press offices, 111 S. Water Street in Wilmington.

Trail conditions
This portion of the

trail is well marked with mile markers so it's easy to calculate your distance for when to turn around. The trail is not heavily traveled but is utilized by hikers, joggers, bike riders, families, dog walkers, and for horseback riding, so always be aware of your surroundings. Just like on the highway, slower traffic should stay to the right.

What to bring
A water bottle, bug spray, sunscreen, and a charged up phone are always must-haves for any trail, but for this trail I'd also recommend comfortable shoes that fully cover your feet. Kicking up the limestone on the trail can always lead to those pesky pebbles in your shoes, especially if you're wearing sandals or mules. As a Type 1 Diabetic, I always recommend bringing extra snacks, just in case. There are no garbage cans along the trail, so plan to carry out anything you carry in.

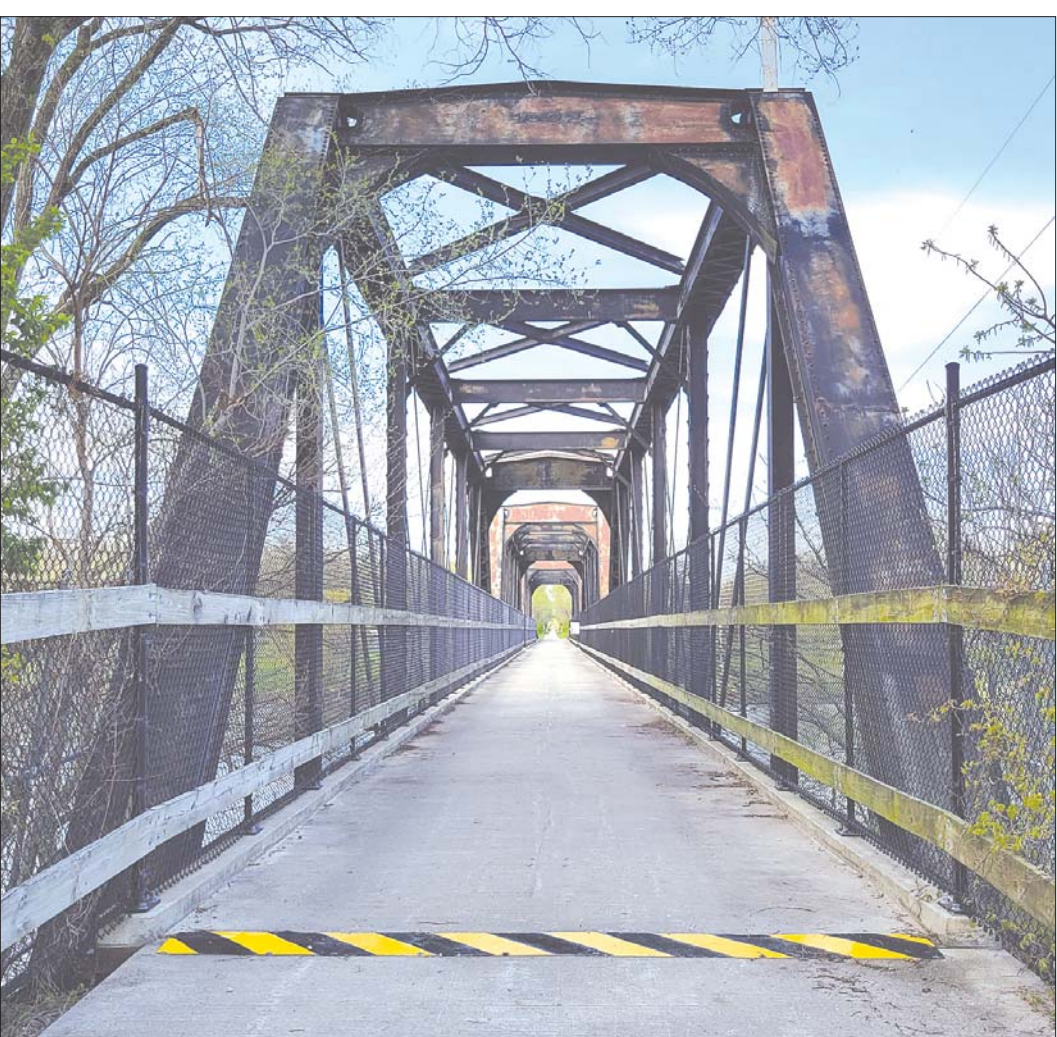
Considerations
Difficulty level is easy. The trail is well marked with mile markers so it's easy to calculate your distance for when to turn around. The trail is not heavily traveled but is utilized by hikers, joggers, bike riders, families, dog walkers, and for horseback riding, so always be aware of your surroundings. Just like on the highway, slower traffic should stay to the right.

What to bring
A water bottle, bug spray, sunscreen, and a charged up phone are always must-haves for any trail, but for this trail I'd also recommend comfortable shoes that fully cover your feet. Kicking up the limestone on the trail can always lead to those pesky pebbles in your shoes, especially if you're wearing sandals or mules. As a Type 1 Diabetic, I always recommend bringing extra snacks, just in case. There are no garbage cans along the trail, so plan to carry out anything you carry in.

Marney Simon is an editor with the Free Press Newspapers. Follow Marney's hikes and outdoor adventures on her Instagram page, @marneyike.



A LOCK MARKING this year's prom is one of several locks found on the trestle bridge over the Kankakee River.



Photos by Marney Simon

THE WAUPONSEE GLACIAL Trail runs 23 miles between Joliet and Custer Park, with the southern trailhead at the old railroad trestle bridge for over the Kankakee River. This portion of the trail was once home to the southern extension of the Wabash/Norfolk Railroad.

Annual Children's Fishing Derby
SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023
Catch the Biggest Fish or the Most Fish and WIN a Trophy!

- Registration begins at 9:00 am
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- Quilting
- Spinning
- Tanning
- Rug Weaving

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Park your car in the north end of the parking area. Walk the trail to the Cragg Cabin or catch the wagon ride

Driving Directions: From Morris, take Route 47 south to Pine Bluff Road; then east about 6 miles to Jugtown Road and watch for the stone park entrance sign on your left. From Interstate 55, turn on (Exit 240) Lorenzo Road west about 7 miles to Jugtown Road and watch for the stone park entrance sign on your right.
Park Address: 5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Presented by the **Goose Lake Prairie Partners & Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area.**

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OBITUARIES

Ruth E. Herman

MORRIS—Ruth E. Herman, 86, of Morris, passed away peacefully with family on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Born May 7, 1937, in Kentucky, she was the daughter of Lonnie and Thelma Bradley. When she was four they moved to Coal City. Ruth graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1955. On June 25, 1955, she married Richard L. Herman at the Methodist Church of Coal City. Together they farmed in rural Morris and raised their five children.

Ruth was very active in the Morris community by serving on the Grundy County Board. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church and Church Circle, BPW, and she earned her 50-year pin from the Grundy County Home Extension. She served as Regent and Vice Regent for the Alida C Bliss DAR Chapter. When her kids were young and active in 4-H, Ruth was very involved in that as well. She always made sure to attend her kids and grandkids sporting events. Ruth loved reading, gardening, and vacationing at their cabin in Wisconsin, but her greatest love was working the fields with her husband, Richard. She worked alongside him and her children from 1956 until 1992 when Richard passed. In 1995 she sold their farm and moved to Morris.

Ruth is survived by her children: Roberta



(Ron) White, Rebecca (Mark) Sebby, Richard L. Herman Jr., Rodney Herman and Randy (Katie) Herman; her grandchildren: Jamie and Brad White, Jon (Tatiana) Sebby, Rick Sebby, Melissa (Jason) Abens, Robert (Brittney) Herman, Steve (Kendra) Herman, Matt (Amber) Herman, Clint (Delaney) Herman, Renee, Justine and Jeremy, Jacob and Brittany; 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Ruth was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard Herman Sr.; her parents, her granddaughter, Marcy Herman; her brother, Velzie Bradley; her in-laws, Syrl and Arlene Herman; and numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles.

The family will be holding a private graveside service at Evergreen Cemetery on Sunday June 4.

The family asks that any donations be made to the First United Methodist Church in Morris or Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

An online guestbook can be found at www.ucdaviscallahan.com where memories and photographs can be shared.

Arrangements have been entrusted to U.C. Davis-Callahan Funeral Home, 301 W. Washington Street, Morris.

Vonda L. Stefancic

WILMINGTON—Vonda L. Stefancic, 83, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, May 26, 2023 at Ascension Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Aug. 24, 1939 in Morris, Vonda Lea was a daughter of Emmett and Grace (Moats) Davis. She was raised and educated in Marseilles, and on Nov. 26, 1970 she married Anthony Stefancic, and together they moved to Wilmington where they would live and raise their family.

After marriage, Vonda worked for the Joliet Arsenal Ammunition Plant until she left to focus on raising her children. As her children grew, she gained employment with the Wilmington School District where she worked in the cafeteria and as a janitor. Vonda also worked for Brownie Products Inc. in Gardner. She took great pleasure in watching her grandchildren's sporting events, and later seeing her great-grandchildren come into the world. Vonda loved being a mother and grandmother, and will be missed dearly by those who loved her.

Survivors include her three children: Jonathan Stefancic, of Wilmington; Tammy (Kenny) Green, of Tennessee and Terry Carroll,

of Missouri; three grandchildren: Amanda, Stephanie, and Taylor Stefancic; three great-grandchildren: Camden, Cayden and Sienna, as well as several nieces and nephews and special friends, Kevin and Dawna Kavanaugh, who took great care of Vonda.

Vonda was preceded in death by her parents, her brother and sister, Emmett Davis Jr. and Carol Colson, and one niece, Laura.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Interment will immediately follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Vonda will be laid to rest with her husband, Anthony.

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

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



Diane Lange

NAPLES, FL—Diane Marie (Nagel) Lange, 71, of Naples, FL, passed away May 19, 2023. Diane was born to Robert E. and Mary Jane Nagel on Dec. 10, 1951 in Aurora, IL. She was raised on farms in Wheaton and Sugar Grove, IL.

She graduated from Rosary High School in Aurora, and received her Bachelor and Masters degrees (in Special Education/Education and Educational Administration) from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. She taught students with Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders at the Junior High and High School levels in Joliet, for seven years. The majority of her educational career (24 years) was spent in educational administration, notably in the Wilmington #209U school district as Special Education Supervisor and Principal at both the Elementary and Middle School levels. She also served as an Adjunct Professor for Governors' State University as well as Student Teaching Coordinator for Eastern Illinois University.

Diane fought cancer valiantly for years. She was originally diagnosed with Sarcoma in 1981. Later she had breast cancer three times, basal cell carcinomas nine times, melanoma skin cancer, and lastly Stage 4 lung cancer (without ever smoking). In 2019, she was diagnosed with TP-53, or Li-Fraumeni Syndrome,



which is a rare disorder that predisposes carriers to cancer development.

On June 20, 1987, she married "the love of her life," Brian E. Lange. Together, they provided a warm and comforting home to Brian's son, Jim. In addition to living in Minooka and Channahon, they enjoyed their summer homes at the Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach, MO. After retiring, they moved to Naples, FL.

Diane was an avid reader, loved playing cards and Mah Jongg, as well as doing needlecraft. Together with Brian, they enjoyed traveling and boating.

In addition to Brian, she is survived by her stepson, Jim (wife Ali), from Chesterfield, MO and her loving granddaughters, Jordyn and Casey, who lovingly called her "Omi." She is also survived by her sisters, sister-in-law, brothers-in-law, and several nieces and nephews. Personally and professionally, she touched so many people's lives and will be missed by all that knew her.

Per Diane's request, there will be no memorial service.

Donations can be made to St. Matthew's House of Naples, Florida or to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Lightways Hospice plans June 20 conversation at the Rialto

Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care is hosting "An Evening with Kelly Corrigan" at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet on Tuesday, June 20.

The lively conversation is billed as Telling Us More About Hope, Loss and Other Wonders. Much of the program will be a Q&A session on a wide range of topics.

Kelly is a New York Times bestselling author, a podcaster and the host of Tell Me More on PBS. Huffington Post calls her "The Poet Laureate of the ordinary" and O Magazine dubbed her the "voice of a generation."

Released in 2008, her first memoir, The Middle Place "was about going through cancer treatment simultaneously with her father and her father's subsequent death."

The San Francisco Chronicle called The Middle Place "more complex - and funny - than one would ever imagine." That's a fair assessment of all of Kelly's work.

When writing, speaking or interviewing, Kelly gets to the heart of the subject in a relatable, amusing and refreshing way.

On her podcast and TV show, Kelly brings together a diverse list of A-List guests to talk about subjects like grit, character, service,

hope and optimism. These straight-to-the-heart topics will be woven into the June 20 event.

"We fully anticipate An Evening with Kelly Corrigan to be a conversation that entertains and enriches," said Lightways' CEO Mary Kay Sheehan.

WGN radio personality John Williams will moderate the event. John hosts the midday show on WGN Radio 720 as well as several podcasts. He has recently written and spoken about his experiences caring for his elderly parents.

As the largest nonprofit hospice in Illinois, Lightways aims this event to be the first in a speaker series providing healthy conversation on death and dying, caretaking and grief. "Grief affects us all at some point and for so many reasons. This evening is a perfect opportunity for those grieving -- and those who love people who are grieving -- to get some fresh perspective," said Sheehan.

Reserved seats are available at ticketmaster.com or at the Rialto Square box office in person with no handling fee. The box office is open Monday-Friday from noon-4:30 pm at 102 N. Chicago Street in Joliet. Tickets are \$48.50 and \$68.50.

Sign-ups begin for WHS sports camps

Youth sports camps will be offered at Wilmington High School this summer and registration is underway. For questions call Wilmington High School at 815-926-1752.

Girls Basketball			
June 5 - 8	3rd - 5th	8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	\$40
June 5 - 8	6th - 8th	9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	\$40
June 5 - 9,	9th - 12th	11 a.m. to noon	\$40
12-16, 19 -23		9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	
WHS main gymnasium with Coach Dillon			
Boys Basketball			
June 6 - 8	3rd - 5th	1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	\$30
June 6 - 8	6th - 8th	2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	\$30
June 6 - 8	9th - 12th	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	\$30
13 - 15, 20 - 22			
WHS main gymnasium with Coach Krop			
Wrestling			
June 6 - 8, 12 - 14	K - 8th	9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.	\$40
WHS Mat room with Coach Dziuban			
Football			
July 5, 6, 11 - 13	9th-12th	8:30 to 10:30	\$50
17, 18			
Football field with Coach Reents			
Flag Football			
June 6 - 8, 12-14	1st - 8th	11 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.	\$50
High School with Coach Reents			
Cheer			
July 18 - 20	k - 8th	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	\$40
WHS mat room/Aux gym with Coach Bejlovec			
Volleyball			
June 19 - 21	k - 4th	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	\$45
June 19 - 22	5th - 8th	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	\$45
June 13 - 15	9th - 12th	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	\$60
July 11 - 13, 18 - 21 and 25 - 27			
WHS main gymnasium with Coach Van Duyn			
Soccer			
June 19 - 21	k - 4th	9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	\$30
June 19 - 21	5th - 8th	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	\$30
June 26 - 29	9th - 12th	10 a.m. to noon	\$30
WHS Soccer field with Coach Ivanoff			
Golf			
Schedule w/Coach Wilson		9th - 12th	\$0
Track			
June 19 - 23	k - 12th	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.	\$30
WHS track with Coach Stickel			
Softball			
June 7 - 8	3rd - 9th	9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	\$30
WHS softball field with Coach Skole			
Baseball			
June 21 - 23	3rd - 5th	9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	\$40
June 21 - 23	6th - 8th	10:30 a.m. to noon	\$40
June 13 - 15	9th	10:30 a.m. to noon	\$40
WHS baseball field with Coach Bushnell			

Send completed registration form and check payable by May 26 to Wilmington High School to:

Wilm. High School 209 Wildcat Ct., Wilmington, IL 60481

Athlete's name: _____

Phone: _____ Grade (in fall 2023): _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Telephone _____ Camp: _____

T-shirt size (circle one): Youth S - M - L

Adult - S - M - L - XL - XXL

The need to avoid forever chemicals

Dear EarthTalk: Why are "forever chemicals" so bad, and how can I avoid them? -- M.N., via email



"Forever chemicals" are types of highly persistent and toxic synthetic chemicals widely used in many industries, including firefighting foam, non-stick cookware, food packaging and water-resistant clothing.

These chemicals are called "forever" because they do not break down easily in the environment and can persist for decades or even centuries, accumulating in soil, water and air.

The most common types of forever chemicals are per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which include compounds such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). PFAS have been linked to a range of health problems, including cancer, immune system damage, hormone disruption and developmental delays.

The problem with forever chemicals is that they can accumulate in our bodies over time, as well as in the bodies of animals and plants, leading to long-term health and environmental consequences. Because these chemicals do not break down easily in the environment, they can also contaminate soil, water and air, potentially impacting entire ecosystems.

To avoid exposure to forever chemicals, there are several steps you can take. First, avoid using non-stick cookware and other products that contain PFAS.

Instead, opt for stainless steel, cast iron or ceramic cookware. Secondly, avoid using products that are labeled water-resistant, stain-resistant or grease-resistant, as they may contain PFAS. Thirdly, use natural, organic and biodegradable cleaning products instead of conventional cleaning products that may contain PFAS.

When shopping for food, choose products that are packaged in glass, metal or paper containers instead of plastic con-



NON-STICK PANS like these are coated in so-called "forever chemicals" that can potentially flake off into your food.

tainers, as plastic can contain PFAS. Finally, if you live in an area where PFAS contamination is a concern, consider installing a water filtration system that is designed to remove these chemicals.

According to the non-profit Environmental Working Group, a watchdog organization that tracks contaminants and chemicals in food, health and beauty products, nearly all Americans, including newborn babies, have forever chemicals in their bloodstreams, while 200 million of us may well be drinking tap water contaminated with these toxins.

And we're not the only ones at risk. Researchers have found traces of forever chemicals in wildlife all over the world, including some endangered species. Who would've thought that such a risk would threaten polar bears in the Arctic let alone tigers, monkeys and pandas in milder locales and even dolphins and fish across the world's oceans?

Forever chemicals have been ubiquitous in our ecosystems and bloodstreams

for decades, but it wasn't until March 2023 that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started to address the issue by setting Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) goals for PFAS and related persistent chemicals in drinking water supplies.

While this might be too little too late for those of us exposed to these toxins year after year, at least it's a step in the right direction. "Decades of unchecked use and releases of PFAS chemicals have devastated the planet by contaminating people, drinking water, and food, including fish and wildlife across the globe," says Tasha Stoiber, a senior scientist at EWG.

"The proposed nationwide standards to limit exposure to PFAS in drinking water are a welcome development to address the harms these toxic chemicals have already inflicted upon individuals and communities."

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

Olivet Nazarene deans list

Olivet Nazarene University announces its Spring 2023 dean's list. To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Included were Alyssa Fautrot and Dylan Garrelts, of Braidwood and Conner Dempsay, Mary Henderson and Jacob Prescott, all of Wilmington.

SIUE spring deans list

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has announced the names of students qualifying for the Spring 2023 Dean's List. To qualify, a student must maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 or better and have 12 hours calculated (B is equivalent to 3.0; A to 4.0).

Local students include Destiny Dodge and Colleen Feeney, of Coal City and Carley Wilkerson, of Wilmington.

SHARE A SHOT



MISS ZELDA thoroughly enjoying a little DQ with her family at the Braidwood Dairy Queen. Shout out to the Braidwood DQ for the free pup cup. If you have a cute photo of your pup, kids having fun or some local unique scene, email it to Share-A-Shot (in subject line) to news@fpnusa.com. Hard copies accepted at this newspaper's Coal City or Wilmington office.

USDA: Large crop estimates pressure prices

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

USDA projects some record-large crops in the U.S. and South America this year and into 2024.

If realized, ending stocks are expected to rise while crop prices could plummet in the coming year based on the Ag Department's May world ag supply and demand estimates.

USDA projects this year's corn crop, which U.S. farmers are still planting, could produce a record 15.3 billion bushels (up 10% from last year) with an average yield of 181.5 bushels per acre (up 8.2 bushels from last year).

Meanwhile, U.S. soybean production was pegged at 4.51 billion bushels this season, up 5% from last year.

The hefty crop production estimates pushed 2023-24 ending stocks estimates to 2.2 billion bushels for corn (up 805 million bushels from 2022-23) and 335 million bushels of beans, up 120 million bushels from the revised 2022-23 forecast. Ending stocks of wheat, though, could slip 11% to the lowest level in 16 years.

"We got the first look at the 2023-24 balance sheets and they were bearish for corn and soybeans," Joe Camp, market analyst with CommStock Investments, told the RFD Radio Network. "Ending stocks were up a bit more than anticipated."

USDA's season-average price estimates reflected the bearishness of the big crops with 2023-24 projections at \$4.80 per bushel for corn (down \$1.80 from 2022/23), \$12.10 for beans (down \$2.10) and \$8 for wheat, down 85 cents from last year's record.

This season's crop production estimates, of course, are based on weather-adjusted trends assuming normal planting progress and summer weather.

"We know we're going to go back to trading weather



Photo by Catrina Rawson

USDA PROJECTS THIS year's corn crop, which U.S. farmers are still planting, could produce a record 15.3 billion bushels (up 10% from last year).

here pretty quickly," Camp said as most crop markets were in the red following the May 12 release of the latest estimates. "That will be the big determinant of what the next crop looks like."

Elsewhere, USDA pegged 2022-23 production in Brazil at a record 130 million metric tons (mmt) of corn, up 5 mmt from last month, and 155 mmt of beans, up 1 mmt.

Soy production in Brazil for 2023-24 could soar to a record 163 mmt, according to USDA. Planting for that crop will begin in October.

"We didn't see any major changes on the global balance sheet," Camp said. "They're still sticking with big numbers in Brazil and a damaged crop out of Argentina."

As for demand, USDA

projects total corn use could increase 5% in 2023-24, with food, seed and industrial use up 55 million bushels, exports projected to rise by 325 million bushels to 2.1 billion and corn used for ethanol to edge 1% higher.

Meanwhile, demand for soybean oil as a biofuel feedstock was projected to accelerate by 900 million pounds to 12.5 billion pounds in 2023/24. But, U.S. soy exports could slip by 40 million bushels to 1.98 billion in the next year due in large part to competition from South America.

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.

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Garden Club to learn about vertical gardening

The Wilmington Garden Club will learn from Juleigh Miller, a local gardener, who will be sharing how she grows more in less space utilizing different vertical gardening techniques. The meeting will be Wednesday, June 21 at 1 p.m.

The garden club meets monthly at the Wilmington Park District, 315 N. Water St. Meetings are open to the public so come along and bring a friend.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

Gardner - 1 bedroom apartment. \$575 per month. One month deposit required. No dogs. On second floor in downtown Gardner. Water, sewer and trash included. Tenant pays electric. Texts preferred at 815-277-6018. One year lease and criminal background check required. cc22-25

Wilmington - 2 bedroom apartment. Nice location. \$650/month. First, last & security. 618-383-6330. cc22-24

BOATS

10 foot aluminum John Boat and trailer. Two trolling motors & life jackets. \$500.00 Call 815-530-4479. ca21-22

GARAGE SALES

14th ANNUAL WILMINGTON ALL-TOWN GARAGE SALE
Thurs., June 1 (8 am-5 pm);
Fri., June 2 (8 am-5 pm);
Sat., June 3 (8 am - 2 pm)
Sponsored by First United Methodist Church,
401 E. Kahler Rd.,
Wilmington
Everyone is welcome to come out and explore all the great sales at the church and throughout the whole town. Stop by for lunch at the church Friday from 11:30-1:30. Listing maps will be available for pick up at the church beginning at 8 am on June 1 and throughout the sale dates. For more information, call 815-476-5474.

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood Garage Sale Days
Friday & Saturday
June 9 & 10
8am to 3pm
Get maps at First Presbyterian Church Main & Lincoln St.
Look for bright blue pennants.
No rain date.

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood - 956 N Mabel Ct. Wed., May 31 & Thurs., June 1 from 8am-3pm. Fitbit charger, noise canceling headphones, bedding, shower curtains, throw pillows, mens clothes size m-xl, womens size m-xl, shinguards, paintball helmet, crockpot, home decor, much more.

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood - 630 W. 1st St., Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat June 7 thru June 10. 8am to 4pm. Boys & girls clothes & shoes, over 50 gymnastic leotards, books & toys, misc household - furniture, rugs, dishes, sheets, pillows. cc22-23

GARAGE SALES

Wilmington - 34207 Wildwood Lane. Fri., & Sat., June 2-3 from 8am-4pm and Sun., June 4 from 8am-2pm. Large unique sale. Baby girl clothes, rugs, household things, chairs, pet things, camping chairs, some garage things, stadium seats, wall decor, bedding, kids chairs, low prices. So much unlisted. cc22

GARAGE SALES

Wilmington - Pole barn sale. 210 Stewart St. Thur., Fri. & Sat., June 1, 2 & 3 from 8:30am-4:30pm. Wildcat stuff, crafts, signs. Girls softball equipment. Tent & air bed, kitchen island, flower ladders, 100 picture frames. Tools, hardware, chains, slings, ropes, 220 welder, 16' canoe, much more. Lots of free stuff. ca22

HELP WANTED

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

Coal City United Methodist Church has a position open to serve as treasurer. Job description available upon request. If interested in this position, please submit a cover letter and resume to revjaynr@gmail.com. ca21-22

MISCELLANEOUS

Clayton wood burning stove, \$250. Call 815-458-2004. ca22-24

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

HPZ Pet Rover Run performance stroller for dog. Made in USA with heavy-duty tubing. Holds up to 50 lbs. Lifetime warranty. Retail for \$363. Asking \$125; also large plastic dog kennel, \$40. Call Eric 815-922-7966.

For Sale: 6x16 ft. Keefer built, livestock trailer, good shape: Schram antique jackhammer/air compressor. Call after 6 p.m. 779-279-5116. cc21b-23b

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cc9-24

HOMES FOR RENT

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

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

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERV-ICING LLC
Plaintiff,
-v-
ERIC D EVANS
Defendant
21 CH 21
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 11, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on June 21, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1923 TALLER ROAD, MORRIS, IL 60450
Property Index No. 02-31-478-034
The real estate is improved with a townhouse with a two car garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL, 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 21-07875IL 722031 Case Number: 21 CH 21 TJSC#: 43-1799 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 21 CH 21 I3220141 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., May 17, 24 & 31, 2023

For Sale: 6x16 ft. Keefer built, livestock trailer, good shape: Schram antique jackhammer/air compressor. Call after 6 p.m. 779-279-5116. cc21b-23b

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County EMA launches new app 'Ready Will County'

The Will County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has launched a new-and-improved version of the "Ready Will County" smartphone application. The app is an innovative tool to help residents receive timely alerts and to be able to effectively plan ahead for a wide range of scenarios.

"Will County EMA serves as a key source of information to plan ahead for emergency situations and emergency alerts," said County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant.

Substantial improvements were made to the app to improve navigation and provide new informational content. The app also now allows residents to register their loved ones to help first responders identify those in need of assistance in the event of a disaster.

"We want to make it as

easy as possible for residents to find the information that they need in emergency situations," said Will County EMA Director Allison Anderson. "We have so many new ways to stay connected as a society than we did 20 to 30 years ago. It was important for our department to create easy channels of communication to alert, inform, and prepare the public."

The new app provides a variety of resources to residents, including emergency alerts, emergency plan preparation tools, preparedness information, warming & cooling center locations, a tool for reporting damage to Will County EMA, and volunteer opportunities.

The Ready Will County app works with both Apple and Android devices and is available for free download through the Apple iTunes and Google Play stores.

Wild turkey harvest up over last year

Illinois turkey hunters harvested a preliminary statewide total of 16,121 wild turkeys during the 2023 Illinois spring turkey season. The total is a 17 percent increase over the 2022 statewide turkey harvest of 13,701.

The record harvest total for the spring season was set in 2006 when 16,569 turkeys were taken. The 2023 total includes the youth turkey sea-

son harvest of 1,309 birds, which compares with the 2022 youth harvest of 1,258.

This year, 80,643 permits were sold compared to 81,672 last year. Spring turkey hunting was open in 100 of Illinois' 102 counties.

The top five counties for the 2023 harvest were Jo Daviess, 595; Jefferson, 487; Pike, 419; Pope, 379; and Randolph, 370.

Illinois \$56.6 billion budget has no wiggle room

House and Senate Republicans claimed during budget-related floor debate last week that the supermajority Democrats had masked the true size of their plan by delaying the start of some spending until the second half of the upcoming fiscal year.

Yes and no.

Republicans pointed to the \$317 million cost of increasing Medicaid provider reimbursement rates, including for hospitals. But that new spending doesn't begin until January 1, the halfway point in the 2024 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

And, so, basic arithmetic means that the rate increase in Fiscal Year 2025 will be double FY24's cost because that 2025 spending will cover all 12 months, instead of just six. That means the state will start the following fiscal year with at least a \$317 million hole.

Sometimes, it takes time to stand up new programs, so state spending can't justifiably begin for a while. That's the case here as well, according to the governor's office, which says the higher reimbursement rates can't start until the state applies for and receives permission from the federal government. And that can take a while.

Also, \$317 million is only

0.6 percent of the \$56.6 billion state spending plan. Not much in the grand scheme of things.

While that \$317 million is small in context, just think about how much scrambling the Democrats had to do during the past couple of weeks of spring session to collect enough crumbs under the couch cushions to pull their appropriations bill together.

First, they blew well past their self-imposed May 19th adjournment deadline because they couldn't agree on a spending package. And even then, it took 24 hours after the state's top Democrats announced a budget agreement that an actual budget bill surfaced because of even more scrambling. And the budget agreement announcement itself was delayed by about an hour because of even more scrambling over relatively small amounts of money.

The Democrats also only built a \$100 million cash cushion into this plan, or about 0.2 percent of total spending. That doesn't leave them any room if their revenue projections are too low by a tiny frac-



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

tion, or if spending is higher than anticipated.

Some Republicans pointed to the \$550 million in increased spending to cover the exploding healthcare costs for undocumented residents as the reason why Democrats had to get so creative elsewhere.

Medicaid providers, they said, could've received more money if not for that.

That's true, but only in the abstract. Yes, proponents (including legislators) and the Pritzker administration vastly underestimated what the healthcare program would cost and how many folks would enroll. And, yes, the governor waited until this spring to turn to the legislature for either statutory relief or the full, guaranteed legal authority via authorized emergency rules to rein in costs in a way that can survive a barrage of lawsuits. Mistakes, as they say, were made.

In the real world, you can't just wish away problems. "If only," is a fine game for pundits and politicians. But it doesn't do you much good when building an actual state budget, which, unlike federal spending plans, can't rely on simply printing more dollars.

No matter how much some Democrats may have privately grumbled about those massively increased costs, they would not publicly trumpet any sort of solution which kicked thousands of people off healthcare coverage

("Healthcare is a right" is a longtime Democratic Party talking point, after all) and forced hospitals and other medical providers to go back to treating them without any reimbursements.

And even though there was definitely some resistance and bitterness about those unexpected costs, Black legislators have wisely not had an appetite to publicly inflame the current tensions in Chicago, where some local Black leaders and conservative whites are grabbing headlines by echoing angry Fox News talking points about the costs of caring for the influx of mostly Latino asylum seekers.

While some Democrats clung to the notion that Pritzker had the authority to rein in costs without their assistance, they also saw the almost daily and widespread court battles throughout the pandemic over the governor's use of emergency rules and executive authority.

Determined lawyers on the other side tied the attorney general's office up in knots throughout the pandemic and have so far succeeded at stymying the implementation of both the SAFE-T Act and the assault weapons ban.

Lawsuits over limiting enrollment, and putting undocumented immigrants into managed care programs might still be filed, but the state will be on much firmer legal ground by specifically allowing the governor to file emergency rules.

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

Musicians invited to Circle jam in Godley

There will be a circle jam Saturday, June 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy.

The free event is open to everyone including musicians

and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more. For more information call Randy Kiefling at 815-237-8139 or 815-210-8563.

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506 S. WATER ST., WILMINGTON, IL 60481

Tax Deed filed for 34138 South Wildwood St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX000105
FILED: 04-05-2023
TAKE NOTICE

TO: JOHN BARABAN, KATHLEEN BARABAN, WILL COUNTY CLERK; OCCUPANTS, PARTIES IN OCCUPANCY OR ACTUAL POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; AND UNKNOWN OWNERS or PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID LAND OR LOTS AND UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the petition for Tax Deed on the following described property: Property located at: 34138 SOUTH WILDWOOD STREET, WILMINGTON, ILLINOIS Property Index Number: 08-24-12-404-015-0000

On October 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM, in the Circuit Court of Will County, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Courtroom 905, Joliet, Illinois, the Petitioner intends to make an application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on December 9, 2020, for delinquent real estate taxes and/or special assessments for the year 2019. Certificate No. 19-03874. The period of redemption will expire on October 4, 2023. ROCKCREEK, LLC PETITIONER 8139-932804

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 24, 31 and June 7, 2023.

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 2023-2024 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, Wednesday, June 7, 2023 and will be opened publicly at that time. The Board of Education will make its decision on Monday June 12, 2023, and reserves the right to waive any technicalities or irregularities and to reject any or all bids or any 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 24 and 31, 2023.

Elwood Fire Protection District passes ordinance re-establishing ambulance fees

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 01192023
AN ORDINANCE RE-ESTABLISHING AMBULANCE AND RELATED CHARGES OF THE ELWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Elwood Fire Protection District as follows:

Section 1. A fee will be charged for emergency medical services rendered by the Elwood Fire Protection District. All persons who are non-residents of the District who are provided with ambulance service by the District or any fire protection district or municipality which provides emergency medical services to the District pursuant to a contract or mutual aid agreement with the District will be charged as per **Appendix A**.

Beginning on January 1, 2023, and each successive January 1st thereafter, the fees set forth in Appendix A of this Ordinance shall be increased without any further action by the Board of Trustees by the then-existing ambulance billing rate(s) pursuant to any subsequent Cost Report(s) submitted by the District under the GEMT Program or otherwise. In the event the calculated fee for the upcoming year is less than the current fee being assessed, the current fee shall be assessed for the following calendar year. The Fire Chief is directed and authorized to update **Appendix A** with any subsequent changes to the District's approved ambulance billing rate(s). All revenue from the charges assessed pursuant to the emergency response portions of this Ordinance shall be credited to the Corporate Fund of the District.

Section 2. The Chief of the District, or designee, is authorized to assess the foregoing charges and to take any and all reasonable steps in the collection of the same.

Section 3. The Chief of the District, or designee, is authorized to adopt administrative regulations to implement this Ordinance and is authorized to waive any and all of the fees due to a person, business, or other entity under this Ordinance. The Chief, or designee, may do so by policy or on an individual basis.

Section 4. The provisions of this Ordinance shall supersede any prior ordinances establishing charges which are inconsistent with this Ordinance.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect as of January 1, 2023.

Section 6. If any section, paragraph or provisions of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Elwood Fire Protection District on the 19th day of January, 2023, by a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: 2
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1

APPENDIX A
NON-RESIDENTS FEES AND CHARGES

Basic Life Support	\$ 3,309.60
Advanced Life Support	\$ 3,309.60
Non-transport fee where treatment is administered	\$ 200.00
Mileage Charge	\$17.50 per mile

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 24 and 31, 2023.

Tax Deed filed for 585 West Main St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX000108
FILED: 04-06-2023
TAKE NOTICE

TO: DAVID CLELLAND, SUSAN CLELLAND, MICHAEL REGAN, IRENE KYLES, BMO HARRIS BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, WILL COUNTY CLERK; OCCUPANTS, PARTIES IN OCCUPANCY OR ACTUAL POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; AND UNKNOWN OWNERS or PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID LAND OR LOTS AND UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

This is NOTICE of the filing of the petition for Tax Deed on the following described property: Property located at: 585 WEST MAIN STREET, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS Property Index Number: 02-24-07-407-033-0000

On October 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM, in the Circuit Court of Will County, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Courtroom 905, Joliet, Illinois, the Petitioner intends to make an application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on December 9, 2020, for delinquent real estate taxes and/or special assessments for the year 2019. Certificate No. 19-03803. The period of redemption will expire on October 4, 2023. VOYAGEUR HOLDINGS LLC PETITIONER 10546-932806

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, May 24, 31 and June 7, 2023.

District 209-U seeking bids for Building Trades work

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Wilmington Community Unit School District 209U, Will County, Wilmington, Illinois, will receive bids for excavating, concrete work, labor and material bids and/or proposals for the Wilmington High School Building Trades Project for the 2023-2024 school year. Bid specifications may be obtained upon request from the Office of the Superintendent, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209U, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois—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 P.M. CDST, Thursday, June 8, 2023, and will be opened publicly at that time. The Board of Education will make its decision on Monday, June 12, 2023, and reserves the right to waive any technicalities or irregularities and to reject any or all bids or any 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 24 and 31, 2023.

103 Fossil Ridge sold for delinquent taxes

PUBLIC NOTICE

To: David Gerger, Gary W. Gerger as Trustee under the Gary W. Gerger living Trust Agreement dated October 23, 2003, MICHAEL F. TOMASEK as RA for Shadow Lakes II Association, Lauren Staley Ferry, County Clerk of Will County, Illinois, Unknown Occupants of 103 Fossil Ridge Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested, Generally of 103 Fossil Ridge Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481
TAX DEED NO.: 2023TX000143 FILED: 4/25/2023

County of Will
Date Premises Sold: 12/9/2020
Certificate No. 19-03757
Sold for General Taxes of: 2019
Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality): N/A
And Special Assessment Number: N/A
Warrant No. N/A INST. NUMBER: N/A

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES
Property located at: 103 Fossil Ridge Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481
Legal Description or Property Index No.: 02-24-04-153-013-0000

This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 10/11/2023.

The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming.

This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 10/11/2023.

This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in Joliet, Illinois, on 11/6/2023 at 9:00 am in Courtroom 905, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432.

You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time.

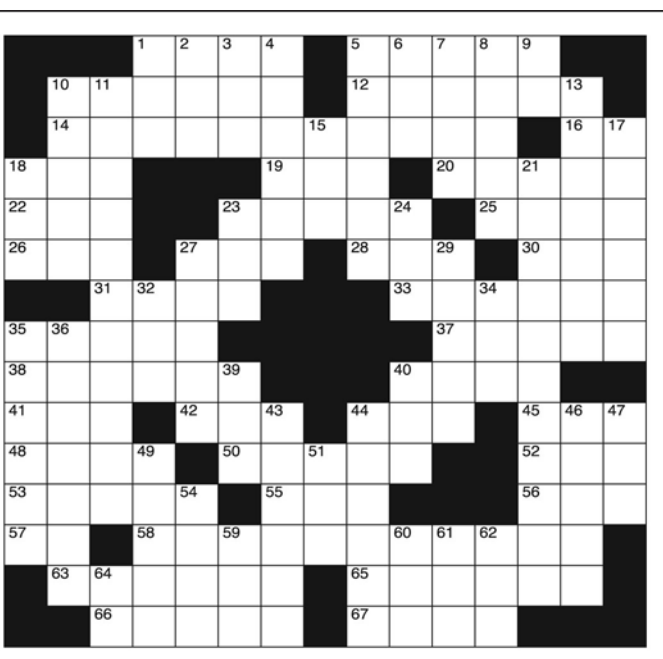
YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY.

Redemption can be made at any time on or before 10/11/2023 by applying to the County Clerk of Will County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Joliet, Illinois.

For further information contact the County Clerk.

ADDRESS:
302 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432
TELEPHONE: (815) 740-4615
Everet, LTD.
Purchaser or Assignee
Dated: 5/2/2023
8139-932583

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 17, 24 and 31, 2023.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sloping position
- 5. Descendant of a notable family
- 10. Following accepted norms
- 12. Root vegetable
- 14. Having a shape that reduces drag from air
- 16. Integrated circuit
- 18. Records electric currents of the heart
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Japanese city
- 22. After B
- 23. Muffles
- 25. Pass over
- 26. Vase
- 27. Soft touch
- 28. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 30. Patti Hearst's captors
- 31. Israeli politician
- 33. Degrade
- 35. Type of wrap
- 37. Polyurethane fabric
- 38. Avoids capture
- 40. Vegetarians avoid it
- 41. Decay
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Vessel to bathe in
- 45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 48. Frosts
- 50. Dipped into
- 52. Controversial replay system in soccer
- 53. Comforts
- 55. Needed for yoga
- 56. Ands/
- 57. South Dakota
- 58. Printing system
- 63. Dramatic works set to music
- 65. Highest points
- 66. Social division
- 67. Used to treat Parkinson's disease

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Hill or rocky peak
- 2. Initial public offering
- 3. Type of light
- 4. Test
- 5. Flaky coverings
- 6. Former NFLer Newton
- 7. Part of the eye
- 8. Roman god of the underworld
- 9. Negative
- 10. Indiana pro basketball player
- 11. Replaces lost tissue
- 13. Denotes one from whom title is taken
- 15. Historic college hoops tournament
- 17. Hut by a swimming pool
- 18. Defunct European monetary unit
- 21. Feeds on insects
- 23. Adult male
- 24. Melancholic
- 27. Sheets of glass
- 29. Slang for famous person
- 32. Not good
- 34. "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- 35. The "World" is one
- 36. Used to make guacamole
- 39. Midway between south and southwest
- 40. Wet dirt
- 43. Ancient Egyptian name
- 44. Set of four
- 46. Strips
- 47. Wife
- 49. More dried-up
- 51. Socially inept person
- 54. Clusters on fern fronds
- 59. Bar bill
- 60. Prefix indicating "away from"
- 61. Very important person
- 62. Fiddler crabs
- 64. Special therapy

HOW SWEET THE SOUND NATIONAL CHAMPION STYLE



The Joliet American Legion Band will be holding their annual fundraising concert on Sunday, June 4th at 3:00 p.m. at the Jacob Henry Mansion 15 South Richards St., Joliet

In addition to a superb line-up of musical selections being conducted by Mike Fiske, the band's associate directors Rick Ellenberger (U.S. Army Major Retired), Dr. James Kruez and Jill Kohler will also take the podium to present fine patriotic arrangements. Tickets for this event will be available at the door one hour prior to show time at the cost of \$10 per person. Light refreshments will also be available in addition to a silent auction and drawings for raffle baskets which are being made possible through local merchant donations and band member contributions. Please consider attending and making this spring concert a successful one for the band who will be traveling to Charlotte, NC in August to defend their "National Champion" title once again.

Elwood Fire Protection District accepting bids for a 2023 GMC Sierra and a 2024 GMC Sierra

PUBLIC NOTICE

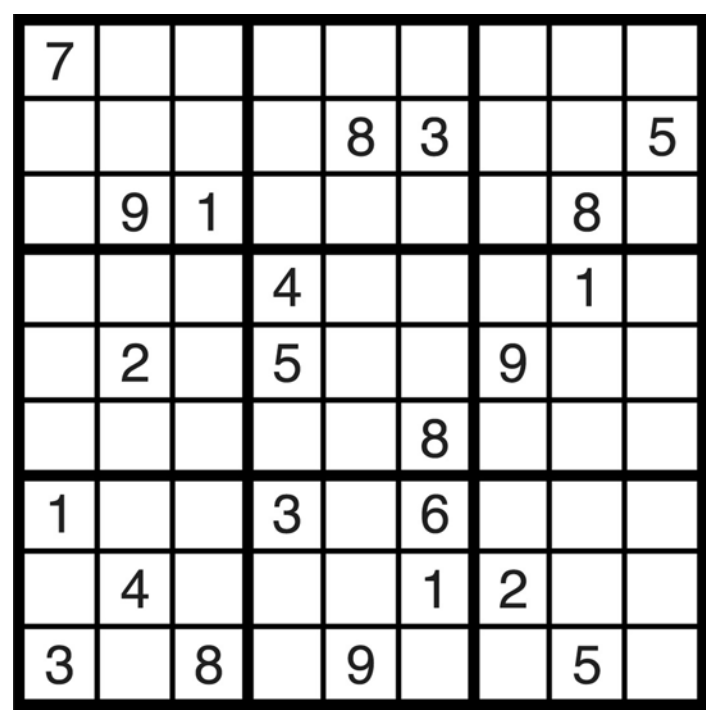
Notice is hereby given that the Elwood Fire Protection District will be accepting sealed bids for the following:

The purchase of (1) 2023 GMC Sierra 1500 (TK10543) 4WD Crew Cab 147" Pro.

The purchase of (1) 2024 GMC Sierra 2500 (TK20743) 4WD Crew Cab 159" Pro.

Bid specifications/packets are available for pick up at the Elwood Fire Protection District Mon-Fri, 9am- 3pm or you may email admin@elwoodfpd.com to request a packet. Bids must be submitted by 9am, June 5, 2023. Each submitted bid must be in a separate envelope, sealed and clearly labeled with vehicle type. The bids may be mailed to: Elwood Fire Protection District 309 Mississippi Street Elwood, IL 60421, or dropped off in person 9am-3pm, Mon-Fri. The Fire District will not receive bids after the June 5, 2023 deadline. All bids shall be opened at the Fire District on June 6, 2023 at 9am. The Elwood Fire Protection 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, Wednesday, May 24 and 31, 2023.



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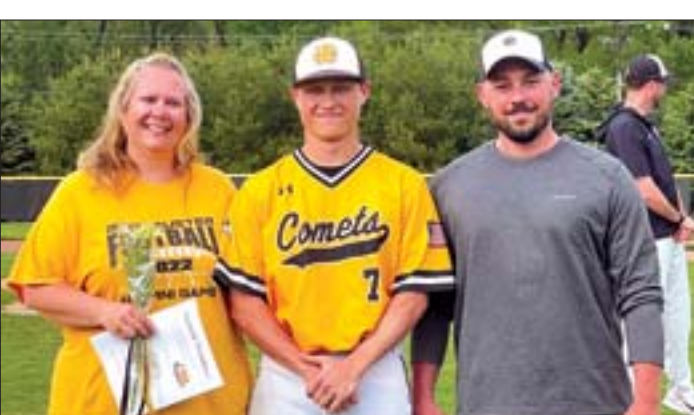
CHASE BRADLEY is the son of Jamie and Kay Bradley. After graduation, Chase is enlisted in the US Marine Corps and will be leaving June 25th for boot camp. After his 4 years in the Marines he plans on going to Wyotech to work towards a career as a diesel technician or possibly going into the trades and work on the pipeline. His favorite memory was going to Buffalo Wild Wings and trying the Blazin' Wings with all of his teammates. Chase will miss being with his friends and being a part of the RC Baseball team. He enjoyed those team dinners and will also miss all of the great memories he's created with his teammates.



COLIN ESPARZA is the son of Steve and Devin Esparza. In the fall, Colin will be attending JJC to work towards a career in accounting. One of his favorite memories was hitting his first high school home run. Colin will miss playing his favorite sport with his friends and teammates.



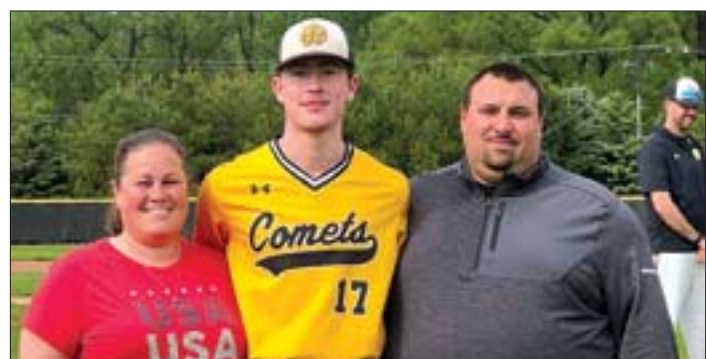
EVAN EHRINGER is the son of Troy and Char Ehringer. After graduation, he plans on attending JJC and studying electrical and electronic automated systems. His favorite thing about baseball season was playing a sport he enjoys with his friends and coaches and being able to have fun with them every day. Evan will miss all of the bus rides and hype moments after a great game, he knows these are memories he won't forget. He will always cherish the times he had while playing for RCHS.



CONNOR ESPARZA, the son of Matthew and Amanda Esparza, plans on attending JJC and furthering his education in engineering. Connor will miss playing baseball here at RCHS with his friends every day. He would also like to add a special thank you to the coaches and his teammates for a great three years of high school baseball.



WESLEY SHATS is the son of Nichole Shats and Wes Shats. Wes will be heading off to Lewis University to study aviation. One of his funniest memories was watching Coach Richey get hit by Slager during the Wilmington game. Wes will miss the competition out on the ball field and having fun with his friends.



ETHAN HOUSMAN is the son of Kevin and Amber Housman. After graduation, Ethan plans on starting his job as a welder at IMT working on barges and eventually on nuclear power plants. Some of his favorite memories were the team breakfasts at Golden Mine and then running over to the BP. Ethan will miss the environment that his teammates and coaches were always able to bring and the competition while playing baseball.



JOSHUA SPRINKLES is the son of Greg and Julie Sprinkles. He will be attending Olivet Nazarene University to work towards a degree in civil engineering as well as continue to play soccer. Some of his favorite memories were all of the team breakfasts he got to be a part of. Joshua will miss being around his teammates and everyone that made that sport fun for him.



COLE GOODWIN is the son of Bret and Tricia Goodwin. In the fall, Cole will be attending JJC and then transferring to Olivet Nazarene University to work towards a degree in Psychology. He will miss the bond that was created between the coaches, himself and all of his teammates. Cole will miss playing Baseball with his teammates and coaches every day. He would also like to add that he hopes the RCHS baseball program continues to grow and put out amazing players.



JACOB MCPHERSON is the son of Chris and Beth McPherson. After graduation, Jacob will be attending the University of Wisconsin Whitewater to play baseball and work towards a degree in business. His favorite memory in baseball was playing Coal City in the Regional Championship game and RC was down 4 and Jake hit a grand slam to tie the game. Jacob will miss the early morning Saturday practices and just having fun with his friends and teammates during those times.



KYLE FORDONSKI is the son of Kevin and Barb Fordonski. After graduation, Kyle plans on attending the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point to study aquatic sciences and will continue to play baseball through college. His favorite memory was closing the Peotone game last season when the bases were loaded, one out, bottom of the 7th. Kyle will miss the bond he gained while playing alongside of his teammates every day.

Giving them a run for their money in Braidwood

Watching children at play you frequently hear, "Bet I can climb this tree faster than you can!" or "Race you to the next corner!" I guess being the fastest kid on the block is a real feather in your cap.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

But it's not just kids that do it. Just watch NASCAR and you can see that big boys do it too. In the 1880's Braidwood was full of big boys who wanted to be the fastest kid on the block. Let's look at a few.

Running races became the fad sometime in the late 1870's and by 1880's it had gotten serious, especially in the coal mining communities. In an age when people barely made \$1 a day, big money was being wagered on these races. Case in point, a proposed race between E. E. Harvey of Wilton Center and a Mr. Barber from Braidwood in July of 1880.

Harvey issued the following challenge, "Mr. Barber, Braidwood: Dear Sir; I am now prepared and will run for any amount from \$500 (\$15,500) a side or more on the Joliet running track. Will meet you at Wilmington, Saturday, July 17, and sign agreement and put up \$250 (\$7,775) a side the rest to be put up on day of said race, which we agree upon. Said race to be one hundred yards. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain yours truly,

E. E. Harvey" However, it seems that Harvey was all talk as we read the result in the Wilmington Advocate, "Mr. Barber and several of his backers were in Wilmington accordingly on last Saturday, but failed to see Mr. Harvey or any explanation of his non-appearance. They were naturally indignant over the disappointment, and were not slow to characterize Mr. Harvey as a braggart and a duffer. They claim to have the man and the "sand" to meet him with, but they want no more bombastic challenges followed by such trifling. Now, Mr. Harvey, state your case." And later, "The proposed foot race between Barber and Harvey remains a fizzle on account of Harvey's apparent trifling. Let him put up or shut up and keep his bragging letters at home." It seems that boasting was a big part of this racing thing.

Setting aside the trash talk, races were run and for pretty big money. "That much talked of Cassidy-Ferguson race came off on Saturday afternoon in presence of many spectators. The distance was 100 yards; purse, \$100 (\$3,100). It was won by Cassidy in 10_ seconds, it is said, he leading his opponent by about 5 feet. Several hundred dollars changed hands upon the issue of the contest,

and now other races are on the docket." Cassidy had become a local hero. A Cassidy Club was formed and we read two weeks later, "The Cassidy Club, Braidwood is to give a complimentary hop tonight at McArthur's opera house. A number of guests from this Wilmington will also attend." A great deal of money was bet on these races; just how much money changed hands can be judged by the next Cassidy race. We read in the October 8, 1880 Advocate, "Braidwood on last Saturday. The excitement attained a fever heat, and men even mortgaged their humble homes for betting money. Cassidy appeared to be largely backed by the Irish element and Dinsmore by the Scotch, and betting went on wildly up to the very last moment preceding the race. At about half-past three the word "Go!" was given, and in a few seconds thereafter Mr. Cassidy was an easy winner of the race by some five yards. An exultant shout went up on the one side, while sullen silence pervaded the other. It is estimated that all of \$3,000 (\$93,300) changed hands on the result. One man we know of lost \$210 (\$6,550), while many others won \$25, \$50, \$60, and so on. George Barber has since challenged the victor and also his trainer, Mr. Carr, to run a month hence for \$500 (\$15,500) - \$100 (\$3,100) to be advanced as a forfeit."

This racing thing did not die out, as we have no 1881

papers, we look to 1882 and sure enough this fad is still going as we read in July of that year, "Chas. Page beat Wm. Long in the 80 yards foot race, on yesterday, by several yards. The purse was \$200 (\$6,225), and a big crowd was present. Page and Kittleman are to run

for a like amount today." Another foot race was announced the same month, "A foot race on the 22nd of 100 yards, for \$500 (\$15,555) a side, is announced for Saturday next, the principals being "Grasshopper Jack" and a Braceville coal digger."

Showing Braidwood's sense of humor, the 4th of July celebration of 1882 included another type of race, we read, "Tom Jones won the fat men's race on the 4th, Mr. Odell not competing."

Showing Braidwood's sense of humor, the 4th of July celebration of 1882 included another type of race, we read, "Tom Jones won the fat men's race on the 4th, Mr. Odell not competing."

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Veterans the real winners of Braidwood Memorial Day 5K

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Memorial Day weekend is often thought of as the unofficial start to summer. And while local towns took time out of the weekend festivities to remember the reason behind the holiday—to recognize and remember the men and women who died serving the United States as members of the Armed Forces—one local veteran wanted to do more.

That's how Ryan Dodge, an outage scheduler with Constellation Energy, came up with the idea of a race to benefit those who offer their service to the country.

"I'm part of a veterans group that works for Constellation, basically we've been doing charitable golf outings for local veterans groups. I just became part of the corporate level so now we're Constellation military, actively connected across the fleet," Dodge said. "So I said, let's do something for the Midwest, and I was thinking, we got into golf outings, what's something that would attract a lot of people, so we said 5K."

Dodge contacted Josh Bolatto with Braidwood ESDA to get some ideas on how to go about getting the run scheduled. Bolatto in turn connected Dodge to city leaders, and plans for a Memorial Day run through the neighborhood around Old Smokey City Park came to fruition.

On May 27, a total of 136 participants from five states took their mark at Old Smokey for the first running of the Braidwood Memorial Day 5K.

The race circled the area around Old Smokey, providing runners with the Midwest's signature flat surface run, making it a little easier for every skill level.

The money raised was donated to Honor Flight Chicago.

"That's a perfect cause, nothing better than to help the veterans who didn't get that proper



Photos by Marney Simon

AND THEY'RE OFF! A total of 136 runners and walkers took part in the inaugural Braidwood Memorial Day 5K at Old Smokey City Park on Saturday, May 27. Runners came from across the area to participate, including Will, Grundy, Kankakee, Cook, LaSalle, Livingston, McClean, Douglas, and DuPage counties, as well as runners from Tennessee, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Michigan.

welcome home," Dodge said. "They take them and they fly them to Washington, DC. It's so honorable to see what they do for them, so I said let's make them our charitable cause."

Honor Flight Chicago was founded 15 years ago as a way to give back to veterans.

"We fly senior war veterans to Washington, DC as a thank you for your service," said Doug Meffley, Director of Honor Flight Chicago. "We began with WWII veterans back in 2008, because the WWII Memorial had just opened, and it took so long that all of our WWII veterans were in their 80s, it was tough to travel. So, this Honor Flight movement was born. We quickly saw how much it impacted them not just to see the memorial but the way that they were treated

and thanked. We expanded to Korean War veterans and now Vietnam War veterans as well, and all three generations travel with us."

Honor Flight Chicago has flown 10,000 veterans from Chicago to Washington, DC. The group charters a Southwest 737 for the flight, which departs from Midway Airport. The aim is to fly out about 800 veterans over the seven flights in a season.

WWII and Korean War vets are at the front of the line, followed by Vietnam veterans. The pandemic forced the organization to halt flights for a while, but they are now back up and running. However, there is a wait list, so veterans and their families are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

The 5K event raised more than \$15,000 between race fees and donations.

"This event will raise enough money to fly several veterans, fully fund a day of honor for several of our veterans on an upcoming flight, Meffley said. "This event will specifically help to fund several of those veterans on the flights."

Dodge and his group will present the official check to Honor Flight Chicago as Guardians of the Flight on a future trip to Washington, DC.

"We'll actually get to partner up with a veteran and do the whole experience," Dodge said. "We're definitely looking forward to it."

Dodge said he's already looking forward to planning another run for next year, and is already seeking out other veterans groups that can benefit.

"That, to me what's it about," Dodge said. "Getting communities involved. It's all about giving back to our communities. All of our veterans are within our communities. There's no better purpose than to get involved and make it a community event. The way it turned out was awesome. Everyone felt safe, which is good, it's all about giving back to the veterans."

A veteran himself of the United States Navy, Dodge said one of his passions is to give back to those who have served.

"There's nothing better than to pay it forward," he said. "One of the good things about getting veterans together is the camaraderie of hearing their war stories. It's pretty neat, I'm looking forward to doing it again."

Earlier this year, the city of Braidwood paid a \$500 fee to have the course certified, which means it can be used as an official 5K route for future events. Constellation sponsored the 5K event and Dodge did the logistics and planning.

The race was chiptimed by It's Race Time, Inc. Results can be found online at www.results.itracetime.com.

To donate, help out, or get your veteran involved with Honor Flight Chicago, visit www.honorflightchicago.org.



RACE ORGANIZER (and amateur Mario impersonator) Ryan Dodge (left) finishes strong with Vincent Truetner (Luigi), Gustavo Avila (Wario) and Kenneth Ruitenberg.



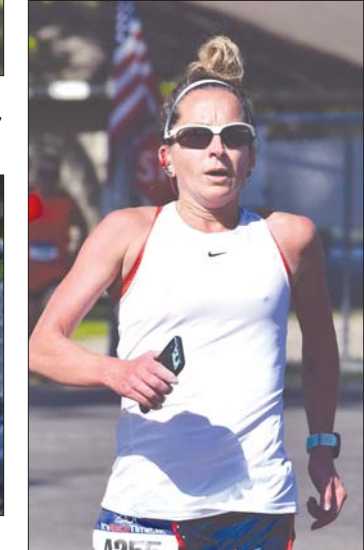
TAMMY FAVERO OF Braidwood waves at the start of the inaugural Braidwood Memorial Day 5K.



RYAN PETERS OF Braidwood was the first across the finish line, with a time of 18:10.6



KICK IT UP! Twelve-year-old Grace Brown races Shay Brown, both of Plainfield, to the finish line. The younger Brown was the winner by 1.5 seconds.



THE TOP FEMALE FINISHER was Abby Gabrys of Minooka, with a time of 20:55.8. Gabrys finished 10th overall.



FINAL PUSH! Crossing the finish line at the inaugural Braidwood Memorial Day 5K are Humberto Macias-De Leon of Streator (left) and Kyle Plante of Chebanse. The pair finished fifth and sixth overall, respectively.



WILL RUN FOR DUNKIN'! Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons "participates" in the Braidwood Memorial 5K on May 27.



A GREAT START! Angela Freeman of Minooka is pumped up at the beginning of the Braidwood Memorial Day 5K.



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6:35 p.m. game time

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