



Gordon Woods / Journal
The control room simulator at Clinton Power Station proved to be a popular stop during the facility’s annual Community Open House, held on Monday.

Learning about Clinton Power Station

Facility hosts its annual Community Open house

Gordon Woods
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CLINTON — Constellation Energy’s Clinton Power Station held its annual Community Open House on Monday from 4-7 p.m. in the power station’s training building.

Several displays, demonstrations and kids’ activities were on the schedule, as well as refreshments.

Something that routinely turns out to be one of the most popular features of the open house is the control room simulator, used to train new plant operators.

Mike Griffin, senior operations instructor, was on hand, along with other plant employees, to show adults and young people some of what makes the facility tick. In Griffin’s case, the control room

simulator.

“I teach the initial license class and train people how to get their license from the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) to operate the plant,” Griffin said. “We’ll run a class about every 18 months to two years.”

A class is about 18 months long.

The program includes classroom training from basic systems through operating the plant. They also learn casualty operations.

See **OPEN HOUSE** / A2

Clinton School District joins alternative school in Lincoln this fall

Katy O’Grady-Pyne
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CLINTON — At its June 20 meeting, the Clinton school board voted to approve a “Memorandum of Understanding” to join a new alternative school in Lincoln this fall.

The Abe Lincoln Academy will serve students in Logan County as well as Clinton and accept students from 6th grade to 21 years of age.

Superintendent Curt Nettles told the board this school will provide “another option” for students “who are not being successful in their current setting.”

“Member schools can fill out a referral to send a student to the school. It would be considered a temporary placement.”

The Clinton school district will pay an annual \$4,000 fee to join the new alternative school plus an additional per student fee, as well as provide transportation to and from the school.

Clinton Junior High School Principal Jim Peck estimated his school “probably would have sent two students this year” if the alternative education had been an option.

The board also learned

interviews are underway for a new Clinton Elementary School principal.

“Once the principal is in place we’ll move forward on the assistant principal position,” said Nettles, adding he wanted to let the new principal have input in hiring the assistant principal.

Nettles said he hoped to have the position filled soon.

In other business, the board:

- Heard a presentation from Ruth Lowers about the Clinton Community Education Foundation (CCEF) and learned it grants \$7,000 to \$15,000 annually to local teachers. Lowers said CCEF has granted nearly \$70,000 since 2012. CCEF also oversees several scholarship disbursements and helps pay for dual credit classes for Clinton seniors at Richland Community College.

- Learned the high school gymnasium remodel is coming along well and bleachers may be installed earlier than expected and possibly before the start of the school year.

See **SCHOOLS** / A2



Gordon Woods / Journal
Attorney Rich Marvel addresses the county board about a pending vote for a rezoning request.

County approves rezoning despite protest

Gordon Woods
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CLINTON — An attorney representing property owners opposed to a zoning change in their area addressed the county board on June 22.

At issue was a request by owners of Kristin’s Addition to rezone the property to RD-1. Kristin’s Addition is located at the northwest

corner of Rt. 51 and Burns Hill Road, south of Clinton. The property does not currently have direct road access to Burns Hill Road.

Attorney Rich Marvel sought to persuade the board to postpone making a decision on the rezoning.

“If you deny this today, it doesn’t mean it can’t be brought up in the future,” Marvel told the board. “They, (Zoning Board of Appeals) make

a recommendation. It’s not necessarily a rubber stamp.”

Marvel said it was his opinion that the technical requirements for granting a zoning change were not met. He said the application for rezoning failed to include sufficient descriptions of the properties involved.

See **COUNTY** / A3

Mike Ferguson gets an Honor Flight welcome

Marc Rogers
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CLINTON — Another Clinton veteran received a warm welcome home on Tuesday, June 20, after spending the day on Land of Lincoln Honor Flight 67.

Vietnam war veteran Mike Ferguson enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve for six years. He served at Fort Ord with the 388th Chemical Company, and although they were slated for action, they were never called up.

Mike’s son Jeremy went along as his guardian on the Honor Flight. A celebration of Mike’s return from the flight was held in the Kirby/IGA parking

lot. There were many friends on hand to welcome Mike home.

There were five Korean era veterans and 86 Vietnam era veterans on this flight along with 88 guardians. The flight to Washington D.C. left Springfield, at 4 a.m. and returned around 10:30 p.m.

While in Washington, the veterans get to tour the World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials as well as the Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of the Unknowns, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Air & Space Museum (in Chantilly, Va.), the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial.

See **HONOR** / A3



Marc Rogers / Journal
Mike with his family upon his return.

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INDEX	
News.....	A2-3
Obituaries.....	A4
Opinion.....	A5
Churches.....	A6
Weather.....	A8
Sports.....	B1
Games.....	B2
Classified / Legal.....	B3-6


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Schools / from page A1

Approved the following employment and appointments: Ashley Shewmake, 4th grade teacher; Jensen Wollbrink, CHS PE teacher; Nate Ennis, CHS head baseball coach; Michelle Jepsen, food service; Mark Reece and Curt Short, custodians; Katie Voegel, CJHS Student Council sponsor; Holly Farrel, CJHS aide; Stacy Sharrow, CES food service manager; Ashley Barnard, food service.

- Agreed to cancel its regular July meeting.



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Open House / from page A1



Gordon Woods / Journal
Clinton Power Station senior operations instructor Mike Griffin, far right, steps into the control room simulator during the facility's recent Community Open House.

"We teach them how to handle the worst-case scenario," Griffin said.

By the time participants begin the training program at Clinton, they will have been equipment operators or earned engineering degrees.

"They have to have several years of experience on-site before they can even apply for the class," Griffin said.

"We're pretty much

open to come see what we do every day," Griffin said. "We have a bunch of volunteers come over to set up tables to show some of the other things."

Often, groups such as the Boy Scouts will come to see and learn about the control room simulator, "or family tours

like today," Griffin said. Sometimes, engineers or people from other plants will also visit the training facility.

"We host just about every type of event."

Griffin said it was especially satisfying to see kids and adults interested and excited to learn about

the simulator and the plant.

"It's very rewarding," he said.

Griffin has been at the Clinton Power Station for 25 years.

"It's been a great place to work, and it's one of the safest places I've ever worked, too."



Gordon Woods / Journal



Gordon Woods / Journal

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CLINTON Journal

Honor / from page A1



Some of the early arrivals to welcome Jim home.

“Our mission is to show our most senior veterans our gratitude for their service by hosting this day of thanks absolutely free of thanks absolutely free to the veterans. They have paid enough; it is out turn to pay them back.” She also stated: “Please come to the airport (or gathering place) to give our veterans the welcome home they

earned, deserved and never received,” said LLHF president Joan Bartolon.

All World War II, Korean era and Vietnam era veterans are encouraged to apply now for a flight on what is currently a short list.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flights is a 501(C)3

nonprofit organization that receives no government funding but functions on donations with only 1 percent of funds going to administrative costs. LLHF is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.

The next flight carrying a Clinton veteran is scheduled for August 22.

Clinton AMVETS awards scholarships



Renewal applicant Elly Maier.

Marc Rogers
jmarre@frontier.com

CLINTON — This year, the Darvin Volker AMVETS Post #14 awarded five scholarships to local students.

The scholarship fund was begun by AMVETS member the late Dennis Davenport. In his memory, the Dennis Davenport/Darvin Volker AMVETS Post #14 scholarship fund

has continued.

The students who received scholarships are Clinton High School graduates and are the descendants of a veteran along with other scholarship criteria.

This year, there was one new applicant and four renewals. The first time scholarships are worth \$1,000 and continuing scholarships are \$500.

As long as students continue their educations

with acceptable grade point averages, they can apply for the renewal scholarship.

This year there was only one new applicant, Chloe Barth, who was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

There were four continuing scholarships awarded. These were awarded to Dennis Lux, Elly Maier, Jaleigh Oliver and Kolby Weiss.

(Kolby Weiss was unavailable for a photo.)



(L-R) New applicant Chloe Barth, and renewal applicants Jaleigh Oliver and Dennis Lux.

County / from page A1

“At the ZBA hearing, the applicant himself failed to appear, Marvel said. “None of my clients had the opportunity to sit down and actually ask some very fundamental questions.”

Marvel said those questions might have included if the seller had a buyer and what he intended to do with the property.

“That is the kind of information the Zoning Board of Appeals would

consider,” he said. “They are supposed to take in the evidence and determine if the potential use ... is compatible with the surrounding neighbors.”

Marvel said rezoning was a function of the democratic process but a privilege, not necessarily a right.

“Just because it can be done doesn’t mean that it should be, and just because it shouldn’t be doesn’t mean that it can’t,” Marvel said.

He said, in this case, the applicant failed to introduce evidence about any of the factors that would make it possible for the ZBA to make a decision about the compatibility of the plan with its surroundings.

The county clerk’s office also received letters of protest from property owners opposed to the rezoning.

Ultimately, the board voted 9-3 to approve the rezoning request.

Area students named to Illinois Wesleyan University dean’s list

BLOOMINGTON — Illinois Wesleyan University’s Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2022-23 academic year included 731 students from 30 states and 29 countries. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a GPA of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for straight As.

The following local students made the list:

- Hadley McKenzie of LeRoy, Illinois, a senior majoring in Environmental Studies


- Ethan Holland of Heyworth, Illinois, a senior majoring in Marketing

- Hannah Warren of Heyworth, Illinois, a junior majoring in Marketing

- Grace Loy of LeRoy, Illinois, a sophomore majoring in Marketing

- Madison Hamilton of LeRoy, Illinois, a first-year majoring in Elementary Education

- Haden McKenzie of LeRoy, Illinois, a first-year majoring in Nursing



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NEWS

James Douglas ‘Perk’ Perkins

SULLIVAN — James Douglas “Perk” Perkins, 72, of Sullivan, passed away at 2:12 p.m. on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at St. John’s Hospital, Springfield.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 1, 2023, at McMullin-Young Funeral Home, Sullivan, with military rites by the Sullivan American Legion Post #68 following the service outside of the funeral home. Visitation will be held an hour prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Sullivan American Legion Post #68.

Perk was born on November 7, 1950, in Clinton, the son of John and Lena (Hoge) Perkins. He served in the United States Marine Corps. Perk married Paula S. Daily on December 31, 1992, in Flanagan; she survives.

He worked for Bodine Electric as an electrician for many years. Perk enjoyed hunting, fishing



and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Paula of Sullivan; daughter, Tobi (Tom) Veri of Buford, Ga.; grandchildren, Tyler Perkins, Warren Egan, Selah Veri and Rocco Veri; brothers, John (Carol) Perkins, of Springfield, Mike (Cid) Perkins of Clinton and Jeff (Pam) Perkins of Flanagan; sisters, Marcia (Howard) Owens of Sullivan and Connie (Cliff) Dobbs, of Sullivan.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Spencer.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mcmullinyoung.com

Dr. Donald Ray ‘D.R.’ Gordon

SPRINGFIELD — Dr. Donald Ray “D.R.” Gordon, 75, of Springfield, formerly of Clinton, passed away at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at HSHS St. John’s Hospital, Springfield.

Services will be conducted at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at Calvert Funeral Home, Clinton, with the Rev. Meredith Manning Brown officiating. Burial will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery, Clinton. Visitation will be held from 5–7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, with Masonic services at 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

D.R. was born on October 21, 1947 in Paris, Ill., the son of Dr. Wayne E. and Betty (Medsker) Gordon. He married Cathy Jill Silvers on June 14, 1969, in Clinton. She survives.

He is also survived by his two children, Jill Elizabeth Gordon, of Springfield, and Brad Clayton Gordon, and his wife, Mary, of Peoria, and his granddaughter, Brooke Sue Gordon.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

D.R. attended Clinton Community High School and Eastern Illinois University. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago in 1971. He also received the President’s Award at graduation. To this day he holds the highest GPA of any graduate at ICO.

D.R. joined his father’s optometry practice in 1971 after graduation. He was also employed as the Optometric Coordinator for the State of Illinois



for 25 years. He has been the past-president of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, past-president of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, and past-chairman of the Illinois Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board. He was honored to be the Illinois Optometrist of the Year in 1991 and the Alumnus of the Year at ICO in 1998.

In 2019, the Illinois Optometric Association honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also an Eagle Scout, a longtime member of the Clinton Kiwanis Club and volunteered for the CHS football chain-gang for more than 25 years. He was very proud to coach his son’s baseball team throughout Brad’s youth and served many years as president of Clinton Boys Khoury League. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge DeWitt #84 and achieved the rank of 32nd degree.

Memorials may be directed to Clinton Youth Baseball or the Vision of Hope at Illinois College of Optometry.

Online condolences may be made at www.calvertmemorial.com

Theresa A. (Duvall) Allen

CLINTON — Theresa A. (Duvall) Allen, 80 of Clinton, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at Liberty Village in Clinton.

A celebration of Theresa’s life is planned for a later date. The family entrusted Calvert Funeral Home, Clinton, with cremation rites.

Theresa was born on October 20, 1942, in Clinton, the daughter of George and Nora (Conroy) Duvall.

Survivors include her four daughters, Traci Allen, Clinton; Tina Slagle, Okla.; Tami (Dean) Burch, Clinton; and Trisha Allen, Clinton; 10 grandkids and 10 great-grandkids also survive.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and three sisters.

Theresa retired from Miller Container and then enjoyed her work at Liberty Village,



in Clinton. She had unconditional love for her kids and grandkids. Theresa was loved by all who met her. Her sweet demeanor, sense of humor, and wonderful smile will be missed.

She loved spending time with her family and never turned away a visitor and had an open door. Theresa was also an adamant Cubs and Illini fan.

Online condolences may be made at www.calvertmemorial.com

Vicky Lynn Buchanan

CLINTON — Vicky Lynn Buchanan, 62, of Clinton, passed away 4:01 a.m. on June 19, 2023, at McLean County Nursing Home, Normal.

No services are planned at this time. The family has entrusted Calvert Funeral Home, Clinton, with cremation rites.

Vicky was born on November 3, 1960, in Clinton, the daughter of Earl and Carol (Burris) Buchanan. She married Gary Scott on October 21, 1989, in Clinton.

Survivors include her children, Jason (Joyel) North, Wapella; Audrie North, Shorewood, Ill.; Andrea North, Clinton; Stephanie Phillips, Clinton; and Kendall (James) Brewer, Lane, grandchildren, Haidyn North; Kylie North; Alyvia North; Kaylee Ford; Kenzy Ford; Konnar Bush; Hailey Johnson; Alyson Johnson; Savannah Phillips; Landen



Phillips; Zeke Rose; Isaiah Rose; and Finley Brewer, three great-grandchildren, siblings, David (Linda) Buchanan, Clinton, and Adele (Steve) Linchner, Clinton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Steve, Buddy, and Jim Buchanan.

Vicky was a very loving mother and grandmother who always put her family first.

Online condolences may be made at www.calvertmemorial.com

CLINTON
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Steven R. Harney 26, Mason City Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Notice to Appear issued.

06/24/23
Stephanie K. Durbin

20, Clinton Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Notice to Appear issued.

On 06/25/23 Clinton Police arrested Michael R. Murillo 53, Clinton for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Kyle A. Roberts 19, Clinton for Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession

of Drug Paraphernalia. Both subjects were transported to the DeWitt County Jail and released to Corrections.

All suspects are presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

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Clinton Journal

HISTORY
ALMANAC

1951 - On orders from Washington, General Matthew Ridgeway broadcasts that the United Nations was willing to discuss an armistice with North Korea.

1952 - CBS-TV debuted "The Guiding Light."

1953 - The first Corvette rolled off the Chevrolet assembly line in Flint, MI. It sold for \$3,250.

1955 - The U.S. began funding West Germany's rearmament.

1957 - The American occupation headquarters in Japan was dissolved.

1958 - The U.S. Congress passed a law authorizing the admission of Alaska as the 49th state in the Union.

1962 - Los Angeles Dodger Sandy Koufax pitched his first no-hitter in a game with the New York Mets.

1964 - The last of U.N. troops left Congo after a four-year effort to bring stability to the country.

1970 - The Cincinnati Reds moved to their new home at Riverfront Stadium.

1971 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the government could not prevent the Washington Post or the New York Times from publishing the Pentagon Papers.

1971 - The Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 11 returned to Earth. The three cosmonauts were found dead inside.

1971 - The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified when Ohio became the 38th state to approve it. The amendment lowered the minimum voting age to 18.

1974 - Russian ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov defected in Toronto, Canada.

1974 - The July 4th scene from the Steven Spielberg movie "Jaws" was filmed.

1977 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced his opposition to the B-1 bomber.

1984 - The longest professional football game took place in the United States Football League (USFL). The Los Angeles Express beat the Michigan Panthers 27-21 after 93 minutes and 33 seconds.

1985 - Yul Brynner left his role as the King of Siam after 4,600 performances in "The King and I."

1986 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that states could outlaw homosexual acts between consenting adults.

1994 - The U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the 1994 national championship and banned her from the organization for life for an attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan.

1998 - Officials confirmed that the remains of a Vietnam War serviceman buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery were identified as those of Air Force pilot Michael J. Blassie.

Amber Waves



D. R.

It is always interesting to see how people are known and acknowledged in their community.

If you said you had just left Donald Ray Gordon's office, most people in Clinton would not relate to the name. If you said you had just left Dr. Gordon's office, a few more people would recognize the name. However, if said you had just left D. R's office, everyone knew where you had been.

Those two letters, D.R.; told everyone that you had gotten an eye exam and probably new glasses or contacts. In an era of chain optometry stores were surging, Clinton went to D.R. He provided service for eye exams with great skill and for those with metal slivers in their eyes, D.R. provided immediate medical relief. While D.R. sold his practice to two fine young optometrists, D.R. will always be remembered as the eye doctor of Clinton.

I don't recall if I first met D.R. in his exam chair or at a Clinton High School basketball game. His son Brad and our oldest son Scott were on the same team and we saw a lot of each other. We cheered in the boy's success and commiserated after a

rough game. We simply enjoyed the games. In later years, D.R. and I transitioned to Illini football and basketball. We had, and still have, season tickets along with some others from Clinton and Decatur. Tickets on the 50 yard line for football and in A section for basketball really allow for you to feel the emotion of the crowd while having a great view. We had a great time and I will miss that comradery.

More importantly for Clinton and the country D.R. loved optometry and meeting the medical needs of both the country, state and community. D.R. sat on the national optometry boards and always worked to improve optometric services on a national level. At the state level, he was essentially the state's enforcement officer for optometric standards. D.R. spent a lot of his time in Chicago and Springfield resolving complaints against optometrists who didn't meet state standards. He never bragged about these activities, he just did them for the betterment of his profession. Locally, there were a lot of school kids whose families were having financial problems,



but a school teacher would refer a child to D.R. for an eye exam, because the child was having difficulty in class. Those services were either free or deeply discounted.

D.R. cared about his community. Whether it was the hospital board, mental health board or his local Kiwanis Club, D.R. was involved and active in seeking betterment for Clinton and DeWitt County.

D.R., Dave Spence and I would have lunch together every Tuesday since the late 1990s. Cancer would take Dave, but D.R. and I continued the practice until our last lunch this past Tuesday at Snappers on the sidewalk. D.R. was going downhill. The last few years, and especially the last 18 months, had been difficult for D.R. and his family. D.R., who was gifted with a brilliant mind and a great ability to discern complicated issues, was afflicted with dementia. His wife Cathy and daughter Jill provided

care for D.R. on a 24-hour basis for the last two years. The home in Clinton was sold with D.R. and Cathy moving to Springfield in a house that all three could live in. Cathy and Jill made it work, until D.R. passed away on Sunday morning. Cathy has lost her husband, Jill and Brad have lost their father. The optometric community has lost one of its most fierce supporters. Clinton has lost an advocate for improving local medical and mental health care. Take a moment and tell the family your favorite D.R. memory. They will appreciate it in this moment of loss.

ACE HARDWARE— This past Friday and Saturday, our local Ace Hardware store celebrated 75 years of service to Clinton. That is 75 years of the same family operating the store. Whether the name was Gibson, Heap or Barton, the store all goes back to Grandpa Virgil Gibson. Family owned businesses are the backbone of our economy. Ace Hardware provides excellent service and quality products. Shop locally at Ace. I would love to make to their 100th anniversary.

Thank you for supporting Weldon Springs Foundation

It has been 76 years since the town of Clinton sold Weldon Springs Park to the State of Illinois. This park is loved and used by the people of this area. We are thankful for this support.

Recently, we have been given some special donations like the one where DAR children's club donated money for new books at the Town

Hall, or the Warner hospital employees donating to the general fund, and especially the generous grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation. All these donations have allowed the Foundation and our Educator, Patti Kinder, to purchase fun items and support our prairie programs.

So, thanks to Clinton and



the surrounding friends for much needed help to bring the prairie park alive for our youth. These summer days will find children at the schoolhouse to hear speakers and at the park

frog pond having hands-on lessons about the prairie and its animals and flowers. We encourage parents and grandparents to bring their children and grandchildren to see these new exhibits and learn about our prairie heritage.

Stephanie Russell,
President
Weldon Spring
Foundation

CLINTON JOURNAL LETTER POLICY

The Clinton Journal accepts responsibly written letters covering topics of interest to our readers. Letters must be the original works of their senders.

The Journal accepts letters endorsing political candidates up to the Tuesday before a Friday edition prior to election day. The Journal will not publish letters from candidates endorsing themselves.

All other letters will be published at the discretion of The Journal, space permitting, in the next available edition. The Journal does not publish anonymous letters. Letters submitted for publication must include the name of the author, address and telephone number. Addresses and telephone

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NEWS

Skipping abroad

Welcome to my little corner of culinary delights. I covered cuisine from the Americas that became popular throughout the United States. It is time to skip across the Atlantic and briefly include some in Europe and Asia. However, there are many countries I exclude since their cuisine is not well represented in the USA. Two such countries are England and Germany. Yes, there are a few such restaurants here, but not enough to warrant a serious article.

After high school graduation, further back than I care to admit, I took a trip to Europe. I got to experience various cuisines while there. The wonderful experiences stood out. The bad ones stood out even more. To remember the bad ones is called “avoidance factor” in psychology. Therefore, English-German cuisine I remember too well.

English customs I found to be interesting. However, I would not praise their food too greatly. Even the names do not sound appetizing. They have such things as “bubble and squeak,”



The Culinary Corner
By Chef Roger Joss

“toad in the hole,” “Bacon Butty,” and “Shepherd’s pie” to name a few traditional dishes. The bubble and squeak consist of yesterday’s cooked vegetable leftovers. This needs to include mashed potatoes. Use chopped-up cooked meat if you have it. There is basically no need for a recipe since little expertise is required. Simply throw it all together into a frypan with oil, and cook over medium flame until golden brown. To help it along, add a cooked egg on top when served. It is reminiscent to our breakfast hash.

Look out cholesterol, here it comes; the toad in the hole. This consists of a batter made with flour, egg, milk, salt and pepper. Mix in fresh thyme leaves to help the flavor. Combine and let set a few hours. In the meantime, fry the sausage, lightly coat with Dijon mustard, place in greased casserole dish, and pour over this the

batter. Bake at 400°F for about 35 to 40 minutes. It should poof-up a little and brown.

Now for the bacon butty. It is very simple to make but considered very tasty by the British. In fact, it is so popular that Prince William & Kate had it as part of their “breakfast after the wedding.” This is a puzzle to me. If this sandwich is so popular, can anyone imagine the dish that is unpopular in Britain?

The bacon butty is simply made with two slices of soft white bread with a single layer of crispy bacon strips between with HP sauce (a British brown sauce similar to our steak sauces). The good old standby, ketchup, can be substituted. If this seems strange for breakfast given to a prince and his bride, you should find out what the queen normally has for breakfast. For her regular fair, she has green tea and Special-K cereal. And the cereal is not made in England. There is one food I love from England. That would be Welsh bread pudding.

Until next time, peace to all.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Numbers (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In which Gospel did Jesus say, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. From Mark 15:23, while on the cross Christ was offered wine mingled with ...? Salt, Water, Myrrh, Speck
4. In 2 Kings 5, who had his leprosy washed away in the Jordan? Naaman, Zacchaeus, Elijah, Joshua

5. From Psalm 46:1, “God is our refuge and ...”? Light, Builder, Wisdom, Strength
6. Who had a rod that God turned into a serpent? Noah, Moses, Abraham, Isaac

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Mark 9:23, 3) Myrrh, 4) Naaman, 5) Strength, 6) Moses

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson’s Casey’s latest book, “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.

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AREA CHURCHES DIRECTORY

Calvary United Pentecostal Church
412 S. Monroe Street, Clinton
(217) 935-8627
3 p.m.-Sunday worship
7 p.m.-Mondays family prayer
7 p.m.-Wednesday Bible study

Christ Lutheran Church & preschool
701 S. Mulberry Street, Clinton
Office (217) 935-5808
Preschool office (217) 935-4675
8:15 a.m.-Sunday worship
9:30 a.m.-Sunday school
Preschool Tues., Wed. and Thurs. morning and afternoon sessions.

Clinton Church of Christ
Bus. Rt. 51 south, Clinton
(217) 935-5058
Stephen R. Bradd, Gospel preacher
AudioEvangelism.com
Clinton CofC.com
9 a.m.-Sunday morning Bible study
10 a.m.-Sunday morning worship
1 p.m.-Sunday worship
7 p.m.-Wednesday evening Bible study

Clinton Church of God
720 E. Woodlawn Street, Clinton
clintoncog.org
Mark Cooper, pastor
9:30 a.m.-Sunday school
10:30 a.m.-Sunday morning worship
6 p.m.-Sunday night service
7 p.m.-Wednesday service

Clinton Presbyterian Church
402 N. Center Street
Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Tel. (217) 935-6178
Fax (217) 935-6128
Pastor-Paul Stroup
clintonpresbyterian.org
9:15 a.m.-Sunday school
10:30 a.m.-Sunday worship with nursery available
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PC - A Place to Belong - Believe - Become

Clinton United Methodist Church
308 E. Main Street
Rev. Darrell Howard
(217) 935-5869
clintonumcil.org
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School Children & Adult
5 p.m. Saturday Evening Worship in

chapel
3:30 p.m. Thursday JC Stars After School Children’s program (pickup is available)
3rd Sunday S.W.A.G Sr & Jr High Youth
6 p.m. Extended Table 2nd and 4th Mondays
12:30 p.m. Wednesday Backpack Ministry

First Baptist Church
220 Illini Drive, Clinton
(217) 935-2032
firstbaptistchurch3@frontier.com
Jonathan Roberson, pastor
9:30 a.m.-Sunday school
10:30 a.m.-Sunday worship
5 p.m.-Sunday evening worship
7 p.m.-Wednesday mid-week prayer meeting

First Christian Church
100 N. Jackson Street, Clinton (W. Main & N. Jackson)
clintonfcc.com
Adult Bible School 10:45 a.m.
Worship Services: 9:30 a.m.
First Kids Worship for 3-yr -olds - 5th grade is available at 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Nursery available at each morning service.

First Church of the Nazarene
Rt. 51 and Kleemann Drive, Clinton
Michael A. Taylor, pastor
8:30 a.m.-Sunday prayer around the altar
8:45 a.m.-continental breakfast
9:30 a.m.-Sunday school / Bible study
10:30 a.m.-morning worship
7 p.m.-Wednesday mid-week service

Kenney Christian Church
213 W. Benjamin Street, Kenney
(217) 944-2275
Ernie Harvey, minister
9:30 a.m.-Bible study
10:30 a.m.-Sunday worship

Lane Christian Church
(217) 935-2557
www.lanechurch.org
Jim Kilson, preaching and teaching minister
Marcus McCollom, youth and family minister
9 a.m.-Sunday school
10 a.m.-worship
5:30 p.m.-youth group
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Lifebridges Church
200 S. Alexander Street, Clinton
(217) 570-0105
www.lifebridges-church.com
Pastors-Jonathan and Dana Taylor
10 a.m.-Sunday celebration
10 a.m.-AMPED Kids for ages (1-5 grades)
10 a.m.-AMPED Jr. (birth-K)
7 p.m.-AfterShock teen church, 6th-12 grades
6 p.m.-Wednesday, Strategic Disciple
6:30 p.m.-Thursday, DIVE teen Bible study
7 p.m.-Thursdays, 1st & 3rd, Empowered Women / 2nd & 4th, Frontline Men

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
502 N. Monroe Street, Clinton
(217) 935-3727
Rev. James Owusu-Yeboah, pastor
4 p.m.-Saturday mass
8:30 a.m.-Sunday mass

St. Patrick Catholic Church
320 S. Locust Street, P.O. Box 116, Wapella
(217) 935-8510
Office hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues. & Thurs.
Father Geoff Horton, pastor
9 a.m.-Sunday, Tues. & Thurs. mass
www.saintpatrickwapella.org

Texas Christian Church
8301 Texas Church Road, Clinton
(217) 454-6846
www.texaschristian-church.org
Scott Marsh, minister
9 a.m.-Sunday school
10 a.m.-Sunday worship
6 p.m.-Sunday evening worship
6 p.m.-Wednesday prayer meeting

The Blessed Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church
112 N. Monroe St., Clinton
(217) 731-4005
9:30 a.m.-Saturday, Sabbath school
11 a.m.-worship with pot luck afterwards
6 p.m.-Wednesday, prophecy meetings

Wapella Christian Church
101 N. Poplar
(217) 731-4404
Josh Gorrie, minister
Wapellacc.com
9 a.m.-Sunday school
10 a.m.-worship
“Celebrating our 150th year”

Memory aids we can use

There may come a time when you can no longer immediately remember the 25 telephone numbers that used to be easily recalled. I suspect it comes to us all. When it does, it’s time to start making lists.

Having a cellphone is probably the easiest way to save all those numbers. But the problem comes when the phone is on its charger and can’t be accessed. Written lists are a lifesaver then.

I made such a list for my father many years ago, not suspecting then that I would need the same type of list someday. I’d taped his list inside the cabinet door in his kitchen, the one right above the phone on the wall.

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

I now have a similar list taped to the inside of my own cabinet door, but in one other place as well: a slim piece of paper on the side of my computer monitor. Of the two, that’s the most handy because I’m often at the computer.

I’ve also made a list for the other side of the monitor of important dates with items such as inspection and new tags for the car and the next date to pick up a three-month batch of prescriptions at the pharmacy.

One thing that was helpful for my father years

ago when he was very senior and using his first computer: I made him a notebook of instructions. In a three-ring binder I put pages with one instruction per page, with titles like “How to Send Email,” and I’d start each instruction with “Turn on the computer,” because that’s where his skill level was. Periodically, as his computer skills grew, he’d request additional instruction pages. It was a lot easier than trying to teach him by telephone.

Nowadays, if he were still living, I’m sure I’d be creating a “How to Use the Cellphone” notebook for him. I’d be happy to.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

Psalm 27:1

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

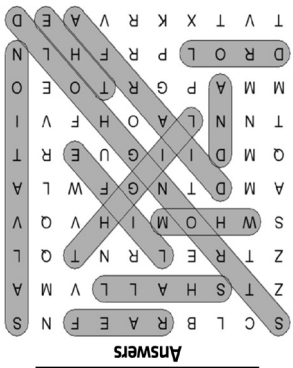
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T N N L A O H F V I
M M A P G R T O E O
D R O L P R F H L N
T V T X K R V A E D

Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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NEWS

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 - Safe Sitter
 - CPR



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www.warnerhospital.org

Your Forecast

Information from the National Weather Service

Saturday
T-storms likely
High 86

Sunday
Sunny
High 84

Monday
Sunny
High 86

Tuesday
Sunny
High 87

Wednesday
Sunny
High 88

Thursday
Sunny
High 90

Weather History

June 30
1960: An overnight tornado in Madison County moved near North Alton, Bethalto, Collinsville, Bunker Hill, and Godfrey. Three hangars were destroyed at the Bethalto airport, with 48 aircraft damaged or destroyed, resulting in \$1 million damage.

2014: Two separate derechos (long lasting line of storms with intense wind damage) impacted northern Illinois. The first line developed in Iowa during the early afternoon, tracking to Lake Michigan by early to mid evening. A second line developed over eastern Iowa in the evening, and moved to Lake Michigan by late evening. Eleven tornadoes occurred, while severe straight-line winds were estimated as high as 100 mph.

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CLINTON Journal News



Erin Angel / For the Journal

Smokey haze

Smoke from the thousands of acres of Canadian wildfires settled over this field near Kenney on Tuesday. Central Illinois was under an air quality alert as the gray/orange haze blanketed the area. The scent of the smoke could occasionally be detected.

Drought continues to expand; crop conditions deteriorate

Daniel Grant
FarmWeek

The expanding drought and crop condition ratings continue to trend in opposite directions as many farmers nervously await what should be the pivotal corn pollination period.

All 102 counties in Illinois are now fully engulfed in drought and abnormally dry conditions, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor released Thursday.

Nearly one-third of the

state is in severe drought, mostly from the Interstate 72 corridor to just north of Interstate 74 and along the eastern border of the state from northern Edgar to Lake County. And more than half the state (51 percent) is in moderate drought.

“This is something we haven’t seen in a long time — really intense dryness,” Trent Ford, state climatologist with the Illinois State Water Survey, told FarmWeek. “We’re about 8 to 10 inches below normal

(precipitation) in some parts of Illinois. We’re flirting with 1988 as far as precipitation totals.”

In fact, average precipitation for the entire state from April 1 to June 10 was the second lowest on record dating back to 1951, according to the state climatologist. The only year it was drier in the past 72 years was 1988.

“The one thing that’s been a saving grace is we had moisture in the ground before this drought started,” Ford

said. “It’s been the one thing keeping things alive. The crops are just kind of hanging on in some places.”

But many farmers wonder just how much longer crops can hang on with no considerable moisture. The portion of crops rated good to excellent in Illinois as of June 20 plummeted to just 36 percent for corn (down 12 points from the previous week) and 33 percent for soybeans (down 14 points), the National Agricultural Statistics Service Illinois

field office reported.

Nationwide, just 55 percent of corn was rated good to excellent as of June 20, which is the lowest rating for the week since 1992.

“We’re heading to a catastrophe if it doesn’t rain soon,” said Gary Steward, FarmWeek CropWatcher from Stark County. “I’m more worried about corn than beans, because August rain may make a few beans.”

Early-planted corn that was able to tap into some of the soil moisture gener-

ally looks better than later-planted corn in many areas. But growth of all crops has slowed in recent weeks, regardless of planting date, according to Gabe Glotzbach, crop specialist with Heritage FS in Iroquois County.

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.

Nearly 700 participate in Vespasian Warner Public Library summer reading

CLINTON — Summer Reading participation at Warner Library has grown again even after an outstanding year in 2022.

Nearly 700 people, ages birth to adult, have challenged themselves to read this summer with the incentive of treasure box prizes and entries into a grand prize drawing with Summer Reading 2023: Find Your Voice.

To celebrate, the library will host a Summer Reading Celebration event on Saturday, July 22. The doors will open at 10 a.m. and readers will be treated to a musical performance by Dino O’Dell. The full event schedule is available at www.vwarner.org. Advance registration is recommended but not required. Readers can call the library at 217-935-5174 to sign up. Thank you to the Friends of Warner Library for providing lunch for this event.

Residents who have not joined Summer Reading are encouraged to stop by the library to get started

now through July 31. All library events and activities, including Summer Reading, are free and open to the public.

July Calendar of Events

The library also offers a variety of in-person, virtual, and grab ‘n go events each month. All library events are free and open to the public, but advance registration is required for events marked with an *.

Visit the library’s website at www.vwarner.org, Facebook page @VespasianWarner, or call 217-935-5174 to learn more about the events listed below.

- *Summer Reading Continues (All Ages) through 7/31
- Unicorn Hunting Scavenger Hunt (Children & Family) All Month
- Grab ‘n Go Kit: Brush Pen Calligraphy (All Ages) Begins Sat. 7/1
- Family Storytime (Ages 0-5 & Caregivers) Every Wed. and Fri. at 10am
- 4th of July Activity on the Square (Children

- & Family) Tues. 7/4 at 11am
- *Soundwave String Phones (Children & Family) Thu. 7/6 at 5:30pm
- *Macon County Conservation District Presents: Frog Songs (Ages 5+) Mon. 7/10 at 4pm
- *Morning Yoga on the Lawn (Children & Family) Tue. 7/11 & 7/25 at 10am
- *Gardening Webinar: Blooming Trees (Adult) Tue. 7/11 at 1:30pm
- TEEN Color Scratch Post Cards (Ages 12-18) Thu. 7/13 at 4pm
- *Making Music! DIY Tambourines (Children & Family) Mon. 7/17 at 3:45pm
- *Book Club (Adult) Tue. 7/18 at 6pm
- *Tabletop! Teen D&D at the Library (Ages 12-18) Wed. 7/19 at 1pm
- *Bad Art Night (All Ages) Thu. 7/20 at 5:30pm
- Summer Reading Celebration with Dino

O’Dell (Children & Family) Sat. 7/22 10:30am

- Master Naturalist Nature Nook: Catfish (All Ages) Mon. 7/24 from 3-5pm
- *“Bee” a Pollinator Pal with 4-H (Ages 5-18) Thu. 7/27 at 2:30pm

The library is open Monday-Thursday from 9am-7pm, Friday from 9am-4pm, and Saturday from 9am-1pm. Hours are subject to change. The library will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. For more information about the event above or any library services, visit www.vwarner.org or call 217-935-5174.



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GAMES

BRIDGE BITES

CONJURING TRICK

♠ J98 ♥ A ♦ T987 ♣ KQT87		♠ Q2 ♥ QJT6 ♦ A432 ♣ A62	
		North	
		West	East
		Declarer	
		♠ AT ♥ K9743 ♦ KQ5 ♣ 543	

E-W Vulnerable
South West North East
1♥ Pass 4♥? All Pass

North took the direct route to game, but there are better ways to bid that hand. Most tournament players use 1♥-4♥ as a preempt (5+ Hearts and a weak hand) and use a conventional 2NT bid for the actual North hand, thereby giving N-S the opportunity to investigate slam if appropriate (which in this case it is not!)

Against 4♥ West led the ♠K, won by Dummy's Ace. A trump was lost to West's Ace, then West cashed two Clubs and exited safely with a Diamond. At this point Declarer could count nine top tricks. Do you see how she might conjure up a tenth?

Before Declarer commences any conjuring it will occur to her that West has shown up with ♥A and the ♠KQ, and that if he also held the ♠K he would no doubt have been heard from in the bidding. So, East has the ♠K.

At first glance it might appear that the only chance is for the Diamonds to break 3-3. What if one defender has four (or more) Diamonds *and* the ♠K? In that case could Declarer rattle off all her trumps and save the day with a squeeze? Not if it is East who holds the vital cards, because he will be discarding last and will pitch whatever suit Dummy pitches. So that squeeze won't work. And we know that West cannot hold the ♠K so clearly the squeeze won't work against him.

Does that mean that we are back to relying on 3-3 Diamonds? Actually, no! Declarer has a clever resource available. She leads the ♠Q from Dummy, East must cover, and Declarer's Ace wins the trick. Now the all-important Spade card is the Jack and there *is* room in West's hand for that. So, Declarer now runs the Hearts, hoping that Diamonds are 3-3 or that West is squeezed in Spades and Diamonds. 10 tricks in exotic fashion (that play is known as a Transfer Squeeze, so named because it transfers the Spade guard from one defender to the other).

For bridge games, classes, or seminars, contact Mike Tomlianovich by phone: 203-261-1111

FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

♥ TPI
MOYENT
♥ SNEAP
♥ HNIC
♥ SLOREM
♥ WNO
ACWL
♥ ORWET
♥ ASW
ONCSIA
♥ OCMAR
PILM

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only **ONE** word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
1 Dryer's partner
7 Neither-here-nor-there states
13 Not straying off topic
20 Get in the way of
21 "You may relax, soldier"
22 One looking something over
23 "The Delta Force" actor Chuck
24 Question after a chat interruption
26 Latched on firmly
28 Space balls
29 San Luis —, California
30 Mount, as a jewel
31 "Diane" star Turner
32 "Carrie" star Spacek
35 Mutineers
37 2012 Robert Pattinson film based on a Maupassant novel
39 Chou En- —
40 Fictional "Warrior Princess"
- DOWN**
1 Hot bar food
2 Roman lover
3 Fat avoider Jack
4 Sage, e.g.
5 Items of food
6 Closes tightly again
7 Suburb of D.C. in Maryland
8 "Am — late?"
9 Cries weakly
10 In a ribald way
11 —Kosh
12 Notice
13 Phone button abbr.
14 Novel kind
15 Not absent
16 "— Gang"
17 River to the Rhone
18 Stairway post
19 Low cards
25 Banjoist Clark
27 Genetic helix
33 More cheeky
34 Stuff in sand
36 "Humbug!"
- ACROSS**
41 Lax in duty
44 British remake of "That '70s Show"
50 Say for sure
51 Trepidation
53 Fathered, as a horse
54 Start of many rapper names
55 Realities that are tough to face
58 "E-e-ew!"
59 Vodka brand, informally
61 Reply to "You are not!"
62 Fulfill, as standards
65 Wiseacre
69 River to the Rhine
70 Hint at
71 "That's impossible!"
74 Reagan adviser Edwin
76 Flooring units
77 "... bug — feature?"
78 Identity before turning over a new leaf
83 City in Oklahoma
84 Trig function
- DOWN**
86 Away from the wind, nautically
87 Non-iron club
88 Revealing interference with the contents, as a package
92 Key related to D major
94 Saharan link
95 Oct.-Dec. Creek, e.g.
99 Garbage collectors
102 Very easy thing
104 "Back in Black" band
105 Italian monk's title
108 Runner Sebastian
109 Really eager
111 With
114-Across, source of the phrase formed by the ends of eight answers in this puzzle
118 Is identical to
119 Famed
120 Interfere
121 Nuanced
- ACROSS**
122 Places in categories
123 Flip one's lid
124 Plant with prickly leaves
- DOWN**
37 Avian creature
38 Boise's home model
41 Team booster
42 Actress Longoria
43 Sea, to Gigi
45 "— longa ..."
46 Vexes
47 Flee to wed
48 Sediments
49 Writer T.S.
51 Showed rage
52 UFO fliers
56 "— Andronicus" (Shakespeare play)
57 Locomotive supporter
59 Singer Bob
60 Yank
62 Actress West
63 "I'm here to help"
64 Bit of artifice
65 Join, as a table
66 Peak in W. Turkey
67 Happy as —
68 Fish eggs
69 Run out on
72 Tube lover's punishment
73 57-Down vehicles
74 De-feathers
75 Prior to, poetically
78 Team booster
79 Exercise in a pool
80 Long time
81 Leicester lav
82 WWII prez
84 Recoil from
85 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
89 Dawber of "Mork & Mindy"
90 Amazon Kindle, e.g.
91 Dodgers
92 Recuperation by lying down
93 Asian monkey
97 Natural gift
98 Rival of Sony
99 In — (not just sleeping)
100 Big couches
101 Many future kings
102 Long time
103 Tubular pasta
105 Edicts
106 Esther of "Good Times"
107 Photographer Adams
110 Creative work
112 Cl doubled
113 Big brass instrument
115 Sarge, e.g.
116 Sports org. with skaters
117 Scooby- —

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MAGIC MAZE

SAILING SHIPS

H C Z X V T R P N L F J R H E

M C C O N S T E L L A T I O N

A A Y W I E L V Y T R P M N K

Y L K I N G S I G E E C A B R

F A I R A M N S Z X L W P U A

L S R E P G O M U L U J I I S

O G B E C D B A Y E C X N W Y

W Y M L A V I C T O R Y T U T

E S O R Y R A M T S E P A Q T

R U O V A E D N E P H O N L U

D K J N O I T U T I T S N O C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Unlisted clue hint: SANTA —

Beagle
Constellation
Constitution
Cutty Sark

Endeavour
Flying Cloud
Hercule
Mary Rose

Mayflower
Nina
Pamir
Pinta

Preussen
Valmy
Victory

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answer

FEAR KNIGHT

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

Answers

1. TPI
2. MOYENT
3. SNEAP
4. HNIC
5. SLOREM
6. WNO
7. ACWL
8. ORWET
9. ASW
10. ONCSIA
11. OCMAR
12. PILM

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answer

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Classified Marketplace

FREE!

Sell your household items for free.

Total value of item must be \$100 or less.
(15 words - 2 publications - price must be listed)



CLINTON • WAPELLA • WAYNESVILLE • KENNEY • DEWITT • LANE • WELDON

06/30/23
PLEASE READ YOUR Classified ad or display ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors and adjust your bill but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages, which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper, which, reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper is responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval.

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preferences, limitation or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. (TFN)

119 ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAX RECEIVING AND SENDING SERVICE

The Clinton Journal will facsimile documents to other fax machines for private parties and business. **RATES:** (Receiving) \$2 - First page, \$1 each page after, (sending in US) \$3 - First page. \$1 each page after. Get your important documents where they need to be instantly by taking advantage of our facsimile machine. Reproduce complete documents and/or pictures by telephone in just a couple minutes! Just stop by the Clinton Journal, 111 S Monroe, Clinton - no appointment necessary. (119TFN)

NEW TO TOWN? Stop by our office for your Free 2021-2022 Community Guide. This guide will tell everything you need to know about settling into Clinton and making it home.
Clinton Journal
111 S Monroe, Clinton

201 DOMESTIC/CHILD CARE

NO INDIVIDUAL, unless licensed or holding a permit as a childcare facility, may cause to be published any advertisement soliciting a child care service. *A child-

care facility that is licensed or operating under a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services may publish advertisements of the services for which it is specifically licensed or issued a permit. The Clinton Journal strongly urges any parent or guardian to verify the validity of the license of any facility before placing a child in its care.
*Family homes that care for no more than three (3) children under the age of twelve or which receive only children from a single household, for less than 24 hours per day, are exempt from licensure as day care homes. The three children to whom this exemption applies includes the family's natural or adopted children and any other persons under the age of 12 whether related or unrelated to the operator of the day care home. (DCFS Rule, Part 377.3 (c))

203 HELP WANTED

THE CLINTON JOURNAL is seeking a substitute delivery driver. Responsibilities include picking up paper bundles from the Journal office and delivering them to designated businesses in a timely manner. **MUST** have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and valid insurance. Apply at the Clinton Journal office, 111 S. Monroe St., Clinton. (203TFN)

305 GARAGE/ RUMMAGE SALES

PLACE A RUMMAGE SALE AD IN THE CLINTON JOURNAL. Deadline for ads are: Monday, 5:00 PM for the following Friday edition. Rate: 1 publication and up to one week online, Up to 20 words for \$17.00, additional words are 25¢ a word. **OUR RAIN GUARANTEE:** If it rains on your sale day, we'll rerun the same ad (only date & time changes) for free. Must run within 2 weeks.

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Sheet Metal Roofing Material (used) 22 foot long x 3 foot wide. Used once. Call for pricing. (309) 824-0678 (3070714)

Curio cabinet 6'4"h, 2'w, 11"d. 5 shelves with dark finish. Asking \$100. If interested, call 217 935 6869. May leave a message. (3070630)

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEWITT COUNTY - CLINTON, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Plaintiff,

-v.-

DION D. LATHROM, SUSAN M. LATHROM

Defendant

2022 FC 7

NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 24, 2023, the Sheriff of De Witt County will at 10:00 AM on July 26, 2023, at the DeWitt County Courthouse, 201 West Washington Street, (Main door), CLINTON, IL, 61727, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 416 W MARKET, FARMER CITY, IL 61842

Property Index No. 05-28-306-006

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$45,472.04.

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; the balance, in certified funds, 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.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: **CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601, (561) 241-6901.** Please refer to file number 22-009607. E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM

Case # 2022 FC 7

I3222918

LEGAL 19804:RE June 23, 30 and July 7, 2023

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DEWITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF DEBRA ANDERSON, Deceased IN PROBATE 2023-PR-19

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Debra Anderson of 409 G Street SE, Washington DC 20003. Letters of Office were issued on June 8, 2023, to John Milne of 409 G Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003, whose attorney is Maureen A. Maffei of ICE MILLER LLP -2300 Cabot Drive, Suite 455, Lisle, Illinois 60532.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit

Court -DeWitt County at 201 West Washington Street, Clinton, Illinois 61727, or with the representative or both, within six (6) months from the date the of first publication of this Notice, which is June 16, 2023, or within three (3) months from the date of the mailing of this Notice, whichever is later, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative(s) and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers>. htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

John Milne, Independent Executor

Prepared by: Maureen A. Maffei ICE MILLER LLP Attorney at Law 2300 Cabot Dr. Suite 455 Lisle, IL 60532 Maureen.Maffei@IceMiller.com

4890-3888-5481.1

LEGAL 19800 June 16, 23 and 30, 2023

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEWITT COUNTY - CLINTON, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Plaintiff,

-v.-

DION D. LATHROM, SUSAN M. LATHROM

Defendant

2022 FC 7

NOTICE OF SHER-

INFORMATION

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday) **Closed Wednesdays**
Address: 111 S. Monroe St., Clinton
Mail: P.O. Box 615 Clinton, IL 61727

CJ DEADLINES:
• **Mondays** at 5 p.m.

(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

All classified marketplace line ads will appear in the following print publications and on our newspaper website:
• Clinton Journal
• www.theclintonjournal.com

Call for pricing that starts at \$19.00 for private party ads and \$30 for commercial business ads and \$17 for garage sale ads.

DISCLAIMER: If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion, and will only credit customer for one insertion.

IFF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on April 24, 2023, the Sheriff of De Witt County will at 10:00 AM on July 26, 2023, at the DeWitt County Courthouse, 201 West Washington Street, (Main door), CLINTON, IL, 61727, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

ALL OF LOT 3 IN BLOCK 1 IN CUMMING'S ADDITION TO FARMER CITY, EXCEPT THE WEST 50 FEET THEREOF, AND EXCEPT THE EAST 25 FEET 7 1/2 INCHES THEREOF, BEING A LOT 59 FEET 10 1/2 INCHES BY 125 FEET, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FARMER CITY, COUNTY OF DEWITT, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 416 W MARKET, FARMER CITY, IL 61842

Property Index No. 05-28-306-006

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$45,472.04.

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; the balance, in certified funds, 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.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: **CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS,**

PLLC, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601, (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 22-009607. E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM

Case # 2022 FC 7

I3222918

LEGAL 19804 June 23. 30 and July 7, 2023

LEGAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF DEWITT

Estate of: Patricia Ann White Deceased. CASE NO. 2023-PR-21

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE

Notice is given to the creditors of the death of Patricia Ann White, of 5065 Birch Dr., Clinton, Illinois 61727. Letters of Office were issued on June 9, 2023, to Nelson E. White, Independent Executor, 5065 Birch Dr., Clinton, Illinois 61727, whose attorney is Kevin Hammer, 219 E. Main Street, Clinton, Illinois 61727. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. Claims against the Estate must be filed in the office of the Clerk of DeWitt County Circuit Court, DeWitt County Courthouse, 201 W. Washington, Clinton, Illinois 61727, or with the representative, or both, on or before



START AN EXCITING NEW JOB WITH THE CLINTON JOURNAL!

If you believe you may be the right candidate, send your resume and three references to
Katy O'Grady-Pyne at
kpyn@theclintonjournal.com

CLINTON Journal

Office/Sales Opportunity

The Clinton Journal has a unique opportunity for the right candidate!

The Journal currently has a full-time opening for an office manager who will oversee circulation, legal notices, and classified advertising. In addition, this position will work with advertisers to build their business.

This position is paid hourly plus commission. Must have reliable transportation. Must be dependable and enjoy meeting people.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN?

If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the Illinois Pension Assistance Project at (888) 425-6067 to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, IPAP staff provides free legal assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan.

CALL US TODAY 1.888.425.6067

December 23, 2023, or, if mailing or delivery of a Notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in the Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the representative's attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2023.

Kevin Hammer
Attorney for the Estate of Patricia Ann White
219 East Main Street
Clinton, IL 61727
217/935-7063

LEGAL 19805
June 23, 30 and July 7, 2023

LEGAL

Notice of Public Sale is hereby given that an auction will be held online on www.lockerfox.com beginning on July 13th and ending on July 20th at 12:01 pm to sell the following individuals' articles to enforce lien against such articles, for storage furnished at Storage Unlimited, 1506 Route 54 East, Clinton IL 61727, (217) 935-3200 under a rental agreement with:

12:01 pm, Tiffany M. Dyer, occupant of space 1K10, items: wooden table with 4 chairs, love seat, chair and misc items.

LEGAL 19806
June 23 and 30, 2023

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DEWITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS BUSEY BANK, formerly known as CITIZENS SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff

v. JENNIFER E. SEAMAN, also known as JENNIFER E. MAXWELL, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, including unknown spouse of Jennifer E. Seaman, Defendants. No. 23-FC-15 PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you: UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants in the above-entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court of DeWitt County, Illinois, by the Plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit: Lot Forty-two (42) in Flair Second Addition to the City of Clinton, according to the Plat thereof recorded July 26, 1973 in Plat Book "F", Page 330. Situated in DeWitt County, Illinois. P.I.N.: 12-03-103-025 which has the common address of: 17 Bradley Ct., Clinton, IL 61727 and which said mortgage was made by JENNIFER E. MAXWELL, Mortgagor, to BUSEY BANK,

and said Mortgage recorded in Book 534 of Mortgages at Page 58 as Document No. 212550, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of DeWitt County, Illinois, and for such relief; that summons was duly issued out of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending. The present owner of said mortgaged real estate is JENNIFER E. MAXWELL, now known as JENNIFER E. SEAMAN. NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU, the said above defendants, file your answer to the complaint in this case or otherwise file your appearance in the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk, 201 W. Washington St., Clinton, Illinois on or before **July 31, 2023**, a default may be entered against you at the time after that day and decree entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE TIME IN WHICH THE SUBJECT REAL ESTATE MAY BE REDEEMED FROM FORECLOSURE, PURSUANT TO LAW, COMMENCES TO RUN WITH THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. Dated: June 22, 2023, at Clinton, Illinois.

Michelle Van Valey, Clerk of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, DeWitt County, Illinois Prepared by: JOSEPH P. CHAMLEY, ARDC #6224646 EVANS, FROEHLICH, BETH & CHAMLEY Attorneys for Plaintiff 44 Main Street, Suite 310 Champaign, IL 61820 PH: 217/359-6494 FX: 217/359-6468 jchamley@efbclaw.com

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DEWITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK E. GLENN, Deceased.

No. 2023-PR-22

Notice is given of the death of Frank E. Glenn. Letters of office as independent representative were issued on June 21, 2023 to Kurt Wells, 21203 Depot Road, Farmer City, Illinois, 61842, whose attorney is Thomas Mamer LLP, 30 Main Street, P.O. Box 560, Champaign, Illinois, 61824-0560.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, DeWitt County Courthouse, Clinton, Illinois, or with the independent representative, or both, on or before December 30,

2023 or if mailing or delivery of notice from the representatives is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed by that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the independent representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

LEGAL 19808
June 30 and July 7, and 14 2023

LEGAL

Removal and cleanup of decorations at Woodlawn Cemetery will begin after Monday, July 3, 2023.

LEGAL 19809
June 30, 2023

Visit Us Online at
www.theclintonjournal.com

Consumer advocates, utilities spar over potential energy price increases

Andrew Adams
Capitol News Illinois

CHICAGO — Millions of Illinoisans could see higher energy bills next year, but the size of those increases will be determined by a state agency that has recently had its oversight powers expanded.

Four gas utilities and the state's two largest electric utilities are currently requesting authority from the Illinois Commerce Commission to increase rates. Together, these companies serve 4.1 million gas customers and 5.3 million electric customers in Illinois.

All told, electric utilities have asked to raise rates by a combined \$2.8 billion over four years, while gas utilities have requested \$890 million in increases next year.

It's an "unprecedented" number of proposed rate increases for one year, according to David Kolata, the former longtime head of the Citizens Utility Board, or CUB, a nonprofit organization created by the General Assembly in 1983 to represent consumers in cases like these.

The number of cases in front of the ICC is due, in part, to a pair of major policy changes affecting the way utilities request rate increases and the commission's authority to amend those requests. For electric utilities, that means a more complicated, multi-year rate-setting process and a more thorough review of profit margins. For gas companies, that means more scrutiny of infrastructure costs.

The utilities are making their case for rate increases in an 11-month regulatory process that is set to conclude around the end of the year. But third parties like business groups and consumer advocates, in addition to ICC staff, also have a chance to weigh in before an administrative judge and eventually the five-member ICC board. The rate changes, if approved by the ICC, would take effect in January.

CUB and other consumer advocacy groups are pushing for the ICC to lower the electric utilities' requests by at least \$1.4 billion and the gas utilities' requests by at least \$231.8 million.

"Energy is essential. You can't do anything without it," Kolata told Capitol News Illinois prior to his recent departure from the CUB for a climate tech company. "We want to be sure we do everything we can to make our bills affordable."

Gov. JB Pritzker has recently shaken up the board that will have the ultimate say on the rate hikes.

In March, Pritzker announced replacements for three of the five ICC commissioners. The governor tapped former ICC Chair Doug Scott to rejoin the board as a replacement for ICC Chair Carrie Zalewski, who left her role last week. The other two members took their posts earlier this year, replacing members who had either

retired or saw their terms expire. Advocates hope these changes will make the board more "consumer friendly."

And while Pritzker hasn't weighed in on the electric cases, he wrote a March op-ed in the Chicago Sun-Times calling for increased accountability for gas companies. "Illinois (gas) utilities want a combined \$900 million in rate increases this year alone, and if no action is taken to stop it, Illinois ratepayers could be left footing the bill," Pritzker wrote in the article published two days before he announced his new ICC appointments.

Controversial natural gas policy to sunset this year

Customers of the four gas utilities with pending rate cases — Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas — could pay between \$60 and \$140 more for gas per year on average if the ICC approves their requested rates.

Infrastructure upgrades and maintenance are typically a major factor in rate increases, and for about a decade, gas utilities recouped their costs on those projects through a formula-based process that allowed them to collect — and routinely increase — a customer fee without having to go through an 11-month rate case.

Advocates say that program — referred to as the "qualified infrastructure plant," or QIP — encouraged wasteful capital spending. For example, the consumer advocacy group Illinois PIRG says Peoples Gas' pipeline replacement program in the Chicago area has been mismanaged and overly broad, although the utility says the program is needed to reduce safety risk.

North Shore Gas, which is owned by the same company as Peoples Gas, does not serve enough customers to charge a QIP fee to customers. Only Nicor, Ameren and Peoples Gas are large enough to do so under existing law.

The QIP program is scheduled to expire at the end of the year, giving the ICC greater authority to review the utilities' infrastructure-related expenses and fees through the standard rate case process moving forward.

"Going back to rate cases isn't a panacea necessarily, but it's a better system," CUB's Kolata said.

Even with the expiration, Peoples Gas spokesperson David Schwartz said in an email that the infrastructure upgrades historically funded by QIP — which he called "critical for the sake of Chicagoans' safety" — will continue. He cited an ICC study saying that the majority of Chicago's pipes have less than 15 years of remaining life.

"Our rate filing, as an administrative matter, would just move the cost from one line of customers' bills to a different line of the bills," Schwartz said. He also said falling gas prices could mitigate the impact of the rate increase on consumers.

Ameren officials also noted that gas transmission upgrades, which are often federally required, will continue.

"We're making ongoing investments in system integrity and QIP, no QIP, that commitment to safe and reliable gas delivery service doesn't change," Matthew Tomc, an executive at Ameren that oversees government affairs, said in an interview.

Tomc also noted that the end of the QIP fee has injected unpredictability into the infrastructure investment process.

"Going forward, I think we're going to have to have a conversation, you know? What does the framework for gas investment look like without QIP? Is it more frequent rate filings or is there some other approach?" Tomc said.

Beyond QIP, Gas company representatives have pointed to changes in the macroeconomic landscape to explain their requested increases.

"This rate increase is necessary to run our business due to inflation and rising global impacts that continue to affect our operating and maintenance costs," Nicor Gas spokesperson Jennifer Golz said in an email statement.

But for many in the state, the prospect of increased energy bills is daunting. In April, 12.3 percent of customers of utilities with pending rate cases had a deferred payment agreement — meaning they were more than a month behind on their bills — according to data submitted by the companies to the ICC. About 20.6 percent of Peoples Gas customers had past due bills in April, the highest number among the six utilities with pending rate cases.

In low-income, majority-Black communities, the percentage of people in debt to Peoples Gas during April was even higher. About 49 percent of residents of Chicago's Englewood neighborhood and 42 percent of West Englewood residents had deferred payment agreements, according to ICC filings. Indebted customers in those South Side neighborhoods owed the company more than \$1,100 on average.

That's led the city of Chicago to file testimony opposing several components of Peoples Gas' filings in their rate case.

"Not only is Peoples Gas requesting a record-high rate hike at the same time that they are raking in record profits, but take a look, a real close look, at who will bear this burden: the working people of Chicago, people of color," the city's treasurer, Melissa Conyears-Ervin, said at a June 1 news conference.

Abe Scarr, PIRG's director and a vocal critic of both Peoples Gas and the QIP fee, said the expiration of the QIP process will provide an opportunity for regulators to rein in spending at the gas utilities.

"Even the most non-consumer friendly commission would want to curtail these rate hikes," Scarr said, noting

that he believes that Pritzker's recent appointments to the ICC have made it a "consumer-friendly" group.

Clean energy reforms in practice

On the electric side, Ameren and Commonwealth Edison's rate plans are the first filed under a new kind of regulatory process outlined in the landmark 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA. While the ICC's new rate approval process is handled in a similar regulatory fashion to a traditional rate case, utilities' requests are part of four-year plans that are considered in conjunction with a comprehensive grid plan for modernization projects.

CEJA also ended a controversial formula rate-making process that was a product of ComEd's lobbying efforts a decade earlier. The formula-based rates were a major focus of the recent federal criminal corruption trial that ended with the conviction of ComEd's former CEO and three ex-lobbyists.

Consumer advocates have praised the public involvement that's allowed in the new process and electric executives have credited the multi-year planning process for facilitating smoother coordination between setting rates and grid planning.

Kolata said the former formula-based system for setting electric rates "put a lot of things on autopilot." The new system provides more opportunities for input and accountability, particularly as the electric sector moves toward the legislation's goal of carbon-free energy generation by 2045, he said.

"Everyone recognizes the nature of this transition is going to require broader stakeholder involvement and feedback," Kolata said.

ComEd's plan would increase prices over four years, with residential customers paying around \$200 per year more in electric prices by 2027. Ameren Illinois' similar plan would result in the average residential customer paying about \$300 more per year by 2027.

Louie Binswanger, who oversees regulatory affairs at ComEd, said his company's plan includes everything from maintenance and infrastructure upgrades to outlining how the utility will prepare the grid for increased electrification, such as in the transit sector and in commercial and residential heating.

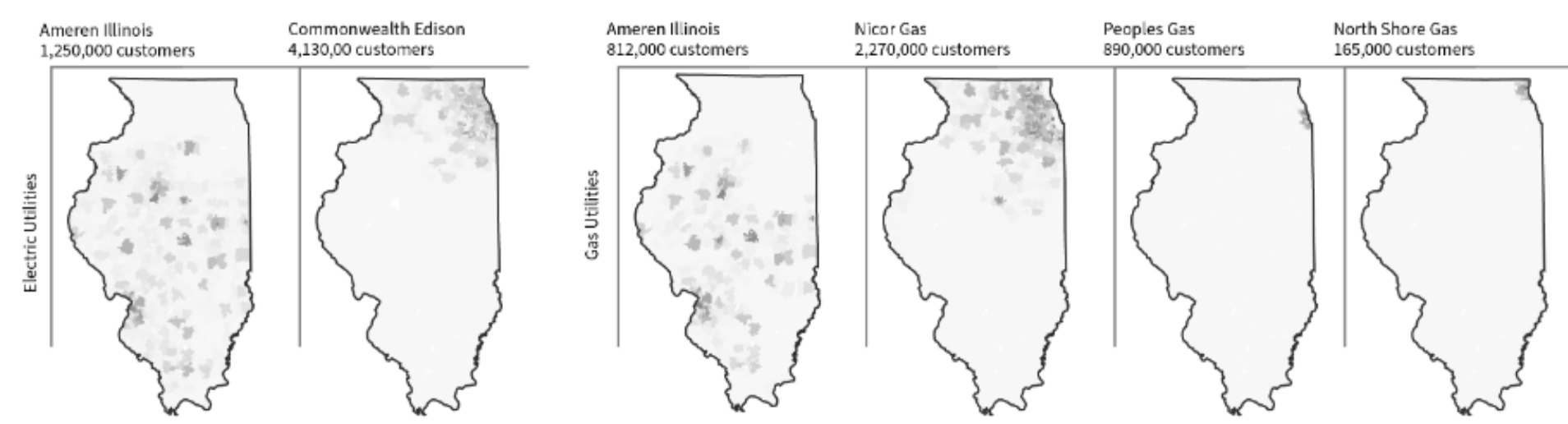
"The plan also ensures that the electric grid remains reliable and resilient for the 9 million people ComEd serves in northern Illinois as severe weather events become more common due to climate change," Binswanger said in an email statement.

Ameren Illinois officials were similarly optimistic about their plans, noting the complexity of the new process required "a high degree of diligence."

See **ENERGY** / B

Energy / from page B4

Millions of Illinois consumers could see higher gas or electric prices in 2024



Data: Illinois Commerce Commission. Chart: Andrew Adams, Capitol News Illinois
Maps are shaded relative only to the utility displayed.

The graphic above shows the areas of the state where consumers will be affected by proposed rate increases sought by six electric and gas utilities. (Capitol News Illinois graphic by Andrew Adams)

A point of contention between advocates and the utilities has been the electric utilities’ return on equity, or ROE. This is the main component of a utility’s profit that had, for years, been automatically calculated using a formula derived from the interest rates on 30-year Treasury bonds. CEJA did away with this formula and placed new authority in the hands of the ICC to calculate ROE – and advocates are pushing for the commission to use it. “The utilities are way over-asking,” Kolata said. ComEd, in its initial January testimony, recommend-

ed a 10.5 percent ROE, up from its current ROE of about 7.85 percent. ComEd argued that the 10.5 percent ROE puts the utility in line with others in the industry. ICC staff argued for an 8.91 percent ROE. In written testimony, they supported continuing to calculate ROE by the interest-driven formula the utilities have been using for over a decade, even though it is no longer required. Illinois PIRG argued for an even lower 6.5 percent ROE in the ComEd case. “These very small changes in profit rates can result in hundreds of millions of

dollars in profit and higher prices for consumers,” Scarr said. Binswanger, however, defended his company’s requested profit margin. “Our proposed investments provide meaningful benefits to our customers and communities and support the goals of the state’s Climate and Equitable Jobs Act,” Binswanger said. “We look forward to working with the commission and all participants in the proceeding to prove that out.” Similar arguments have been made in Ameren’s electric case, in which the utility has also asked for a 10.5 percent ROE. ICC staff recommended an 8.91 percent return on equity, calculated using the same formula tied to Treasury bonds. Tomc argued that Ameren’s proposed formula for return on equity would be better for the electric grid. “Those methodologies are designed to produce a number conducive to sustain the kind of investments in Illinois infrastructure that we require,” Tomc said.

Other affordability measures

In December, fulfilling another requirement of CEJA, the ICC announced that it would require large electric and gas utilities to put forward plans to offer discounted rates to low-income customers and encourage smaller utilities to do the same. The ICC said these utilities should offer “tiered discounts for different income levels,” meaning the amount a consumer pays for utilities would be proportional to income. While gas utilities have included rate design proposals in their current rate cases, ComEd and Ameren will file electric rate design cases separately over the coming years, according to Karen Lusson, a senior attorney at the National Consumer Law Center. Lusson said the companies that have filed rate design cases have not gone far enough in lowering prices for low-income customers. “Each gas company has interpreted that directive a bit differently and all of them insufficient in the amount of the discount,” Lusson said.

See **ENERGY** / B6

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Energy / from page B5

Naomi Davis, founder of the environmental justice group Blacks in Green, has protested the proposed rate increases from Peoples Gas and has advocated for major affordability reforms at the Statehouse.

In response to problems faced by low-income utility customers, Davis and others launched a "Campaign to End Energy Poverty."

"Salaries do not increase at the rate that these energy prices are accelerating. What is a person to do?" Davis said in an interview.

In a March committee hearing, lawmakers heard Davis and representatives of the utility industry discuss a proposed reform package that she described as a "strategic" method of achieving energy affordability

despite utilities' objections to it. While lawmakers on the House Public Utilities Committee did not vote on the package, they indicated they were open to considering it further in the future.

Each utility involved in these cases has programs to help low-income customers afford their bills.

Resources can be found at Ameren-

Illinois.com/EnergyCarePlan for Ameren customers; ComEd.com/SAM for ComEd customers; nicorgas.com/energyassistance for Nicor customers; peoplesgasdelivery.com/payment-bill/assistance for Peoples Gas customers; and northshoregasdelivery.com/payment-bill/assistance for North Shore customers.

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