

Council passes annual tax levy

Tax rate falls again for fifth year

Gordon Woods
 gwoods@theclintonjournal.com

CLINTON — On Monday, the city council passed a \$1,966,274 levy for the new fiscal year. City treasurer Clint Lichtenwalter gave the report during a public hearing scheduled before the council meeting.

Lichtenwalter said it reflected a 0.22 percent increase in the overall levy.

"But, it's actually a 1.26 percent decrease in the tax rate," he said.

Lichtenwalter said it was the fifth consecutive year the city has realized a decrease in the tax rate.

"How many tax units can say their taxes are going down?"

Lichtenwalter said among the good points in the proposed levy were the pension funds.

The city joined the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) in 2010.

"As a new employer, you're always underfunded to start because you have to buy back 20 percent of all the existing employees' time," he said.

But, Lichtenwalter said the city was able to make that up past the 30-year period over which it is generally projected to amortize the unfunded liability.

"We're currently 100 percent funded in IMRF," he said.

The city's police and fire pension funds have "outstanding" funding ratios, Lichtenwalter reported. The actuarial and market values of the police pension fund both increased as did the fire pension fund.

"It's absolutely amazing we have been able to catch these up to almost fully funded without affecting the tax rate."

Lichtenwalter said the items Clinton has done well at managing were things most other communities struggle with.



Courtesy of Woods Photography Studio
 Front Row, left to right, Joyce O'Neil, Cathy Gordon, Elaine Smith, Barbara Strange, Jackie Smith, Janice Laramée. Back Row, left to right, Barb Lanier, Lana Ophorst, Patrice Brotherton, Monica DeGrauwe, Vanessa Ophorst (President), Sara Jenkins-Smith, Krista Rohrscheib, Pam Graves, Chris Shaffer, Jessica Devore.

Local P.E.O. group celebrates 125th anniversary

Special to the Clinton Journal

CLINTON — Chapter B, P.E.O. celebrated its 125th anniversary, on Sunday, December 8, in the Revere Room of the Vespasian Warner Public Library.

Chapter B is the second oldest

P.E.O. Chapter in the State of Illinois.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is part of Cottey College, Nevada, Mo., the only nonsectarian college in the nation owned and supported by women, for women. The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a philanthropic educational

organization whose goal is the support the advancement of women's education.

Listed are members not pictured in the above photo:
 Brenda Borland, Sue Calvert, Mariah Crutchfield, Valerie Crutchfield, Carol Davenport,

Connie Finney, Miranda Freeman, Connie Harris, Sharon Ijams, Nancy Lamkin, Julie Lappin, Nancy Lareau, Robin Lecouris, Tammy Marks, Nancy Martin, Kathy Myers, Stefanie Runyen, Ann Rybolt, Karen Steward, Davida Stivers, Betsy Taubert, and Linda Taylor.

Clinton names new administrator

Gordon Woods
 gwoods@theclintonjournal.com

CLINTON — A new city administrator began work in Clinton recently as long-time administrator Tim Followell prepares to retire at the end of this year.

City commissioner Tom Edmunds introduced Darin Girdler during Monday's regular city council meeting. Girdler most recently served as interim director of operations for the City of Beloit, Wis. He joins the City of Clinton government with extensive experience in city management throughout central and northern Illinois.

"I grew up in Danvers and lived in Minier for quite a while," Girdler told the Journal.

Girdler graduated from Olympia High School and from Illinois State University with a bachelor's degree in business

administration.

Before serving Beloit, Girdler was interim roadways engineer for the City of Joliet, a city of 150,000 residents.

"I went through a whole winter with Joliet," he said. "Six hundred miles of roads, 50 plow truck drivers. We had several snow events."

Previously, Girdler was city administrator for East Moline and also served a stint as administrator for Farmer City.

"I spent seven years in commercial real estate and development," Girdler said. "I kept close to the municipal tract."

Girdler is familiar with the DeWitt County and Clinton area.

"I've put many miles on skis on the lake," he said. "When I was young, my dad would take us every weekend."

Girdler has been married to his wife Karen for 30 years. They have three grown sons.

Judges question lawyers in redistricting suits

Peter Hancock
 Capital News Illinois

CHICAGO — Oral arguments began Tuesday in three lawsuits challenging the new legislative district

maps that lawmakers passed earlier this year with three federal judges asking detailed questions of all the parties in the cases.

Each case centers on the question of whether Democrats in the General

Assembly violated the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 in drawing the maps by diluting the voting power of racial and ethnic minorities.

See MAP / A4



Aviation exhibit opening in June at DeWitt County Museum

Special to the Clinton Journal

CLINTON — A new exhibit on the history of aviation in DeWitt County will open June 2022 at the C.H. Moore Homestead and DeWitt County Museum.

The exhibit will feature the stories of past and current residents whose lives have been touched by aviation.

Museum director Joey Long is working with John Warner and his friend and colleague, Denis Hambucken, an author, photographer and graphic designer who has

collaborated with Warner on other museum exhibits in New England. Local journalist and author Edith Brady-Lunny will help compile stories for the exhibit.

Prairie Flyers: A Century of Aviation in DeWitt County is a professionally designed and constructed exhibit that tells the story of people's connection to aviation. Those stories will come from men and women who served our country in the military, worked as flight attendants, mechanics and crop dusters.

See FLY / A3

Price \$1

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See your weather forecast for the week ahead on page A8

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December						
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

NEWS



Submitted photo

Fly / from page A1

Commercial pilots, ticket agents and TSA agents also may have stories to share.

DeWitt County's history of aviation runs deep and wide, according to Warner.

"From the earliest days, DeWitt County has been enthused about aviation. In all my years of flying, I have learned firsthand that DeWitt County residents are the holders of fascinating stories and wonderful, evocative souvenirs and artifacts that chronicle their love affair with flight. The romance takes many shapes and sizes - military aviation, the airline industry, private aviation, control tower operations, aircraft maintenance, and so forth - and when all are combined, a fascinating, multi-faceted story develops," said Warner.

In addition to stories, the museum hopes to borrow personal artifacts to enhance the exhibit that will be displayed in the Carriage Barn west of the C.H. Moore Homestead, said Long.

"I am very much looking forward

to seeing what else will be coming through the museum doors. Some amazing photographs have already been loaned, but I know there will be much more to come - more great images, heirlooms, artifacts, relics - many treasures hidden away in albums, attics and boxes will now be featured in this exhibit and be appreciated by so many."

"For a limited time, the photographs, artifacts, as well as the stories that accompany them, will be combined, displayed, and shared. Each individual piece holds significance, but when all are combined to tell the story of 100 years of aviation in DeWitt County as a whole, the individual items and narrative will become much more powerful. The public will certainly not want to miss this unique exhibit," said Long.

A banner on the southwest corner of museum grounds announcing the exhibit has sparked a curiosity for visitors intrigued by the region's rich aviation heritage, said Hambucken.

"My goal is to design a vivid and

immersive experience for visitors of all ages. At the core of the exhibit will be a series of displays, each focusing on a different theme: Pioneers of aviation, World War II, Vietnam War helicopter pilots, commercial and military aviation and many others. These themes will be richly illustrated with evocative artifacts, local stories and mannequins in full uniforms. You can expect a professionally curated, world-class exhibit," said the exhibit designer.

The stories and photographs collected for the *Prairie Flyers* exhibit will be compiled in a book designed by Hambucken, whose previous work includes *A GI in the Ardennes: The Battle of the Bulge*.

"This is a community-based project. We want to hear from everyone with a tie to aviation, just not aviators," said Warner.

Stories may be submitted to the museum at www.chmoore.homestead.org or by contacting the museum director at 217-935-6066.

Candlelight tours December 10 & 17 at Homestead

CLINTON — Each year, during the holiday season, the C.H. Moore Homestead and DeWitt County Museum is decorated in full Victorian splendor, illuminated by candles and filled with music.

For many, the candlelight tours have become a treasured Christmas tradition. This year's decorating theme is "Christmas Memories."

These special candlelight tours are open to the public and take place on Friday evenings only. The remainder of the tours will take place December 10

and 17 from 5-8 p.m. each night.

In addition, the Museum Gift Shop, which offers a variety of Christmas ornaments and decor, gift items, and more, will be open during the extended candlelight tour hours.

Guests are asked to enter the house at the front door. Tours are self-guided, so visitors may arrive anytime between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and take as much or as little time as desired exploring the historic house, exhibits, and carriage barn. Additional parking is available in

the lot directly across the street from the museum.

The Victorian era mansion, the centerpiece of the C.H. Moore Homestead and DeWitt County Museum, is the former residence of Clifton H. Moore. One of DeWitt County's leading citizens, Moore acquired his vast fortune through a land speculation partnership with Bloomington's David Davis and was also a law partner, political supporter, and personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

Located at 219 E. Woodlawn Street, in

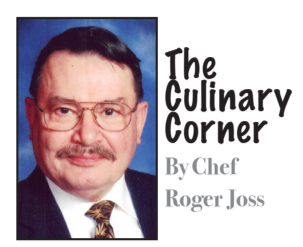
More time

Welcome to my little corner of culinary delights. Picking up from where we left off regarding peripheral time.

One example is to have dish water ready for use before preparing and cooking the food. This helps to prevent cross contamination and for cleaning utensils while being used. A cutting board used for one type of food must be cleaned before used with other types. This would naturally include kitchen knives. A person might think of cleaning the cutting board between food types but overlook the need for cleaning knives. Never forget the need to wash your hands each time.

A big oversight is the need to conserve water. Potable water is water that has been reconditioned in preparation for human consumption. This water coming from your faucets. Let us pick a populated town of 8,000 people. If each person daily wastes even one quart of water, that makes a total of 2,000 gallons wasted per day. To put it another way, that is a loss of 8 tons of water per day. That is why I suggested using any leftover hot water to be added to the dish water.

The purpose of pre-planning procedures is basically to schedule time. Now we are ready to cover internal time savings. The procedure for making coq-au-vin is a great example. For making coq-au-vin, we know to blanch some pearl onions and bacon bits. We also need to break down and brown the chicken. The first thing we should do is to get the water heating. It takes



The Culinary Corner
By Chef Roger Joss

time to get cold water up to boiling. While the water is heating, we can rinse and break down the chicken into 10 pieces. By then the water is boiling. We now blanch the onions at which time we chop-up the bacon. The onions are taken out and the bacon bits go in, while the bacon blanches, we start heating a skillet and then slip the skin from the onions. By then the bacon is ready to be removed and placed into the hot skillet for rendering. While the bacon is rendered, the onions are having their root ends lanced. After all of this, we are ready to spot browned the onions followed by the chicken pieces. Much more is involved, but this is enough.

Let us return to the water. A quick and easy way for heating liquids, such as water and soups, is to put the heat on high. Immediately reduce it to medium once it begins to boil. From that point, gradually reduce the heat to a simmer on low. Once water boils, it is at 212°F. A rolling boil is no hotter and it will not cook the food any faster than a low boil. The big difference is that a rolling boil wastes energy and water. Steam is the exception. The more steam produced under pressure, the quicker the food will cook. Steam compared to boiling can save time, energy, and water.

Until next time, peace to all.

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CJFILL

NEWS

My Social Security's four super powers

Jonna Reno
Social Security district manager, Bloomington



Did you know having a personal my Social Security account is almost like having super powers? Think about it. It protects you, and you can even look into your financial future. Check out these four features that can empower all working Americans who pay into Social Security.

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Clinton Coin Club to meet December 13

CLINTON — The Clinton Coin Club will hold a meeting from 5-6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 13 in the Revere Room of Vespasian Warner Public Library. Door prizes will be awarded, and there will

be a coin auction. No refreshments will be available, and masks will be required. Call (217) 622-8783 for additional information. Anyone interested in buying, selling or trading coins is welcome.

Map / from page A1

This is considered particularly the case with Hispanic voters in the Chicago area and Black voters in East St. Louis and the surrounding Metro East region.

All of the parties have spent the last several weeks filing thousands of pages of written briefs, depositions and other documents to bolster their cases, but on Tuesday it was the judges' turn to focus the attention on the few questions that could be pivotal in deciding whether the maps that lawmakers approved will stand for the next 10 years or whether changes need to be made to protect minority voting rights.

Among the questions the judges asked was if voters of different races and ethnicities in Illinois still vote as identifiable blocs, whether the exact composition of a district really matters or if there is enough "crossover" voting in the state that minority groups can still win representation in the General Assembly even though they are minorities within their own districts.

"Illinois in 2020 is not your grandfather's Illinois," Sean Berkowitz, an attorney defending the maps passed by the General Assembly, told the judges.

Berkowitz pointed to the fact that there are a number of Black lawmakers in the Statehouse who do not come from predominantly Black communities. He also pointed to the fact that even though whites make up the largest racial group in Illinois, the current lieutenant governor, attorney general

and secretary of state are all Black while one U.S. senator, Tammy Duckworth, is Asian American.

"Crossover voting in Illinois is the norm, not the exception," he said, adding that Illinois today "is not Mississippi in 1965 or Illinois in 1980."

Plaintiffs in the cases include a group of Latino voters in the Chicago area represented by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Black voters in the Metro East region represented by the state and local branches of the NAACP, as well as the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations, or UCCRO; and Republican leaders in the General Assembly who are challenging both the Chicago and Metro East redistricting plans.

Those attorneys spent the morning trying to convince the judges that racially polarized voting does continue to exist in Illinois and that if the maps approved by the legislature are allowed to stand, Latino and Black voters will lose political influence in state government.

Oral arguments are expected to wrap up by the afternoon, although the judges have allowed for the possibility that they could continue Wednesday morning.

The cases are moving through the court on an expedited schedule in hopes of having a decision in time for candidates in the 2022 elections to begin circulating nominating positions in mid-January.

Frederick Enos

CLINTON — Frederick Enos, 90, of Clinton, passed away at 12:10 p.m. on December 6, 2021, at the Warner Hospital & Health Services, Clinton.

Private family graveside services with military honors will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at DeWitt Cemetery, DeWitt. Public visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, December 10, 2021, at Calvert Funeral Home, Clinton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the DeWitt County 4-H Fair Board Association.

Frederick was born on May 14, 1931, in Clinton, the son of Fred and Sybil (Provin) Enos. He married Donna Weikel on November 22, 1951, in Clinton.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Enos, Clinton; children, Vickie (Joe) Austin, Clinton, and Daniel (Jackie) Enos, Clinton; granddaughter, Danielle (Brant)



Hendricks, St. Joseph, Ill.; great-grandchildren, Logan Ridgeway, Levi Ridgeway, and Riley Rice; sisters, Laura Fluty, Bloomington, and Arline Luck, Lincoln.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and grandson, Cletus Ridgeway.

Frederick was a U.S. Army veteran, serving his country during the Korean Conflict earning three Bronze Service Stars. He was a retired locomotive engineer for the Illinois Central Railroad and a retired farmer.

Online condolences may be made at www.calvertmemorial.com

Linda Clevenger

KENNEY — Linda (Miller) Clevenger, 77, of Kenney, passed away at 2:40 p.m. on December 5, 2021, at Aperia Care, Toluca, Ill.

Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021, at Calvert Funeral Home, Clinton, with Ernie Harvey, Jr. officiating. Visitation will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021, at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Texas Township Cemetery, Clinton.

Memorials may be directed to The Alzheimer's Association or Second Chance for Pets pet adoption.

Linda was born on May 2, 1944, in Decatur, the daughter of Lee William and Evelyn Lucille (Redman) Miller. She married Richard Newman and later married Thomas Clevenger.

Survivors include her husband, Tom Clevenger, Sterling, Mich.; son, Shanon (Darci) Newman, Clinton; step-



daughter, Melissa (Brian) Lundberg, Knoxville, Tenn.; grandchildren, Cole Newman, San Antonio Texas, and Braden Newman and Alec Newman, both of Clinton, step-grandchildren, Blythe Lundberg, Elyse Lundberg, Allyson Lundberg, and Abigail Lundberg, sister, Marlyn Dudley, Phoenix, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her parents, grandson, Blake Newman, one brother, and one sister.

Linda loved to make quilts, gardening, and her dogs.

Online condolences may be made at www.calvertmemorial.com

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NEWS

John Elton 'Jack' Lewis

MOREHEAD, Ky. — John Elton "Jack" Lewis, 82, of Open Fork Road, Morehead, Ky., passed away on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at his home.

He was born on August 4, 1939, in Haldeman, Ky., a son of the late William M. and Jessie Dryden Lewis.

Jack was a retired welding inspector for a nuclear power plant.

He was an entertainer in the music industry, having played for several bands, and he had also performed solo.

Jack enjoyed playing music, watching the Kentucky Wildcats, fishing, and he loved baseball.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Danny Lewis, James R. Lewis and Paul Lewis and one sister, Betty Click.

Survivors include his wife, Faye Christian Lewis, two daughters,

Debbie (Tom) Douin and Jackie (Rodney) Hunt, all of Clinton, Ill., one sister, Joyce (Dan) Lewis, of Morehead, four grandchildren, Mallie (Chris) Pyles, Alexandria (Alex) Carr, Lauren Hunt and Christian Hunt, three great-grandchildren, McKinley Pyles, Oakleigh Pyles and Maverick Pyles and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services and burial were conducted at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the New Sill Cemetery, at Haldeman.

There was visitation. Pallbearers were family and friends.

The Michael R. Gray Funeral Home, 808 Old Flemingsburg Road, Morehead, KY 40351 cared for all arrangements.

To view the online memorial and sign the guest book, please visit www.mrgrayfh.com.

David Knight Schindler

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — David Knight Schindler passed away on November 4, 2021.

Born on March 19, 1938, in Rome, N.Y. to parents Harold and Altay Schindler. David moved with his family at a young age to Clinton, Ill.

As a young man, David earned the distinct honor of Eagle Scout. His charm and sweet nature earned him the distinction of being voted Class Humanitarian in high school. David met the love of his life, in Clinton, Patricia. He soon joined the U.S. Army and served his country for seven and a half years, while also studying metallurgical engineering at the University of Illinois.

After marrying his "Queen," their young family moved to Texas in 1974. He worked for over 30 years as a manager in commercial construction for major construction firms across the country. He aided in the design and build of the piggy-back hoist tower for NASA.

For all he accomplished, David stayed humble and grateful. He had a great sense of duty and



honor, which served him well throughout his life; he always looked out for others with little concern for himself. His final selfless gift was to donate his earthly body to further scientific study of Parkinson's disease at the University of Texas Southwestern, in Dallas, Texas.

Even in death, David continues to bless those around him with his generous spirit. David is survived by his wife of 61 years, Patricia Schindler and their children, Michael and Katherine as well as his five grandchildren, "Little Loves."

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers a donation can be made in David's name to -DAPS - Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society.

<https://daps.us/support>

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Clinton Police Department

Citations 12/03/21

Amia T. Ewing 26, Decatur Speeding 74 mph in a 55 mph zone. Notice to Appear issued

Ed C. Van Williams 17, Decatur Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle. Notice to Appear issued

12/04/21

Detertorian D. Sanders 26, Normal Speeding 77 mph in a 55 mph zone. Notice to Appear issued

On 12/05/21 Clinton Police arrested Kellisha Sheraden 38, Sioux Falls, SD for Aggravated Battery. Sheraden was transported to the DeWitt County Jail and released to Corrections.

DeWitt County Sheriff's Office

Nov. 26-Dec. 3

Dylan Riddle, 18, Urbana, was issued Citations for Speeding 35+ MPH Over Speed

limit (92 mph in a 55 mph zone) and Operating Uninsured Vehicle. Riddle was given a Notice to Appear and was released.

Megan Ray, 36, Decatur, was arrested on a DeWitt County Warrant charging her with Theft/Unauthd Con/<\$500/FTA. Ray being unable to post the necessary bond remains lodged in the DeWitt County Jail.

Denardus Bradford, 45, Decatur, was issued a Citation for Driving While License Suspended. Bradford was given a Notice to Appear and was released.

Zackary Angell, 44, Decatur, was arrested on a DeWitt County Warrant charging him with Possession of Meth<5 Grams/FTA. Angell being unable to post the necessary bond remains lodged in the DeWitt County Jail.

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

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- December 19th Children's Christmas Program 10:30 AM
- December 24th Christmas Eve Service 7PM
- December 26th 10:30 AM Christmas Hymn Sing

12102021

Clinton United Methodist Church

308 E. Main St. • 935-5869

Please join us for our
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
December 24, 2021
6:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Catholic Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Mass

St. John's Clinton

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
(Carols begin at 10:30pm)

Sacred Heart Farmer City

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day

12102021

Texas Christian Church

8301 Texas Church Road
Clinton, IL 61727
(217) 454-6846

Scott F. Marsh, Pastor

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 6-7 p.m.
All are welcome.

(located 1 mile east of Little Galilee Camp)
www.texaschristianchurch.org

12102021

OPINION

HISTORY ALMANAC

1906 - U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

1931 - Jane Addams became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, she was the first American woman to do so.

1948 - The United Nations General Assembly adopted its Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

1950 - Dr. Ralph J. Bunche was presented the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the first African-American to receive the award. Bunche was awarded the prize for his efforts in mediation between Israel and neighboring Arab states.

1958 - The first domestic passenger jet flight took place in the U.S. when 111 passengers flew from New York to Miami on a National Airlines Boeing 707.

1964 - In Oslo, Norway, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the youngest person to receive the award.

1980 - South Carolina Representative John W. Jenrette resigned to avoid being expelled from the U.S. House of Representatives following his conviction on charges to the FBI's Abscam investigation.

1983 - Raul Alfonsin was inaugurated as Argentina's first civilian president after nearly eight years of military rule.

1984 - South African Bishop Desmond Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize.

1993 - The crew of the space shuttle Endeavor deployed the repaired Hubble Space Telescope into Earth's orbit.

1994 - Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize. They pledged to pursue their mission of healing the Middle East.

1995 - The first U.S. Marines arrived in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo to join NATO soldiers sent to enforce peace in the former Yugoslavia.

1996 - South Africa's President Mandela signed into law a new democratic constitution, completing the country's transition from white-minority rule to a non-racial democracy.

1998 - Six astronauts opened the doors to the new international space station 250 miles above the Earth's surface.

2003 - The U.S. Supreme Court upheld new restrictions on political advertising in the weeks before an election. The court did strike down two provisions of the new law that involved a ban on political contributions from those too young to vote and a limitation on some party spending. (McConnell v. FEC, 02-1674)

2003 - The U.S. barred firms based in certain countries, opponents of the Iraq war, from bidding on Iraqi reconstruction projects. The ban did not prevent companies from winning subcontracts.

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The king of hypocrisy

Nike's latest TV ad is another slick paean to individual empowerment and prevailing despite the naysayers.

Centered on Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant, the commercial features various people doubting that Morant can keep up his stellar play, to which someone always cheekily replies, "Says who?" Yes, Nike believes anything is possible -- so long as it doesn't involve doing anything to cross one of the world's most hideously oppressive regimes.

The grotesque hypocrisy of the Nike-NBA industrial complex and its biggest star, LeBron James, has been underlined in recent weeks by Boston Celtics player Enes Kanter, who has been on a one-man crusade against the Chinese Communist Party and those too cowardly or greedy to call it out.

James -- the owner of four NBA championship rings who has appeared in a jaw-dropping 10 NBA finals -- has views on all sorts of public controversies and doesn't hesitate to air them so long as they are comfortably within the fashionable woke consensus.

On China, though, he's mute. So are his employers. They all

portray themselves as champions of social justice and of courage and striving, but their commitment to these causes and values stops at the water's edge -- and at their bottom line.

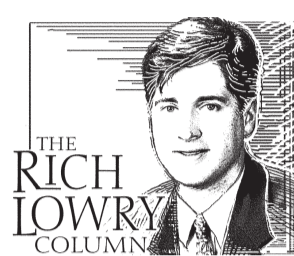
When a couple of years ago, the Houston Rockets general manager got thrown under the bus by the NBA for tweeting in support of pro-democracy protestors in Hong Kong, King James pronounced him "not educated on the situation."

The Lakers forward affirmed a right to free speech -- thanks, GOAT! -- but said we have to be careful what we say. "So many people," he warned, "could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually."

Never has so much harm been attributed to a small message of public support for plucky idealists about to be steamrolled by a totalitarian government.

During the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, by the way, James mocked Rittenhouse's tears on the stand, doubting they were real -- apparently because he's an expert on what constitutes genuine signs of post-traumatic stress.

If Rittenhouse had control over whether a vast market would be open to James and the



corporations he's affiliated with, the Lakers star surely would have stayed silent.

When Kanter tweeted, "Money over Morals for the 'King,'" and wore sneakers portraying James bowing down to get crowned by Chinese dictator Xi Jinping for a Celtics-Lakers game, James brushed it off. He accused Kanter of "trying to use my name to create an opportunity for himself."

Actually, Kanter's activism, calling out his league and a massively influential corporation, is what everyone says they value -- a lonely, unwelcome campaign against well-heeled interests too compromised to defy a powerful entity perpetrating rank injustices.

After Nike got blowback in China for a relatively anodyne statement expressing concern about forced labor in Xinjiang -- the epicenter of the regime's repression of the Uyghurs -- the company's CEO said Nike is "a brand of China and for China."

Nike lobbied Congress to weaken an anti-forced-

labor bill, lest a measure aimed at crimping a vast human-rights abuse discomfit the corporate giant too greatly.

"Says who?" the new Nike ad asks. Clearly, the Chinese regime.

"You can't stop us," intoned a viral ad last year. Well, actually you can, provided you are an authoritarian bully with an enormous consumer base.

"Just do it" went the most iconic Nike ad. No, second thought, better to "Just don't" if it might anger a government that disappeared a star athlete for the offense of accusing an official of sexual assault and is preparing to invade a neighboring country.

If China were to take Taiwan, would the NBA, Nike or LeBron James do anything more than offer vague expressions of concern and piffle about how the situation is complicated?

We certainly know what Enes Kanter would say. Which is why he rightly deserves a Nike ad celebrating his go-it-alone truth-telling, and why, of course, he'll never get one.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Veterans service groups are up and running again

Is your local Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion up and running again? Many shut down over the past year due to COVID-19. Now, slowly, they're coming back. If you're eligible, this would be a good time to explore what they have to offer.

The DAV (www.dav.org) started back in 1920 and now has 1,300 chapters and over 1 million members. Its objective is to help disabled veterans and their families at no cost. In one year alone, the DAV provided nearly a quarter of a million rides

to veterans going to doctor appointments. Last year, it helped veterans get over \$24 billion in benefits through assistance with Department of Veterans Affairs claims.

The VFW (www.vfw.org), with some 1.5 million members, was started back in 1899 to ensure that veterans got their rights and benefits. Eligibility includes either active duty or prior service with Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge with service on foreign soil or in a hostile area. Like the DAV, the VFW can help with filing



by Freddy Groves

a VA claim. If you've gone back to school, the VFW might be able to help with scholarships. If you're in a jam (food, rent, electric bill, for example), small cash grants (not loans) are available for members.

The American Legion (www.legion.org) has well over a dozen veterans programs including family and youth, community and national affairs. It was incorporated by Congress in 1919 as an organization devoted to

mutual helpfulness with a focus on communities, patriotism and national security. Check the website for specific eligibility periods and posts near you. (There might be more than you think, with 15,000 scattered around the country.) One of the unsung benefits is the alliance between the Legion and USAA. Car insurance, bank account, credit card ... it's worth checking out.

Take a look at what these groups offer -- better yet, what you can offer them.

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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

numbers will not be published.

The editor and manager reserve the right to edit letters for length and/or content and to publish letters using any Journal platform, i.e. print newspaper, Web site or other electronic delivery method.

Readers should keep in mind that letters published are the opinions of their authors, are not news reports and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper its staff or its advertisers.

The Journal does not certify information used in letters but will remove any passages it considers potentially libelous.

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Information from the National Weather Service



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Wednesday
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 High 61



Thursday
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 High 56

Weather History

December 11

1949: An out-of-season tornado moved across Christian and Shelby Counties, unroofing seven homes in Pana. One person was injured when a barn was destroyed. Another tornado near Hannibal, MO, moved across the Mississippi River into Pike County, damaging barns and sheds on 3 farms.

2000: A major winter storm affected a large part of central and northern Illinois. The heaviest snowfall

of 10 to 15 inches occurred in Cook and DuPage Counties Chicago area, with 6 and 10 inches as far south as central Illinois, along and north of a Canton to Morton to Gridley line. Freezing rain and sleet mixed in with the snow, especially along and south of this line. Northwest winds of 25 to 35 mph, with gusts to 45 mph, produced considerable blowing and drifting snow, with near blizzard conditions in northeast Illinois, and wind chills of 30 to 40 below zero. 19 people in the Chicago area died while shoveling snow, from heart failure or hypothermia.

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CLINTON Journal Sports

Maroons varsity takes one-point win in season opener

Marc Rogers
jmarre@frontier.com

CLINTON — On Tuesday, November 30, the Clinton Maroons basketball team played its first home game of the season against the visiting Olympia Spartans, a tough foe.

In sheer numbers, the varsity Maroons were outmanned 14-9, and there are no seniors on this year's squad. But, Olympia's coach was surprised when the Maroons hung around in the first quarter to be only one point down going into the next quarter.

At halftime, the Maroons were still around, down by only 6 points.

During the third quarter the Spartans were able to stretch their lead to 10 points, which ended up as only 8 points going into the final quarter. By this time the opposing coach was becoming frustrated, and his team was tiring.

The fourth quarter was Maroon-amazing. The home team has been working on a new offense, the same offense the Spartans use, and it finally clicked. It uses only guards on the

perimeter, moving the ball around until a clear shot opens, either on the outside or a drive to the basket. And, the swarming defense had the Spartans reeling.

They were held to one point in the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, The Maroons were getting closer and closer. A bucket for 2 points and a pair of 3-point scores put the Maroons down by one with little time left (seconds). After an Olympia missed shot and a Maroon rebound, the home team started down the court.

Somehow players became tangled and the opposition was called for a technical foul. Dawson Graves (#2) took the two shots for the Maroons to put them up by one with several seconds left.

The Maroons set up a maze on the court so the opposition wouldn't have a straight run to the basket. By the time the player from Olympia made it down the floor, he shot as the buzzer went off and missed, giving the Maroons the one-point 47-46 win.

The Clinton side of the gym erupted in pande-



Marc Rogers / Journal
The Maroons won the jump ball, and eventually the game.

monium as the team was swarmed by their student cheering section, their fans

and anyone Maroon related. The Maroons were

led by Graves (#2) with 15 points, Brooks Cluver (#12) with 13 points

and Mason Walker with 11 points. Walker and Graves had two 3-pointers each and Cluver had one 3-pointer in the team leading scoring.

Junior varsity

In the first game of the evening the junior varsity (JV) faced an equally stubborn opponent. The initial quarter saw the home team falter and end up down 20-2 at the end of this round.

The second quarter, the Maroons battled back for a respectable round at 18-15 but still left them down by 21 points at the halfway mark.

This would prove to be the best of the night for the Maroons JV as they scored single digits in each of the final two quarters while the opposition scored in double digits in the last two quarters.

The final score was Spartans 65, Maroons 25. Westbrooks (#24) was the lone Maroon in double figures with 14 points with only four players scoring. The opposition had 11 players scoring points.

Tough play but disappointing night for Maroons teams

Marc Rogers
jmarre@frontier.com

CLINTON — Friday evening, November 3, saw the Maroons junior varsity (JV) and varsity basketball teams face their Rt. 51 arch rival, the Maroa/Forsyth Trojans at home.

The teams have been struggling of late, and this was an extra tough night. The evening began with the JV teams battling for superiority. The Trojans grabbed the early lead and finished the first quarter on top by four points. By the end of the half, the Trojans were up by 12 points and the outlook was grim for the home team.

But, the Maroons came out reenergized for the sec-

ond half. The home team outscored the Trojans in the third quarter to come back to within 7 points of the lead.

The opposition then sparked in the fourth quarter as the Maroons kept charging ahead. The Maroons were outscored by two points in the final quarter, falling to the Trojans 48-39.

The Maroons out scored the opposition in the second half, but couldn't make up the first half deficit. Westbrooks (#24) led the Maroons with 16 points supported by evenly balanced scoring from seven other Maroons.

Varsity

The second game be-

tween the varsities was a thriller until the final quarter.

The Trojans somehow eked out a two-point lead in the first quarter. The Maroons came back to outscore the opposition in the second quarter and take a six-point lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Maroons ship seemed to have righted itself as they ended the third quarter up by seven points. That was when the wind stopped blowing, the sails went limp and the seas were like glass as the Maroons' ship lost momentum.

The Trojans then had a field day in the final quarter, scoring 23 points to the home teams meager 5 points. The Trojans took



4) Brooks Cluver (#12) drains a 3-pointer in the varsity game

the win 53-42.

The Maroons gave it a valiant effort led by Trev-

or Scott (#0) and Dawson were led by Egan Franzen (#5) with 28 points. The Trojans



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SPORTS

CJHS Maroons fall to Cardinals

Marc Rogers
jmarre@frontier.com

CLINTON — The Clinton Junior High (CJHS) boys basketball teams were at home again on Thursday, November 2. This meeting on the hardwood was against the Warrensburg/Latham Cardinals.

The evening began with the 7th grade teams mis-matching up for a tussle. The Cardinals capitalized early taking a 9-point lead in the first quarter. In the second quarter, the Maroons were able to make it to double figures but were down another six points, making a total of 15 points down at the half.

The third quarter saw the Maroons drop back into single-digit scoring, while the opposition was again in double digits. The final quarter was for the subs as the Maroons were already down 20 points. At the



Neely (#11) drops in two free throws for the Maroons final two points of the game.

ending buzzer, the young Maroons took the loss at 51-21.

The eighth grade game started well with the home team taking the first stanza 31-11.

In the second quarter, the home team began to falter as the result of playing with five guards, while the Cardinals had several tall plays on the inside stifling any Maroon drives to the

basket. And, the Maroons 3-point shooting dried up. This put the Maroons down by five at the half but still within grasp of a winning comeback. The home team still stayed close

throughout the third quarter, keeping within 9 points of the lead.

Then in the final six minutes, the entire Maroons train came off the tracks scoring just 3 points to the

Cardinals' 17.

This gave the Cardinals their second win of the night, this one 44-22. The 8th graders were led by Graves (#3) with 13 points.

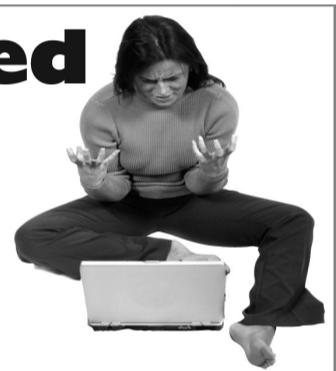


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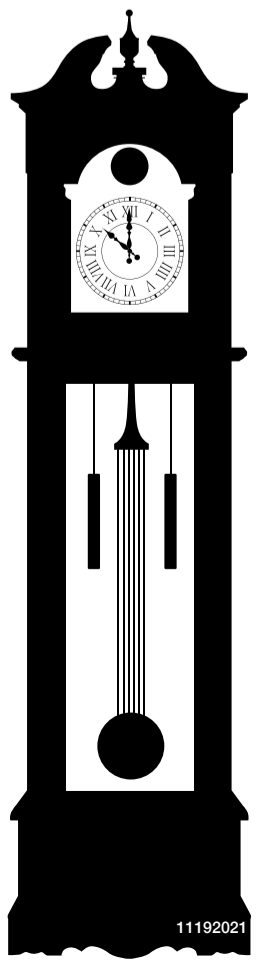


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CJ DEADLINES:
• Tuesdays at 5 p.m.
(Deadlines subject to change during holiday times)

Call for pricing that starts at **\$19.00** for private party ads and **\$30** for commercial business ads and **\$15** 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.

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.

REAL ESTATE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 6TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DEWITT COUNTY, CLINTON, ILLINOIS
MIDFIRST BANK PLAINTIFF,
-VS-
Debra G. Ertl a/k/a Debra Gail Ertl; United States of America; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

DEFENDANTS NO. 19 CH 24
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on September 29, 2021;

Mike Walker, Sheriff, 101 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL 61727, will on January 5, 2022 at 10:00 AM, at Dewitt County Courthouse, 201 W. Washington Street, Clinton, IL 61727, sell to the highest bidder for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Dewitt County, Illinois.

Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.

Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court.

Commonly known as 28 Holly Drive, Clinton, IL 61727
Permanent Index No.: 12-03-103-003

Improvements: Single Family
Residential

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

The judgment amount was \$153,433.99. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POS-

305 GARAGE/RUMMAGE SALES

PLACE A RUMMAGE SALE AD IN THE CLINTON JOURNAL. Deadline for ads are: Tuesday, 5:00 PM for the following Friday edition. Rate: 1 publication and up

307 MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

ARTIFICIAL Christmas tree, 6' with stand, lights, accessories, decoration, \$100 cash, 110 S. Elizabeth. (3071218)

Powers AUCTION SERVICE
STATELINE AUCTIONS
Large 2 Day Auction: December 29th & 30th
Southern Wisconsin's Premier Auction Yard Located: 110 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522
NOW ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS!
Farm Equipment - Tractors - Implements - Harvest Equipment - Combines
Heads - Skid Loaders - Excavators - Dozers - Cranes - Attachments
Trucks & Trailers - Lawn & Garden - Outdoor Powersports - Ext.
Consign Early For Maximum Exposure!
Live and Online Bidding Available Both Days! Don't Miss Out On A Great Opportunity To Buy & Sell
WWW.POWERSAUCTION.COM
Powers Auction Service
101 E Murray ST Browntown WI 53522
Office (608) 439-5761 - Mike Powers (608) 214-5761
Taking Consignments:
Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday: By Appointment Until Dec.

Timed Online, No Reserve FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION
BIDDING CLOSES: THURS., DECEMBER 16TH STARTING AT 10:00 A.M. CT
ITEMS ARE LOCATED AT THE FARM - 28418 N 2380 EAST RD., GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS 61744
(Approximately 22 miles northeast of Bloomington, IL)

EQUIPMENT INSPECTION: MON., DECEMBER 13TH | 9 AM - 4 PM

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
1992 Case IH 7120 2WD tractor; 1990 Case IH 7130 2WD tractor; 1978 Case 1070 2WD tractor with loader; 1993 Case IH 1640 combine; 1993 IH 963 6R 30" corn head; 1995 Case IH 1020 platform; 1995 John Deere 7000 12R 30" planter; 1990 John Deere 12R 30" cultivator; 1984 Kewanee 21' disc; 1983 Wilrich 30' field cultivator; (4) Killbros wagons; 2015 Hutchinson 10" 32' electric auger; 2013 Hutchinson 10" 58' PTO auger; 2013 Farm King 10" 72" PTO auger; 1976 Hutchinson 10" 32' auger; 2007 Cub Cadet; 2007 Kawasaki Mule 50; Misc shop equipment and a nice selection of tools.

DON FEIT
EQUIPMENT QUESTIONS: DON (309) 838-0019
AUCTION MANAGER: KEVIN HAAS (309) 264-7767 & LUKE SULLIVAN (309) 371-5214

SULLIVAN AUCTIONEERS, LLC
(844) 847-2161 • www.SullivanAuctioneers.com
License #444000107

108.03 ACRES +/- MACON COUNTY FARMLAND
LOCATED ON THE DEWITT/MACON CO. LINE - 5 MI EAST OF RT 51 ON E LAKE FORK RD
DECEMBER 28TH, 2021 10:00 AM

Sale Location: WAPELLA AUCTION HOUSE
Rt 51 N-Wapella, IL
(59 Years Central Illinois' Largest & Most Trusted Auction Facility)

Sec. 3-T18N-R3E
West Part Friends Creek/East Part Maroa Township
Ivan Porter Family Farm
PI-137.0
Information: www.haycraftauctions.com
Call For Brochure:
Office-217-935-6286 or Jay-309-275-4506
HAYCRAFT AUCTION CO., INC.
Rt 51 N-Wapella, IL 61777

11192021

CLINTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOLS VACANCY NOTICE NO. 16

Please apply on-line at www.applitrack.com/Clinton/onlineapp unless noted otherwise.

Clinton High School
1. **English Teacher**, application deadline December 17, 2021

Lincoln School
1. **Speech Language Pathologist**, application deadline December 17, 2021

Douglas School
1. **Clerical Aide (5 hours a day)**, application deadline December 17, 2021.

Clinton Elementary School
1. **Teacher's Aide**, (pay range \$14-\$16.28 per hour, depending on tier) Please see website for requirements for paraprofessional license <https://roe17.org/licensure/paraprofessionals>, application deadline December 17, 2021

Nursing
1. **Substitute Nurses**, who have active Illinois R.N. or LPN license and experience in school nursing for grades K-12. Candidates must possess effective communication, nursing, and collaboration skills. This position may involve experiences with health education, chronic disease management, communicable disease, immunizations, first-aid, and medication administration. Hours for this position would be 7:45 am-3:45pm on an as needed basis.

Athletics
1. **Assistant HS Boys Track Coach**, please apply online or email letter of interest, resume, and letter of recommendation to Matt Koepfel, AD, at mkoepfel@cusd15.org, application deadline December 17, 2021

Transportation
1. **Bus Drivers, Bus Driver Substitutes, Van Driver Substitutes**, (\$22.85 Bus Route, \$20.64 Van route) Regular Driver's Hours 4 a day guaranteed (2 morning, 2 afternoon), Sick Days, Personal Days, Holiday pay. Sub Drivers hours are as needed. Bus Drivers must have a CDL or be willing to obtain one. application deadline December 17, 2021.

Maintenance/Custodians
1. **Substitute Custodians** (potential to move into regular full-time position) application deadline December 17, 2021. apply online or pick up an application at the unit office.

Transition Program
1. **Job Coach (9-month position)**, Qualifications, at least 20 years old, High School Diploma/GED, Experience working with people with disabilities a plus. Will assist, support, and work closely with students in the school and community by providing vocational support to prepare students for employment. Will work with individual students or small groups of students with job skills, will assist the certified staff in devising special strategies for finding student strength and areas to work on in job setting, will input/chart specific individual job performances, serve as chief informational source for vocational coordinator, assist in bus loading, and work to maintain safe work environment. Note: Electronic Devices: Personal electronic devices should not be used during regular work hours. Periodic checks for personal information can be made on a limited basis.
1. **Individual teacher's aide**, (9 month position), Qualifications, at least 20 years old, High School Diploma/GED, ETS paraprofessional license or have taken 60 hours of college credit, Will assist, support, and work closely with teachers, administrators, and team members, will follow the student's day of attendance, will devise special strategies for reinforcing learning materials and skills, will monitor work, correct papers, supervise curriculum, will input/chart specific individual student duties, will service as chief information source to help any guest teachers, will perform instructional duties as assigned. Please see website for requirements for paraprofessional license <https://roe17.org/licensure/paraprofessionals>
1. **Teacher's aide**, (9 month position), Qualifications, at least 20 years old, High School Diploma/GED, ETS paraprofessional license or have taken 60 hours of college credit, Will assist, support, and work closely with teachers, administrators, and team members, will devise special strategies for reinforcing learning materials and skills, will monitor work, correct papers, supervise curriculum, will input/chart specific individual student duties, will service as chief information source to help any guest teachers, will perform instructional duties as assigned. Please see website for requirements for paraprofessional license: <https://roe17.org/licensure/paraprofessionals>

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

SESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Bid Amount contact: Sale Clerk LOGS Legal Group LLP 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 ILNOTICES@logs.com (847) 291-1717

MidFirst Bank

One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney for Plaintiff 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 (847) 291-1717 ILNOTICES@logs.com Randal S. Berg (6277119) Michael N. Burke (6291435) Christopher A. Cieniawa (6187452) Joseph M. Herbas (6277645) Michael Kalkowski (6185654) Laura J. Anderson (6224385) Mallory Snyderman (6306039) Thomas Belczak (6193705)

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION.

Legal 19359RE December 3, 10 and 17, 2021

LEGAL

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION

OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE"

W18-1944

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 6TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

DE WITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Self Help Ventures Fund;

Plaintiff,

vs.

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Donna M. Driscoll; Jerry L. Foehrer; Jeremiah Foehrer; Nicole L. Foehrer a/k/a Nicole L. Loewenstein; Cassandra L. Kamalov; Joe Dehn, as Special Representative of Donna M. Driscoll;

Defendants.

18 CH 37

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL ESTATE

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that

pursuant to a judgment heretofore entered by the said court occurred in the above entitled cause, Sheriff of De Witt, Illinois, will on January 5, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 AM at Dewitt County Sheriff's Office, 101 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL 61727, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate in the said judgment mentioned, situated in the County of De Witt, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy such judgment to wit:

C/K/A: 800 Chicago Street, Dewitt, IL 61735

PIN: 09-19-284-001

The person to contact regarding information regarding this property is: Sales Dept., The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540, Chicago, IL 60603. Any questions regarding this sale should refer to file number W18-1944. The terms of the sale are Cash. 10% at time of sale, with the balance due within 24 hours. The property is improved by: single family home. The Property is not open for inspection prior to sale.

The real estate, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging shall be sold under such terms.

The Wirbicki Law Group LLC

Attorney for Plaintiff

33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540

Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: 312-360-9455

W18-1944

pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com

I3182686

Legal 19362RE December 10, 17 and 24, 2021

LEGAL

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

ROY COPPENBARGER Deceased.

2021P38

NOTICE OF CLAIM DATE

Notice is given of the death of Roy Coppenbarger. On September 21, 2021, a Petition to Admit Will to Probate was filed in the above proceeding. The Will of Roy Coppenbarger, dated March 4, 2021, was formally admitted to probate and Mary F. Coppenbarger was appointed as Independent Executor on September 27, 2021. Letters of Office were issued on November 12, 2021 to Mary F. Coppenbarger, as Independent Executor of the Estate of Roy E. Coppenbarger, The Executor is represented by attorney Catherine H. Barbercheck.

Claims against the estate may be filed

in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, DeWitt County Courthouse, 201 W. Washington St., Clinton, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or within six (6) months of the issuance of Letters of Office, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Catherine H. Barbercheck Barbercheck & Associates P.O. Box 1127 Champaign, IL 61824-1127 Telephone: 217-352-3634 cbarbercheck@barberchecklaw.com ARDC #3122578

Legal 19354 November 26, 2021 December 3 and 10, 2021

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

DEWITT COUNTY - IN PROBATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STANLEY CLIF-FORD ARNOLD DECEASED

2021-P-49

CLAIM DATE NOTICE - INDEPENDENT CO-ADMINISTRATION

Notice is given of the death of the above named decedent;

Letters of Office were issued on November 15, 2021 to Larry Arnold, 3825 Arthur Court, Decatur, Illinois 62526 and Terry Arnold, 108 Camelot Drive, Bloomington, Illinois 61704 as Independent Co-Administrators. The attorney for the estate is Joseph B. Taylor of Taylor & Lynch, 216 South Center Street, P.O. Box 478, Clinton, Illinois 61727.

Claims may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the DeWitt County Courthouse, 201 W. Washington Street, Clinton, Illinois 61727, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 15, 2022. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the Clerk of the Court must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the Attorney within 10 days after it is filed.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless an interested party terminates Independent Administration by filing a Petition to Terminate under Section 28-4 of the Illinois Probate Act (775 ILCS 5/28-4). A form of a Petition to Terminate Independent Administration may be opened from the Clerk of the Court at the above address.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2021

Larry Arnold and Terry Arnold, Independent Co-Administrators of the estate of Stanley Clifford Arnold, Deceased

JOSEPH B. TAYLOR 02803046

TAYLOR & LYNCH 216 SOUTH CENTER STREET P.O. BOX 478 CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727 TEL: (217) 935-2183 FAX: (217) 935-8219 E-MAIL: attorneys@dewittcountylaw.com

Legal 19355 November 26, 2021 December 3 and 10, 2021

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

DEWITT COUNTY - IN PROBATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUDITH LYNNE CARR, DECEASED

NO. 2021-P-47

CLAIM DATE NOTICE - INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION

Notice is given of the death of the above named decedent;

Letters of Office were issued on November 9, 2021 to Darrell L. Carr. P.O. Box 656, Clinton, Illinois 61727 as Independent Executor. The attorney for the estate is Joseph B. Taylor of Taylor & Lynch, 216 South Center Street, P.O. Box 478, Clinton, Illinois 61727.

Claims may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court at the DeWitt County Courthouse, 201 W. Washington Street, Clinton, Illinois 61727, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 22, 2022. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of the claim filed with the clerk of the court must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless an interested party terminates Independent Administration by filing a Petition to Terminate under Section 28-4 of the Illinois Probate Act (775 ILCS 5/28-4). A form of a Petition to Terminate Independent Administration may be opened from the Clerk of the Court at the above address.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2021

Darrell L. Carr, Independent Executor of the Estate of Judith Lynne Carr, Deceased

JOSEPH B. TAYLOR 02803046 TAYLOR & LYNCH 216 SOUTH CENTER STREET P.O. BOX 478 CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727 TEL: (217) 935-2183 FAX: (217) 935-8219 E-MAIL: attorneys@dewittcountylaw.com

Legal 19356 November 26, 2021 December 3 and 10, 2021

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 6TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DEWITT COUNTY, CLINTON, ILLINOIS

MIDFIRST BANK PLAINTIFF,

-vs- Debra G. Ertl a/k/a Debra Gail Ertl; United States of America; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS

DEFENDANTS NO. 19 CH 24

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment entered in the above entitled matter on September 29, 2021;

Mike Walker, Sheriff, 101 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL 61727, will on January 5, 2022 at 10:00 AM, at Dewitt County Courthouse, 201 W. Washington Street, Clinton, IL 61727, sell to the highest bidder for ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours, the following described premises situated in Dewitt County, Illinois.

Said sale shall be subject to general taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and any prior liens or 1st Mortgages. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title or recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.

Upon the sale being held and the purchaser tendering said bid in certified funds, a receipt of Sale will be issued and/or a Certificate of Sale as required, which will entitle the purchaser to a deed upon confirmation of said sale by the Court.

Said property is legally described as follows:

LOT 57 IN FLAIR THIRD SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF CLINTON, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT RECORDED APRIL 15, 1977 IN PLAT BOOK "H" PAGE 48 AS DOCUMENT NO. 110565 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF DEWITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF DEWITT, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 28 Holly Drive, Clinton, IL 61727

Permanent Index No.: 12-03-103-003

Improvements: Single Family

Residential

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to the sale and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

The judgment amount was \$153,433.99. Prospective purchasers are admonished to check the court file and title records to verify this information. 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.

MIDFIRST BANK PLAINTIFF,

For Bid Amount contact: Sale Clerk LOGS Legal Group LLP 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 ILNOTICES@logs.com (847) 291-1717

MidFirst Bank

One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney for Plaintiff 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 301 Bannockburn, IL 60015 (847) 291-1717 ILNOTICES@logs.com Randal S. Berg (6277119) Michael N. Burke (6291435) Christopher A. Cieniawa (6187452) Joseph M. Herbas (6277645) Michael Kalkowski (6185654) Laura J. Anderson (6224385) Mallory Snyderman (6306039) Thomas Belczak (6193705)

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IF YOUR PERSONAL LIABILITY FOR THIS DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED BY A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY OR BY AN ORDER GRANTING IN REM RELIEF FROM STAY, THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED SOLELY TO FORECLOSE THE MORTGAGE REMAINING ON YOUR PROPERTY AND IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT THE DISCHARGED PERSONAL OBLIGATION. 6114-919179

Legal 19359 December 2, 10 and 17, 2021

LEGAL

Joint Review Board Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the Joint Review Board will be meeting on December 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall for the purpose of reviewing the annual TIF I, III, IV reports.

Tim Followell TIF Administrator

Legal 19360 December 10, 2021

LEGAL

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of DeWitt County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

4 SEE A CHANGE COACHING 116 N JAMES ST FARMER CITY, IL 61842.

{SEAL}

Dated: Wednesday, December 1, 2021

No. 2021-161

/s/Dana Smith kln COUNTY CLERK

Legal 19361 December 10, 17 and 24, 2021

LEGAL

"THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION

OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE"

W18-1944

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 6TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

DE WITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Self Help Ventures Fund;

Plaintiff,

vs.

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Donna M. Driscoll; Jerry L. Foehrer; Jeremiah Foehrer; Nicole L. Foehrer a/k/a Nicole L. Loewenstein; Cassandra L. Kamalov; Joe Dehn, as Special Representative of Donna M. Driscoll;

Defendants.

18 CH 37

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE OF REAL ESTATE

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a judgment heretofore entered by the said court occurred in the above entitled cause, Sheriff of De Witt, Illinois, will on January 5, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 AM at Dewitt County Sheriff's Office, 101 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL 61727, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate in the said judgment mentioned, situated in the County of De Witt, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy such judgment to wit:

LOTS 2 AND 3 IN BLOCK 14 IN DAY'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF MARION NOW THE VILLAGE OF DEWITT, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF DEWITT AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

C/K/A: 800 Chicago Street, Dewitt, IL 61735

PIN: 09-19-284-001

The person to contact regarding information regarding this property is: Sales Dept., The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540, Chicago, IL 60603. Any questions regarding this sale should refer to file number W18-1944. The terms of the sale are Cash. 10% at time of sale, with the balance due within 24 hours. The property is improved by: single family home. The Property is not open for inspection prior to sale.

The real estate, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging shall be sold under such terms.

The Wirbicki Law Group LLC

Attorney for Plaintiff

33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540

Chicago, IL 60603

Phone: 312-360-9455

W18-1944

pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com

I3182686

Legal 19362 December 10, 17 and 24, 2021

LEGAL

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

Estate of: Dorene R. Smith Deceased. CASE NO. 2021 P 48

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION OF CLAIM DATE

Notice is given to the creditors of the death of Dorene R. Smith, of 817 E. Johnson., Clinton, Illinois 61727. Letters of Office were issued on November 15, 2021 to Phyllis McGhee, Independent

Executor, 3967 Valley Dr., Clinton, Illinois 61727, whose attorney is Stephanie L. Scoles, 204 E. Side Square, 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 May 15, 2022 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 2nd day of December, 2021.

Stephanie L. Scoles Attorney for the Estate of Dorene R. Smith 204 E. Side Square Clinton, IL 61727 217-935-0041

Legal 19363 December 10, 17 and 24, 2021

LEGAL

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 6, 2021, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of DeWitt County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

CUSEY MACHINE AND WELDING 9947 CARL SPRINGS RD WAPELLA, IL 61777.

{SEAL}

Make informed decisions on the farm with newest field research updates

By Emily Steele

URBANA, Ill. – Winter is a time for the agriculture community to pause and plan for the next growing season. Crop producers, consultants, and industry professionals can get the latest updates on Illinois crop production in person or online at the 2022 Crop Management Conference in January and February.

Make the most informed decisions you can for your farm by getting the latest research updates from University of Illinois crop science experts. Topics include insect management, soil health, herbicide resistance, managing high fertilizer prices, and more.

At least 12 continuing education units are available for Certified Crop Advisors. Four in-person sessions are being offered around the state. Conferences are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. January 19 in Mt. Vernon, February 2 in Macomb, February 8 in Champaign,

and February 15 in Sycamore. The cost to attend is \$100 and lunch is included.

A new online conference with additional sessions is also available from February 1 through March 14. Participants who attend in person also have access to online sessions and the in-person conferences will be recorded and shared online. The online conference is \$50.

Registration opens December 1 at go.illinois.edu/CMC2022.

If a reasonable accommodation is needed to participate, or for more information, contact Chelsea Harbach at harbach2@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting access needs.

SOURCE: Chelsea Harbach, Commercial Agriculture Educator, University of Illinois Extension

WRITER: Emily Steele, Writer, University of Illinois Extension

Earth is dimming due to climate change

NAPSI) — Warming ocean waters have caused a drop in the brightness of the Earth, according to recent research.

Scientists used decades of measurements of earthshine—the light reflected from Earth that illuminates the surface of the Moon—as well as satellite measurements to find that there has been a significant drop in Earth's reflectance, or albedo, over the past two decades.

The Earth is now reflecting about half a watt less light per square meter than it was 20 years ago, with most of the drop occurring in the last three years of earthshine data, according to the new study in the AGU journal Geophysical Research Letters, which publishes high-impact, short-format reports with immediate implications spanning all Earth and space sciences. That's the equivalent of 0.5 percent decrease in the Earth's reflectance. Earth reflects about 30% of the sunlight that shines on it.

"The albedo drop was such a surprise to us when we analyzed the last three years of data after 17 years of nearly flat albedo," said Philip Goode, a researcher at New Jersey Institute of Technology and the lead

author of the new study, referring to earthshine data gathered by the Big Bear Solar Observatory in Southern California. When the latest data were added to the previous years, the dimming trend became clear.

Two things affect the netsunlight reaching the Earth: the Sun's brightness and the planet's reflectivity. The changes in Earth's albedo observed by the researchers did not correlate with periodic changes in the Sun's brightness, so that means changes in Earth's reflectiveness are caused by something on the Earth. Specifically, there has been a reduction of bright, reflective low-lying clouds over the eastern Pacific Ocean in the most recent years, according to satellite measurements made as part of NASA's Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) project.

That's the same area, off the west coasts of North and South America, where increases in sea surface temperatures have been recorded because of the reversal of a climatic condition called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, with likely connections to global climate change.

The dimming of the Earth can also be seen in terms

of how much more solar energy is being captured by Earth's climate system. Once this significant additional solar energy is in Earth's atmosphere and oceans, it may contribute to global warming, as the extra sunlight is of the same magnitude as the total anthropogenic climate forcing over the last two decades.

"It's actually quite concerning," said Edward Schwieterman, a planetary scientist at the University of California at Riverside who was not involved in the new study. For some time, many scientists had hoped that a warmer Earth might lead to more clouds and higher albedo, which would then help to moderate warming and balance the climate system, he said. "But this shows the opposite is true."

Learn More
For further facts and stats, you can visit AGU at www.news.agu.org. AGU supports 130,000 enthusiasts to experts worldwide in Earth and space sciences. Through broad and inclusive partnerships, it advances discovery and science that accelerates knowledge and creates solutions that are ethical, unbiased and respectful of communities and their values.

Dated: Monday, December 6, 2021
No. 2021-163

/s/Dana Smith
COUNTY CLERK

Legal 19364
December 10, 17
and 24, 2021

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS

DE WITT COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF BARNETT SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT COUNTY OF DEWITT, STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 50-TX-1

IN THE MATTER OF CLINTONIA SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DEWITT, STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 53-TX-11

IN THE MATTER OF CLINTONIA UNION DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNS OF CLINTONIA AND WAPELLA, COUNTY OF DEWITT AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 97-TX-6

IN THE MATTER OF COON CREEK DRAINAGE DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DEWITT, STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 96-TX-5

IN THE MATTER OF CREEK UNION DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE COUNTIES OF DEWITT AND MACON STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 53-TX-168

IN THE MATTER OF FRIENDS CREEK SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTIES OF DEWITT AND PIATT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 52-TX-56

IN THE MATTER OF MUTUAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF MAROA, ILLINOIS, COUNTIES OF DEWITT AND MACON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 64-TX-2

IN THE MATTER OF NIXON SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT COUNTIES OF DEWITT & MACON, STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 53-TX-30

IN THE MATTER OF PRAIRIE CENTER DRAINAGE DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DEWITT, STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 53-TX-10

IN THE MATTER OF TEN MILE CREEK OUTLET DRAINAGE DISTRICT, COUNTY OF DEWITT AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 53-TX-1

IN THE MATTER OF TEXAS CREEK UNION DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNS OF TEXAS AND CREEK, IN THE COUNTY OF DEWITT AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 56-TX-171

IN THE MATTER OF WAPELLA UNION DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 2 OF THE TOWNS OF WAPELLA

AND CLINTONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF DEWITT AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 58-TX-1

IN THE MATTER OF WILSON TOWNSHIP DRAINAGE DISTRICT COUNTY OF DEWITT, STATE OF ILLINOIS

NO. 50-TX-69

NOTICE

The commissioners of the above drainage districts have filed in the above cases, respectively, their Annual Financial Reports which will be approved by the above court unless the owners of land in the respective districts file objections to the reports with the Clerk of this Court within 10 days after the publication of this notice.

MICHELLE VAN VALEY
Clerk

This Notice Prepared By:
JOSEPH B. TAYLOR 02803046
TAYLOR & LYNCH
216 SOUTH CENTER STREET
P.O. BOX 478
CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727
TEL: (217) 935-2183
FAX: (217) 935-8219
EMAIL: attorneys@dewittcountyilaw.com
Attorney for the Commissioners

Legal 19365
December 10, 2021

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DE WITT COUNTY - IN PROBATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CLARA MARIE TAYLOR, Deceased.

NO. 21-P-51

DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given of the death of the above name decedent; that Letters of Office were issued on the 2nd of December, 2021 to CAROL KLEIST as Independent Executor, 1108 S. Quincy St., Clinton, IL 61727 and whose attorney of record is Lamkin and Lamkin, P.C., 200 South Monroe Street, P.O. Box 597, Clinton, Illinois 61727.

CLAIMS against the estate must be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court, DeWitt County Building, 201 West Washington Street, Clinton, Illinois, on or before the 24th day of June, 2022 or on or before 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery of any Notice, whichever is later. Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Michelle Van Valey
Clerk of the Circuit Court

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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Post Office Box 597
Clinton, Illinois 61727
Telephone:

217/935-3186
Legal 19366
December 10, 17
and 24, 2021

LEGAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DEWITT COUNTY,
CLINTON, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE RUTLEDGE-EMPIRE DRAINAGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTIES OF DEWITT AND MCLEAN, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Case No. 52-TX-121

NOTICE OF FILING OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS

TO ALL PARTIES INTERESTED:

TAKE NOTICE that on the 29th day of November, 2021, the Commissioners of the RUTLEDGE-EMPIRE DRAINAGE DISTRICT filed their Annual Financial Report, under oath, with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, DeWitt County, Illinois, in the office of said Clerk at the DeWitt County Courthouse, Clinton, Illinois. This report covers the period November 1, 2020, through October 31, 2021.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any owner of land within the District may file an objection to said report with the Clerk of said Court within ten (10) days after the date that this notice is published. If any objections are filed within said period, a hearing on the report will be held. If no objection to the report is filed, the Court may approve the report without hearing.

DATED at Clinton, Illinois, this 29th day of November, 2021.

Michelle Van Valey,
Circuit Clerk
DeWitt County,
Illinois

By: /s/ JG
Deputy

Clerk

(SEAL)

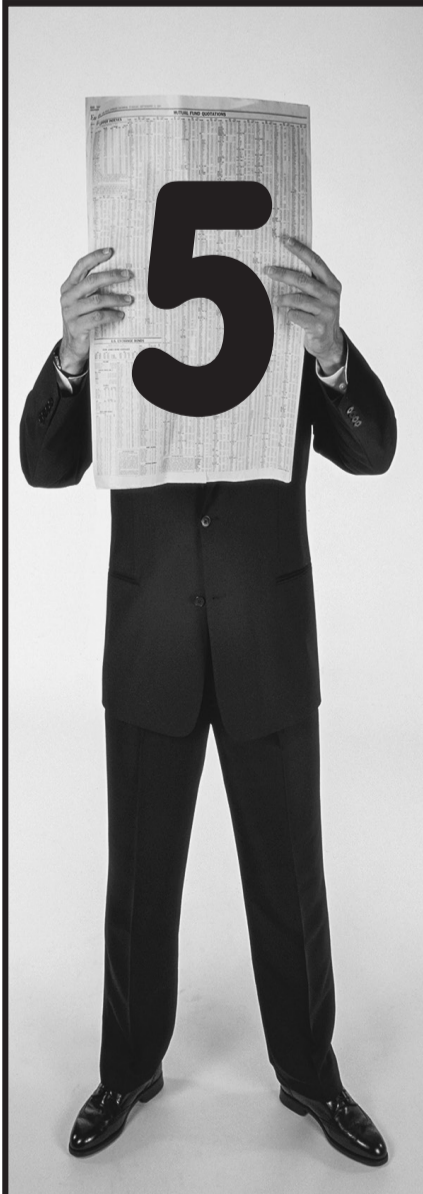
Circuit Court, Sixth Judicial Circuit, DeWitt County, Illinois

Hunt Henderson Attorney for Commissioners of Rutledge-Empire Drainage District 112 East Center Street, LeRoy, Illinois 61752 (309) 962-2791 Attorney #1186256 hhattynotice@hunthendersonattorney.com

Legal 19367
December 10, 2021

LEGAL

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Five tips to help protect the great outdoors

(BPT) - Over the past 18 months, Americans coping with the upheaval of the pandemic retreated to the great outdoors in record numbers.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, 7.1 million more Americans enjoyed outdoor recreation in 2020 than in the year before - and an all-time record of 53 percent of Americans aged six and up participated in outdoor recreation at least once. The best part is that spending time outdoors not only provides a way to reconnect with friends more safely, but also helps people improve their physical and mental health during trying times.

As more people head outside, it's increasingly important to preserve and protect the great outdoor spaces of the American Heartland. We must all do our part to follow simple, yet important guidelines to ensure these areas will remain pristine for future generations to enjoy.

remember these few tips to keep our outdoor spaces as beautiful as they can be:

- 1. Do some research**
Learn about the places you visit before venturing out, so you have a plan to safely enjoy the outdoors while protecting it. If you're visiting a state or national park, check out their websites and blogs ahead of your trip to explore the flora and fauna you'll see. You'll also be able to look up specific trails to follow and view the natural wonders you'll want to discover. You can also prepare in advance by becoming well-versed in important information about park passes, waste collection, rules and camping permits, plus inclement weather warnings and fire safety tips.
- 2. Leave no trace**
Tread lightly and respectfully through nature and make sure to carry out what you carry in. Bring along at least two reusable trash

bags to collect all waste and recyclables to take back out with you and dispose of properly. Take the initiative to pick up trash or items left behind by others so you can leave the area even better than you found it.

- 3. Do not disturb**
Respect wildlife habitats. Feel free to observe beautiful animals from afar, but do not approach or follow them. Avoid feeding wild animals, as this can cause health issues for them. Research about that area's wildlife to learn whether your visit coincides with a special time like nesting or mating for certain animals. If so, it might be best to reschedule your trip.

- 4. Stay on trails**
After you make a plan, don't wander off existing trails. When you stray even slightly off a trail, your foot traffic can cause significant damage. This can create a domino effect - other visitors

behind you will likely see the squashed flora and follow suit, unfortunately causing even more harm to the habitat by widening the newly created "trail." Over time, this can cause washouts and result in multiple trails covering the backcountry, endangering the existing flora and fauna.

- 5. Get involved**
Community organizations across the U.S. have faced funding and volunteer participation challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. It's more important than ever to help local nonprofit organizations make a difference.

The MTN DEW Outdoor Grants program will contribute \$200,000 to nonprofits that champion the great outdoors through conservation, participation, and outdoor access/infrastructure initiatives. Throughout the fall, outdoor enthusiasts nationwide applied on behalf of an organization or nominated their favorite outdoor-fo-

cused nonprofit for the chance to be awarded one of forty \$5,000 MTN DEW Outdoor Grants. This effort was part of a long-term commitment to help more Heartlanders access the great outdoors.

To celebrate the return of the MTN DEW Outdoor Grants program, MTN DEW and country superstar Chase Rice teamed up to produce a rendition of "America the Beautiful" as an ode to the natural beauty of the Heartland as well as the community organizations that preserve and protect it. The video also spotlights MTN DEW Outdoor Grants winners from last year's inaugural program. You can watch the performance on YouTube.

Together, you and your local nonprofit organizations can make a real difference to keep the beauty of nature thriving and well.

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December 10 & 11, 2021

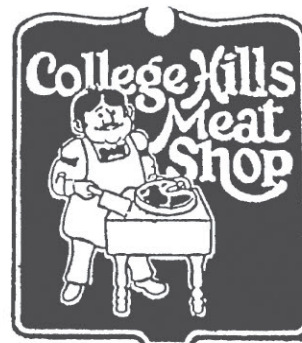
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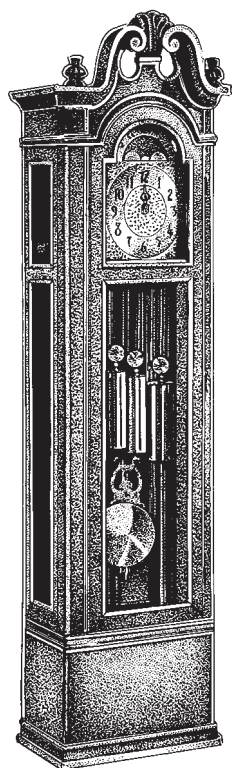
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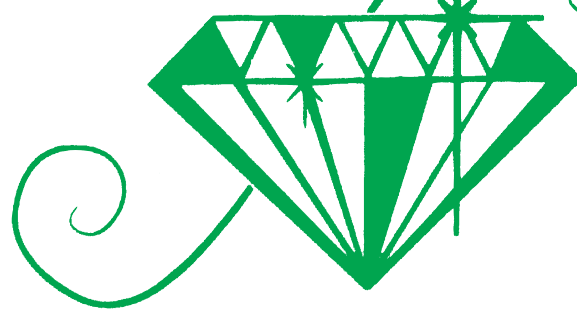


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