

## Proposed vote-by-mail expansion

**Peter Hancock**  
Capitol News Illinois

URBANA – As the 2024 election season draws near, voters in Illinois will once again choose whether they want to cast their ballots in person or by mail.

But one lawmaker is proposing a bill in the Illinois House that could make that decision a lot easier, making voting by mail the default option for people in counties and cities that choose to go that route.

State Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana, said voting by mail has been shown to be a more convenient and efficient way of running elections.

“Vote-by-mail has been proven by way of court order, as well as people’s utilization of vote-by-mail – I vote by mail – that it has been safe,” she said during an interview. “There have been no problems. I have not missed a single election. And people who use it increase their voter participation.”

Voting by mail, often referred to as absentee voting, was originally intended for people who planned to be away from home on Election Day, particularly military personnel, as well as college students and people whose jobs required them to travel.

See **VOTE** / A9



Gordon Woods / Journal

## January storm greets area

Near blizzard conditions began Saturday to coincide with below zero temps creating some arctic conditions through much of the week. Daytime temperatures in the mid-20s was forecast for Wednesday with near-zero and below zero temps returning toward Friday and Saturday.

## Clinton joins other communities in fiber optic expansion

**Internet for All aims to provide access for everyone**

**Gordon Woods**  
gwoods@theclintonjournal.com

CLINTON — As the flurry of activity with fiber optic cable installation in Clinton subsides, many residents likely welcome an end to all the digging for a while. But, what was the digging about?

Contractors working for several fiber optic Internet

providers, including Frontier Communications and Pavlov Media, began boring in 2023 to install the cables, which will expand Internet choices.

One of the primary reasons for all the activity is a federal program known as Internet for All, which is intended to provide internet service to previously underserved areas and some areas with no Internet access.

The program is providing \$65 billion in funding for the expansion.

Other companies involved with fiber optic

installation in Clinton over the past year include Fibersmith, Campus Communications Group, Metro Communications and Conxxus.

A major attraction for the use of fiber optics for internet is its enhanced speed over other technologies. The first usable fiber optic cable was developed in the 1950s with the technology adapted for communications use in the 1970s.

See **INTERNET** / A2



Gordon Woods / Journal  
A fiber optic cable access cover.



Courtesy of The Vault

## Cold outside but ‘magic’ inside

Students sheltered from the cold weather recently at The Vault to enjoy some fun activities, including charades, pool, impromptu glow-in-the-dark gaga ball, Magic the Gathering, shown above, and giant pickles.

## Registration open for local 2024 Certified Livestock Manager Training session

URBANA — Depending on an operation’s size, livestock manager training certification is required for many Illinois production livestock facilities.

Having certified individuals on staff can help strengthen an operation through shared knowledge and building conversations with individuals responsible for livestock care.

University of Illinois Extension and the Illinois Department of Agriculture will kick

off the 2024 Certified Livestock Manager Training Workshop schedule on January 30. Seven locations around the state will host training workshops that meet the Illinois Livestock Management Facilities Act training requirements for Illinois livestock managers.

Pre-registration is required to attend an in-person workshop. For complete program details and to register, visit [go.illinois.edu/CLMT](http://go.illinois.edu/CLMT).

Class size is limited in some locations due to space constraints.

The 2024 workshop dates and locations include:

Jan. 30, Springfield Bank of Springfield (BOS) Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield

Jan. 31, Monmouth University of Illinois Extension Warren County Office, Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau Bldg., 1000 N Main St., Monmouth

See **TRAINING** / A3

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# NEWS

## Earle named to Dean’s List at Monmouth College

MONMOUTH, Ill. — Monmouth College for the Alayna Earle, a chemistry major from Clinton, has made the Dean’s List at Monmouth College for the Fall 2023 semester. Her parents are Timothy and Shawn Earle, of Clinton.

## Warner Foundation offers Rittenhouse scholarship

CLINTON — The Warner Hospital Foundation will offer the Belinda Rittenhouse Scholarships to qualified applicants in DeWitt County interested in a career in the medical field. Applicants must be high school seniors and/or enrolled in an accredited college. Further information and application forms are available at the front reception/admitting desk of the hospital or by calling the hospital at (217) 937-5202 or email Melissa White at melissa.white@warnerhospital.org. Completed applications must be returned no later than April 12, 2024. Applicants will be considered on the basis of their need, scholastic ability and enthusiasm in pursuing a career in healthcare.

## Internet / from page A1


One of the first fiber optic systems for telecommunications was installed in Chicago by GTE. Fiber optic cable can carry 65,000 times as much information as copper wire. The technology works by using light to bounce a signal repeatedly off the walls of the cable. Illinois lawmakers last year met with National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) officials to learn what Illinois could do in expanding the program in the state. Internet for All grants provide funds for Internet infrastructure in order to provide access for everyone, homes, businesses and farms. Also, Illinois allocated \$400 million for Internet expansion from the Rebuild Illinois plan. Costs could increase to

nearly \$1 billion. The five-year plan involves installation of fiber optic lines to reach every part of Illinois. The federal government also has offered a program known as the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides discounts on Internet bills for low income households and people who are already enrolled in some other federal programs, such as WIC, Federal Public Housing Assistance, and a list of others. Enrollment for the program ends in early February. <https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program> In addition to Clinton, DeLand, Farmer City, and Heyworth also now have access to fiber optic Internet. *Read more about Internet for All at <https://internetforall.gov/programs>.*

## Area students named to Heartland Comm. Coll. Dean’s List

NORMAL — The following students were named to the Heartland Community College fall 2023 Dean’s List.

Aden Wurth	Beason	Emma Johnston	Heyworth
Phoenix Bieber	Clinton	Morgan Kessler	Heyworth
Bobby Gaitros	Clinton	Jonathan Kuse	Heyworth
Baylee Long	Clinton	Adria Leesman	Heyworth
Tamara Pagel	Clinton	Judah Lopez	Heyworth
Heather Whitlock	Clinton	Nathanael Lopez	Heyworth
Brody Wilson	Clinton	Alexander Maas	Heyworth
Courtney Anderson	Heyworth	Maura McMillan	Heyworth
Bailey Brooks	Heyworth	Raeghan Morefield	Heyworth
Megan Carlton	Heyworth	Melissa O’Shea	Heyworth
Angela Crump	Heyworth	Nathaniel Roehrig	Heyworth
Alex Dahlhauser	Heyworth	Mandy Scott	Heyworth
Sage Ellis	Heyworth	Colin Snyder	Heyworth
Alexander Felan	Heyworth	Hannah Sorensen	Heyworth
Karley Fulcher	Heyworth	Robin Stevens	Heyworth
Madelynn Hedrick	Heyworth	Ari Verbarg	Heyworth
Aven Johnsen	Heyworth	Brady Wicklander	Heyworth
		Tyler Wills	Heyworth
		Marlyn Rich	Wapella
		Adam McCubbin	Waynesville



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## Staying warm at the Friendship Center

It has been bitterly cold this week, but, fortunately, these folks stayed warm with a friendly game of Dominoes at the DeWitt County Friendship Center. Courtesy of DW Friendship Center

HEY, PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!

# BABY BRAGGER

Photos of babies born in 2023 will run on Friday, January 26, 2024

**\$10** prepaid Deadline: Friday, January 19

# 2024 BABY BRAGGER

BABY’S NAME

, 2023

BABY’S BIRTHDAY

PARENTS

GRANDPARENTS

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CLINTON Journal

111 S Monroe St, Clinton, IL 61727

Person Submitting Photo:

Name

Address

Phone

EMAIL (optional)

Photos will be returned by mail if you provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please write all information legibly and put the name of the baby on the back of the photo.

Photos and information can be emailed to [kpyne@theclintonjournal.com](mailto:kpyne@theclintonjournal.com) and payment made by credit card by calling 217-935-3171.







# OPINION

## HISTORY ALMANAC

1949 - The salary of the President of the United States was increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000 with an additional \$50,000 expense allowance for each year in office.

1953 - Sixty-eight percent of all TV sets in the U.S. were tuned to CBS-TV, as Lucy Ricardo, of “I Love Lucy,” gave birth to a baby boy.

1955 - U.S. President Eisenhower allowed a filmed news conference to be used on television (and in movie newsreels) for the first time.

1966 - Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India.

1969 - In protest against the Russian invasion of 1968, Czech student Jan Palach set himself on fire in Prague’s Wenceslas Square.

1971 - At the Charles Manson murder trial, the Beatles’ “Helter Skelter” was played. At the scene of one of his gruesome murders, the words “hel-ter skelter” were written on a mirror.

1979 - Former U.S. Attorney General John N. Mitchell was released on parole after serving 19 months at a federal prison in Alabama.

1981 - The U.S. and Iran signed an agreement paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months and for arrangements to unfreeze Iranian assets and to resolve all claims against Iran.

1983 - China announced that it was bannning 1983 purchases of cotton, soybeans and chemical fibers from the United States.

1993 - IBM announced a loss of \$4.97 billion for 1992. It was the largest single-year loss in U.S. corporate history.

1995 - Russian forces overwhelmed the resistance forces in Chechn-ya.

1996 - U.S. first lady Hil-lary Rodham Clinton was subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury. The investigation was concerning the discovery of billing records related to the Whitewater real estate investment venture.

1997 - Yasser Arafat returned to Hebron for the first time in more than 30 years. He joined 60,000 Palestinians in celebra-tion over the handover of the last West Bank city in Israeli control.

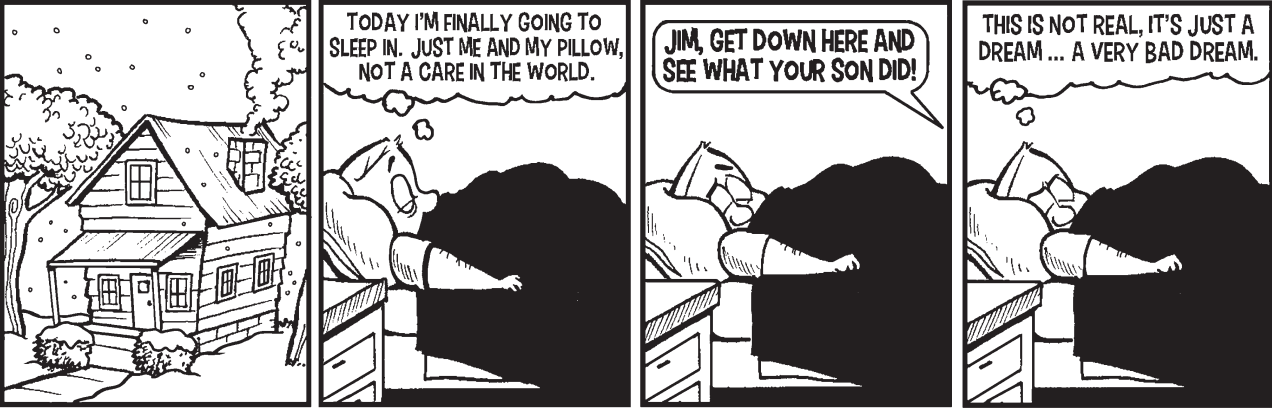
2000 - In New York’s Time Square, the first WWF restaurant opened.

2001 - Texas officials demoted a warden and suspended three other prison workers in the wake of the escape of the “Texas 7.”

2006 - NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft was launched. The mission was the first to investigate Pluto.

2013 - In Scottsdale, AZ, the original Batmobile for the TV series “Batman” sold at auction for \$4.6 million. It was the first of six Batmobiles produced for the show.

## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## Volunteers

By pure happenstance, Kevin Petersson and our wives met up at Ted’s a couple of Sundays ago. We started talking about Little Galilee camp, where he is the facilities director.

Kevin went on to say how grateful he was for the volunteers at the camp. He bluntly stated that without volunteers the camp could not provide the services it does. He went on to say that he has volunteers from simple janitorial work to contractors who come in with heavy equipment and donate time and materials.

He expressed gratitude for all volunteers regardless of their skill levels. He said that being a volunteer gives the volunteer a feeling of pride in ownership of the camp. These volunteers want the services of the camp to continue and they are putting their time and effort into that endeavor.

Take a step back and look at this community. The nonprofits that are thriving all have a significant volunteer component. They are putting on pancake and sausage breakfasts, chili suppers, and selling raffle ticket to support their cause. Stop and think. Aren’t you much more inclined

to donate to a cause with a volunteer supporting it than a telemarketer pushing that sale.

What I have observed is that when organizations want to go with a turnkey operation and forget the volunteers they end to fade away. I am certainly not against paying people for their work, but doesn’t a volunteer make sense in the big picture. That volunteer is invested in the organization, the paid staff has a job. Granted there are very dedicated staff, but it is that volunteer that seems to have the passion.

Kevin stated that he has a couple of retired individuals who basically work 40 hour wees at the camp as volunteers. He described one gentleman as particularly helpful. My surprise was that this individual and I have had some significant political differences over the years. I have had the opportunity to talk to this individual over the last couple of weeks about his volunteer efforts.

Today I can only say that I truly respect his efforts on behalf of the camp. He is a true volunteer and his efforts need to recognize, although I know he doesn’t want that recognition



and for that reason I will leave his name out of this article. I simply urge all reading this column to take a moment and thank a volunteer that see. They are volunteering for a cause and not personal gain. A thank you goes a long way in that situation.

IOWA CAUCUS—Last night’s Iowa caucuses proved just how strong Trump is in Republican politics. Trump got more than 50 percent of the caucus votes. DeSantis and Haley together got 40 percent. It was such a victory that Asa Hucheson and Vivek Ramaswamy have both dropped out and endorsed Trump. With all of Trump’s legal woes this is a freight train in movement.

The Democrats have chosen to ignore Iowa and New Hampshire and start their primaries in South Carolina. The reasoning being that a more diversified populace better reflects the party’s base beliefs. While that may

## Psychedelics for our military

The \$883.7 billion National Defense Authorization Act for 2024 makes for some interesting reading, not only for what it left out, but what it included. What you won’t find is the medical cannabis pilot program for veterans promoted by many, but you will find a treatment program using psychedelics for veterans and active duty with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Specifically, it calls for clinical trials with the Department of Defense to create a system wherein they can spend up to \$10 million on psychedelics research. It

only gives them 180 days to get started. Covered conditions, besides TBI and PTSD, include depression and insomnia.

Some of the drugs to be used are psychedelic drugs psilocybin (magic mushrooms), MDMA (ecstasy) and 5-MeO-DMT (from toad glands).

There are some reported successes from using psychedelics. The Food and Drug Administration said in 2017 that they’d had positive results using LSD and the magic mushrooms. The amounts given are small and are called “microdoses.” A short report with a lengthy list of citations in the Marine Corps Gazette in



2019 describes the use of LSD, mushrooms and more to attempt to gain an edge in efficiency and productivity when it comes to attention to detail, mental processing and reasoning. The report points to the way LSD changes the brain’s method of problem solving. Maybe this explains why it might be useful in helping veterans who suffer from PTSD. By creating new ways to think about things?

Yet another study,

documented in the Lancet Psychiatry journal, found that the magic mushrooms reduced PTSD symptoms. The trial combined three doses of the mushrooms with psychotherapy. After Phase 2 of the trial, 56% of participants no longer had PTSD when checked 12 months later, after having suffered for many years.

If you want to learn more, listen to a podcast on the topic that includes a veteran who participated in a psychedelics study nine years ago: news.va.gov/124415/exploring-psychedelics-treatment-of-veterans.

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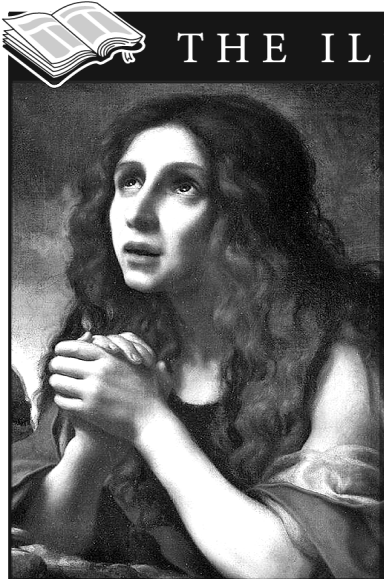
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# NEWS



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness.*

✠ 1 JOHN 1:9 ✠

Detail of “The Penitent Magdalen” by Carlo Dolci (1670)

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## AREA CHURCHES DIRECTORY

**Crosspoint of Clinton**  
412 S. Monroe Street, Clinton (217) 935-8627  
Sr. Pastor, Spencer McPheron  
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  
Senior high youth group meets twice a month.  
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**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  
“We’re ordinary people helping each other become faithful followers of Jesus.”

**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, 6<sup>th</sup>-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  
Fr. Thomas R. Szydlak, 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

**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”

**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**  
by Elie’s Spiritual Treasures

**Psalms 30:9-10**  
“What is **gained** if I am **silenced**, if I go **down** to the **pit**? Will the **dust praise you**? Will it **proclaim your** faithfulness? **Hear**, LORD, **and** be **merciful** to me; **LORD**, be my **help**.”

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G	O	A	S	R	R	D	N	A	<b>W</b>
A	N	T	A	Y	R	N	E	E	H
I	X	I	U	O	Y	W	L	H	<b>A</b>
N	S	Y	L	U	Z	O	I	Q	<b>T</b>
E	T	H	E	R	Z	D	S	D	H
D	M	I	A	L	C	O	R	P	T

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

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**BIBLE WORD SEARCH**  
Answers

A	Z	O	J	<b>W</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>M</b>	
<b>P</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Q</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Q</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Gabriel, 3) Joshua, 4) 2 (Ex 3:5, Acts 7:3), 5) Money changers, 6) Belshazzar

## A new location

Welcome to my little corner of culinary delights. Now, let us see if I can get my directions correct this time. On the map, south is down and west is to the left. Yes, I think I got it right this time. Therefore, in the southwest of France, there is a lot of Spanish influence that spills over into culinary practices. The Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean influences, not only the climate, but the cuisine as well. There, one can expect various kinds of seafoods such as monkfish, cod, and even eel. Shellfish, such as clams and mussels, are enjoyed. For a fantastic fish soup, go to Pays Basque. Listing seafoods and referring to Pay Basque brings to my mind “bisque”. Bisque is a creamy heavy soup that originated in France. It is traditionally made with crustations such as lobster, shrimp, crab, and crayfish. Bisque does not necessarily need to be made of seafoods. In this case, I prefer holding to French tradition. I have made lobster bisque. Other times, I made shrimp bisque. I might include my recipe for your practice. Being so favorably located, France has an abundance of fowl both wild and domesticated. Regarding the geese comes your foie gras. I pluck this out of the list simply because of its many oddities. For one thing, foie gras is a fatty liver produced from force feeding a goose. It is an uncommon product and very expensive. It has a unique flavor difficult to describe and very delicate. It is generally cooked but very lightly. It practically melts in your hand, let alone in the mouth. I have cooked and eaten some. I did not find it all that great. Perhaps I am not sophisticated enough for such. Personally, it is not worth the trouble or expense. The common poultry of that area are duck, turkey, and pigeon. Pigeon is also known as squab. In French, it is “pigeonneau”.



**The Culinary Corner**  
Chef Roger Joss

These are not you garden variety pigeons flying around in parks and decorating statues. The common variety are too tough. Once the pigeon is dressed out, there is very little of it left. Due to its size, it cooks-up quickly. Having listed duck on the food list, I should include duck confit. Only once I produced duck confit. Wild duck, especially, has a thick layer of fat just under the skin. To render it, one makes crisscross cuts nearly through the fat layer. The fat is cooked either on the duck or separately. The rendered fat is collected. The cooked duck is broken down and packed into a storage container. The fat is poured over it. It needs to be completely covered. It is then stored that way without the need of refrigeration. Fat creates a natural barrier. As one might expect, French cuisine offers us a liberal culinary education full of adventure and delights. I fear that I will not be able to escape France any too soon. Until next time, peace to all.

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CJFILL



# GAMES

## BRIDGE BITES

### AN EXTRA CHANCE

	♠ AK6 ♥ T3 ♦ J7 ♣ QT9764	
	North	
♠ 87 ♥ K542 ♦ KQ943 ♣ 85	West	East
	Declarer	
	♠ QJT93 ♥ Q876 ♦ AT ♣ AJ	

At first glance it may appear that the only chance is for East to hold the singleton or doubleton Club King. If that is the case then Declarer can cross to the Spade Ace, lead a Club and finesse (assuming that the King does not appear from East). If the Club King comes down in two rounds, and if trumps are 3-2, then the Clubs will run and there will be no fewer than 12 tricks.

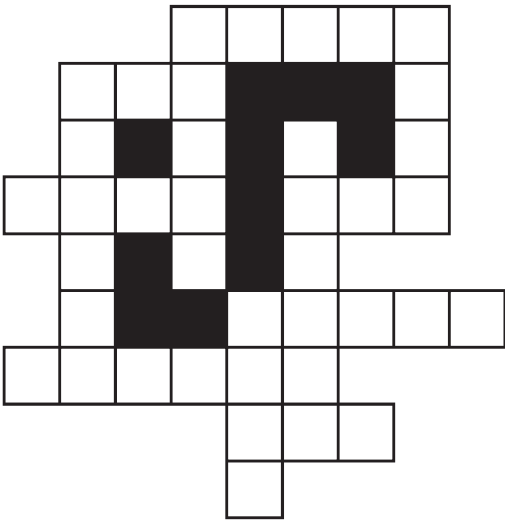
As you can see, the Club King does not come down in two rounds. Does this mean the contract fails? Not if Declarer realizes the potential of the Spade Six! That valuable card is a potential Dummy entry if one opponent or the other has Eight-Seven doubleton of trumps. And just as valuable as the Six is Declarer's precious Three!

When East returns that trump at Trick 3, Declarer plays the *Queen* from hand and overtakes in Dummy. Now the Club finesse works and the Club Ace is cashed. The Spade Jack is overtaken in Dummy, and a Club is ruffed *high*. Now Dummy's Clubs are good and, thanks to West's doubleton Eight-Seven of trumps, the Spade Six is an entry to those Clubs. Well done, Declarer! If she had carelessly played the Three on the first round of trumps she would not have reaped the benefit of her extra chance.

For bridge games, classes, or seminars, contact Mike Tomlianovich by phone:



XSE  
TANUPE  
NUMSE  
MALO  
ATEGEM  
♥RKI  
♥NISP  
CLEEX  
♥RMA  
OMESIP  
NEGIK  
MSKU



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.

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate    ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		4
+		×		+	
	÷		+		11
−		÷		÷	
	−		×		2
10		2		5	

1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 9

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## Super Crossword

MONEY-  
CHANGING

### ACROSS

1 Combination spear and battle-ax  
8 Provo native  
13 Dawn deity  
16 Some fast autos  
19 Virtual merchant  
20 Strong cordage fiber  
21 Performs a charade of  
23 Thai money used to buy a Jacuzzi?  
25 Height when upright  
26 Protest at which people lie on the ground  
27 Bright red Indian money?  
29 "Madam" counterpart  
32 "The Dance" painter Henri  
35 Biceps locale  
36 Powerful auto engine  
37 "You missed your chance for folding over that Korean money"?

42 Already-included tips, e.g.

43 Lima locale  
44 "Rapa —" (1994 film)  
45 Like even scores  
46 Feel sore  
48 Refusals  
51 She sang "Constant Craving"  
56 Rocker Brian  
57 Facts, in brief  
59 Gobble up Iraqi money?  
62 Gal entering society  
63 Jazz's Chick  
65 Chaise place  
66 Cognizant of  
67 School where students learn about Swedish money?  
72 Norway's capital  
74 — facias (certain writ)  
75 Used skillfully  
76 "— favor, señor"  
79 Forms Ghanaian money into a cylinder shape?  
83 Brain tests, for short  
84 Suffix with meth-

85 Venture out on one's own

86 — Leppard  
87 Some PC readouts  
89 Kicked out of the game, for short  
90 Radio spots  
92 Bruins' sch.  
94 Major shock  
96 Query after someone is told they look like Iranian money?  
103 German auto  
104 Tampa Bay NFLer  
105 Over-browned bread  
106 Houston-to-Madison dir.  
107 Whack some Mexican money?  
111 Rapper — Rhymes  
113 More intoxicating  
114 Refuse to contribute South African money?  
120 Getty of TV  
121 French river  
122 Asmara's nation  
123 Gobbled up  
124 Airport agcy.  
125 Played (with)  
126 Label on a bargain item

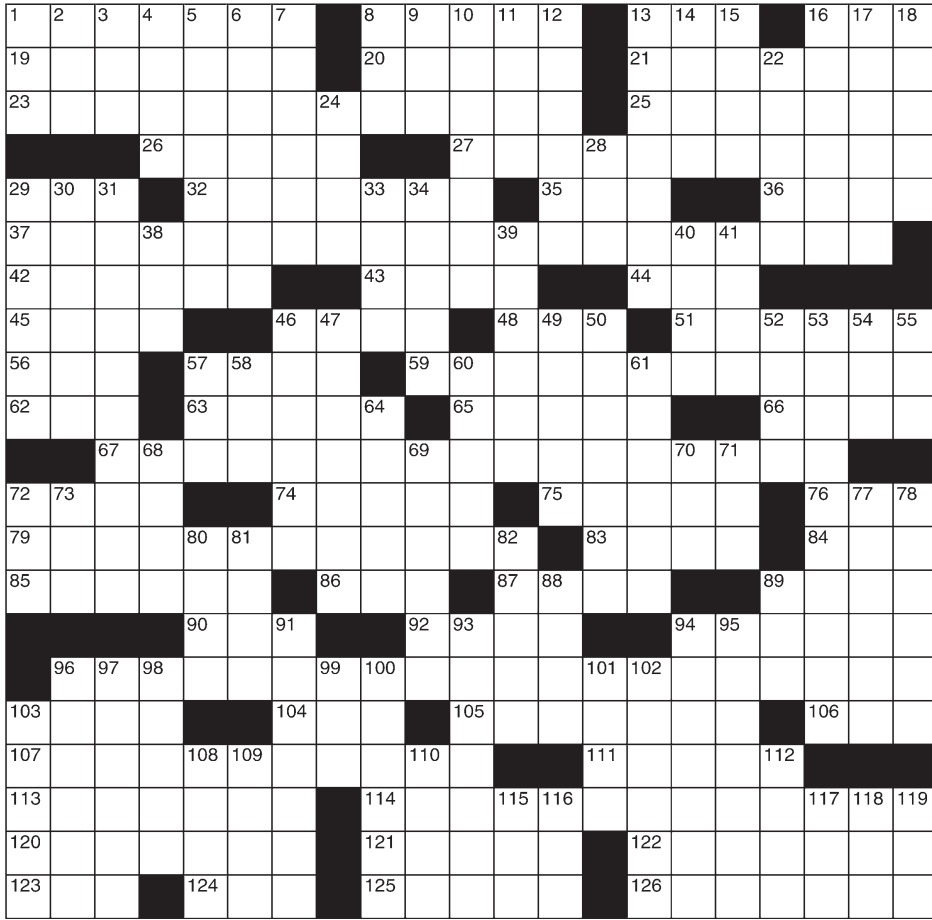
### DOWN

1 Use an ax on  
2 One "A" of NCAA: Abbr.  
3 Chou En- —  
4 Nest dweller  
5 "If I Can't Have You" singer  
6 Says again  
7 Rive — (Paris' Right Bank)  
8 E-address  
9 Bistro bill  
10 Unpaid player  
11 Classic cracker brand  
12 Tennis-playing guy  
13 Kodak founder  
14 Prefix with -genarian  
15 Pentagon  
16 Reach as high as  
17 Large, deep serving dish  
18 Painter Jan  
22 R-X fillers  
24 Attending to the matter  
28 Certain Wall St. trader  
29 Said  
30 Antiseptic element  
31 Bucking bovines

33 Jr., last year  
34 Spirited horse  
38 Eye coverer  
39 Takeoff strip  
40 Often-pickled veggie  
41 Pirate "Captain"  
46 From scratch  
47 Compelled  
49 In the lead  
50 Squelched  
52 Cat that roars  
53 "The Piano" Oscar winner  
54 Cable TV's — Geo  
55 Miracle- —  
57 Here, in Lyon  
58 Election mo.  
60 Elected (to)  
61 Virginia Tech team name  
64 Cold — (frigid)  
68 Court plea, for short  
69 Very angry  
70 Rule, in brief  
71 More than loads up (on)  
72 Assoc.  
73 Great Lakes' — Canals  
77 Like a single-guy band  
78 Traditional Irish brew  
80 Make laugh uproariously

81 Hoopla

82 "You Be —" (1986 hit for Run-D.M.C.)  
88 Jargon  
89 Women's patriotic gp.  
91 Secondary field of study  
93 George who played Danny Ocean  
94 Mosaic tile  
95 Long rodent feature  
96 Most suitable  
97 Assess again  
98 Skip over in speech  
99 Chalice, e.g.  
100 Nailed the test  
101 Desert of Mongolia  
102 Some purple shades  
103 Milo of films  
108 Piper's wear  
109 Twisty fish  
110 Average  
112 Comic Johnson  
115 Uno plus due  
116 H.S. proficiency test  
117 Gallery work  
118 Teachers' gp.  
119 Ham-marsjköld once of the U.N.



## THE SAME MAGIC MAZE SINGULAR AND PLURAL

Q E B Y B V S Q N K H E K B N  
Y W H E A D Q U A R T E R S O  
T R O L G J P G E B N Y W U I  
R P N K G D E C I N E G D B T  
Z X V S A Q E I E O W M K F A  
I G E E G C H L A Y S N A E M  
W U S C E C S B W Q N R P N R  
L J H S I E F U D O C E C A O  
Y X O S V V C P S R N U S Q F  
P O U N M K D I I J H K F E N  
M M C B Z Y B A D X V U T R I

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: BULLWINKLE'S SPECIES

Advice  
Aircraft  
Baggage  
Bison

Cod  
Dice  
Headquarters  
Information

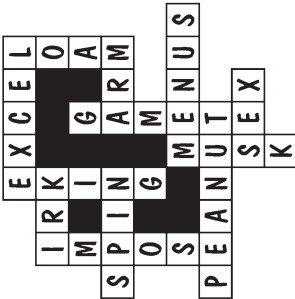
Kennels  
Knowledge  
Means  
Music

News  
Public  
Sheep

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answer



Go Figure!  
answers

	4				
1	+	9	÷	2	5
3	×	4	÷	6	2
÷		÷	÷	1	
9	+	8	1	7	10



Classified

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LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DEWITT COUNTY, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. ELISSA E WILLIAMS; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS. NO. 23 FC 24 250 MAPLE STREET WELDON, IL 61882 JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, Elissa E Williams Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 24 IN BLOCK 2 IN THE VILLAGE OF WELDON, THENCE NORTH 75 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 22 IN SAID BLOCK, THENCE EAST 60 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 75 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 24,

THENCE WEST 60 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, BEING SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF DEWITT, STATE OF ILLINOIS. Commonly known as: 250 Maple Street Weldon, IL 61882 and which said Mortgage was made by, Elissa E Williams Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of DeWitt County, Illinois, as Document No. 261549; and for other relief. UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before February 5, 2024, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT. You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to [ilcourts.info/efiling](http://ilcourts.info/efiling). If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need

help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to [ilcourthelp.gov](http://ilcourthelp.gov) for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at [illinoislegalaid.org](http://illinoislegalaid.org). All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at [ilcourts.info/forms](http://ilcourts.info/forms). Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website. ¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411- 1121, o visite [ilcourthelp.gov](http://ilcourthelp.gov) para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios. PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1 N. Dearborn St. Suite 1200 Chicago, IL 60602 Ph. (312) 346-9088 File No. 23-145051L-1005383 I3235770

Legal 19942 January 5, January 12, January 19, 2024

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DEWITT COUNTY - IN PROBATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONNA F. ENOS DECEASED 2023-PR-44

**CLAIM DATE NOTICE - INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION**

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

Letters of Office were issued on December 26, 2023 to Daniel L. Enos, 15348 Northfork Rd., Clinton, Illinois and Vickie L. Austin, 7747 Business US 51, Clinton, Illinois 61727 as Independent Co-Executors. The attorney for the estate is Bryce A. Lynch 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, IL 61727, on or before July 26, 2024. 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 (755 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 2nd day of January, 2024.

Daniel L. Enos and Vickie L. Austin, Independent Co-Executors of the estate of Donna F. Enos, deceased

BRYCE A. LYNCH 6297077 TAYLOR & LYNCH, LLC 216 SOUTH CENTER STREET P.O. BOX 478 CLINTON, IL 61727 TEL: (217) 935-2183 FAX: (217) 935-8219 E-MAIL: [attorneys@dewittcountylaw.com](mailto:attorneys@dewittcountylaw.com)

Legal 19945 January 12, 2024 January 19, 2024 January 26, 2024

LEGAL

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY**

The City of Clinton, Illinois will receive Request For Proposal for services to complete a lead service line inventory in the office of the City Administrator & City Clerk, 118 West Washington Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Clinton, Illinois 61727, packets are available at City Hall. RFP's must be submitted no later than 1 p.m., February 1, 2024. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Legal 19946 January 12, 2024, January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DeWitt County Zoning Board of Appeals Case A-37-2023

Notice is hereby given that the proposed amendments have been filed with the above-named board. It is being proposed to revise the Solar Energy Systems Ordinance of the DeWitt County Code of Ordinances as follows:

Changes to: TITLE XV LAND USE – CHAPTER 157 Add §157.08(l) Where a siting permit has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, the permit may become null and void by action of the County Board unless work thereon commences within one year of the date of granting the site permit. A siting permit shall be deemed to authorize only one particular use and may be cancelled by the County Board if that use ceases for more than 12 consecutive months.

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that a public hearing will be held on the above-mentioned recommendations on the 5th day of February 2024 at 6:45 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible. Said hearing will be held in the DeWitt County Building, 201 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL.

David Waters, Chairman DeWitt County Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19949 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE V-342-2023

Notice is given that a request for a variation has been filed with the above named Board. Travis and Amy Boley are requesting a variance from §155.065 – Minimum Road Frontage of the DeWitt County Code. Said variance request is to reduce the required road

frontage from 240' to 30' to construct a single-family residence on the following described property:

S1 T19 R3, PT SW NW – Beg 296.81S & 716.26SE NW COR, SE1328.94, S314.04, W1328.94, N30, E716.09, N296.65 to POB

The named property is zoned RD-2, and is commonly known as 5620 White Pigeon Rd, Weldon IL located in Creek Township. Parcel No. 13-01-100-021.

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that a public hearing on the above-mentioned request will be held on Feb. 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible. Said hearing will be held in the DeWitt County Building, at 201 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL.

David Waters, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19950 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE S-261-2023

Notice is given that a request for a Special Use Permit has been filed with the above-named Board. Zack McKittrick, owner, is requesting a special use permit to operate a junkyard.

LOTS 16 THRU 22, NORRIS ADDITION (NOT IN CITY), & S21 T21 R5, BEG 16E OF SE COR LOT 22 NORRIS ADD - E110, N429, W110, S429 TO POB

The named property is zoned RD-1 and is commonly located at N. Plum and Iron St, Farmer City, IL located in Santa Anna Township. Parcel Nos. 05-21-377-004 and 05-21-377-005

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that a public hearing on the above-mentioned request will be held on Feb. 5, 2024, at 6:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible. Said hearing will be held in the DeWitt County Building, at 201 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL.

David Waters, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19952 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE S262-2023

Notice is given that a request for a Special Use Permit has been filed with the above-named Board. Brent and Brittany Houser, owners, are requesting a special use permit to operate a vacation rental property.

SEC 7 T19 R1, PT FRACL SEC - BEG 2123.93W NE COR, S124.14, W210, S2320.15, SE288.52,

David Waters, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19951 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE V-343-2023

Notice is given that a request for a variation has been filed with the above-named Board. Zack McKittrick is requesting a variance from §112.03 (A) (2)(b) to operate a junkyard closer than 1000 feet of any dwelling used as a residence.

LOTS 16 THRU 22, NORRIS ADDITION (NOT IN CITY), & S21 T21 R5, BEG 16E OF SE COR LOT 22 NORRIS ADD - E110, N429, W110, S429 TO POB

The named property is zoned RD-1 and is commonly located at N. Plum and Iron St, Farmer City, IL located in Santa Anna Township. Parcel Nos. 05-21-377-004 and 05-21-377-005

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that a public hearing on the above-mentioned request will be held on Feb. 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible. Said hearing will be held in the DeWitt County Building, at 201 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL.

David Waters, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19953 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE S262-2023

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that a public hearing on the above-mentioned request will be held on Feb. 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible. Said hearing will be held in the DeWitt County Building, at 201 W. Washington St., Clinton, IL.

David Waters, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19953 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE S262-2023

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David Waters, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19953 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE S262-2023

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David Waters, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals

Legal 19953 January 19, 2024

LEGAL

DEWITT COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASE S262-2023

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Legal 19953 January 19, 2024

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Date: 9th day of January, 2024.

Legal 19954  
January 19, 2024  
January 26, 2024

LEGAL

Notice to Elderly and persons with Disabilities for the March 19, 2024, General Primary Election

Citizens who are not registered to vote and cannot leave their home, hospital, nursing home or other institution because of a permanent disability can arrange for voter registration by contacting the DeWitt County Clerk's office at 217-935-7780.

The last day to register to vote will be Tuesday February 20, 2024. If you miss the deadline you may come to the County Clerk's office for grace period registration and address changes, you will vote at that

time.

Early voting will be conducted in the DeWitt County Clerk's office, at 201 West Washington St Clinton, IL. And will begin on February 8, 2024.

Persons with disabilities and the elderly can vote at their polling place not accessible to them, by special application to the County Clerk's office. Election judges will vote voters who have properly applied for "Curb Side Voting". Call the County Clerk at 217-935-7780 for information.

For any information concerning voter registration or voting for the elderly or disabled, please call the DeWitt County Clerk's office at 217-935-7780.

Kari L Harris  
DeWitt County Clerk and Recorder

Legal 19955  
January 19, 2024

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BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS  
& SERVICES GUIDE

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BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS  
& SERVICES GUIDE



## Hints for homeowners



# Simple ways to lower your heating bill

(NAPSI) — There’s good news for the 46 percent of U.S. households who heat their homes with natural gas this winter: it’s expected to cost 7.8 percent less this year than last year. Heating with electricity or oil, however, will likely cost more.

### *Saving on Energy*

Fortunately there are ways everyone can save. One of the biggest sources of a house’s energy consumption is the HVAC system. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut their energy bill by 20-30 percent simply by

doing proper equipment maintenance, and air duct cleaning is a way to save big money on energy bills. Indoor air contains unseen pollutants: dust, dander, pollen, mold, chemicals, and more. Your heating and cooling system circulates the contaminated air through the air duct pathways and it can build up in the ductwork and on other components.

### *Dirty HVAC systems*

Especially dirty coils use up to 30 percent more energy resulting in higher utility bills.

The National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA) recommends having a professional clean the entire HVAC system.

One way to make sure you get a qualified contractor to do the job right is to search the NADCA online directory for a nearby member employing technicians with advanced training and certification in HVAC system cleaning.

### *Learn More*

For further facts and tips visit [www.breathingclean.com](http://www.breathingclean.com).

## 12 Questions to ask before powering up the snow thrower: Keep safety top of mind

(NAPSI) — Snow flurries and winter storms can be unpredictable and the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) encourages home and business owners to prepare in advance before bad weather hits. “Outdoor power equipment such as snow throwers can make quick work of a big job,” says OPEI President and CEO Kris Kiser. “Just remember: When getting out your snow thrower, review your owner’s manual. You should know how to correctly operate controls and quickly shut it off if necessary.”

Kiser offers 12 questions to ask before operating a snow thrower.

### *Before operating your snow thrower*

Have you read your owner’s manual? Know safe handling procedures and how to operate the controls of your machine. If the manual cannot be found, look it up online and store a copy on the computer. Have you checked your equipment? Equipment should be powered off when checking it. Adjust any cables and check the auger. If you forgot to drain the fuel before storing your equipment last year, empty the gas tank. Have you purchased the right fuel? Be sure to use the fuel recommended by the equipment manufacturer. Fuel that is more than 30 days old can phase separate and cause

operating problems. Buy gasoline ahead of a storm. For more information see [LookBeforeYouPump.com](#). Is gasoline used safely? Never add fuel to a running or hot engine. Store gasoline in a fuel container and label with date purchased and ethanol content. Make sure fuel is stored safely and out of reach of children. Are batteries charged (for battery-powered equipment)? Make sure batteries are fully charged before a storm in case the electricity goes out. Recharge batteries only with the charger specified by the manufacturer. A charger that is suitable for one type of battery pack may not be compatible with another battery pack. Follow all charging instructions and do not charge the battery pack or equipment outside the temperature range specified in the instructions. Charging improperly or at temperatures outside the specified range may damage the battery. Is the outdoor space you intend to clear of snow free of obstructions? Snow can hide objects. Doormats, hoses, balls, toys, wires, and other debris should be removed. When run over by a snow thrower, these objects may harm the machine or people. Operating snow throwers safely Are you dressed

properly? Wear safety glasses, gloves and footwear that can handle cold and slippery surfaces. Is your clean out tool ready? NEVER put your hands inside the auger or chute. Use a clean out tool to unclog snow or debris. Always turn off the snow thrower and wait for all moving parts to come to a complete stop before clearing any clogs. Is your snow thrower operated only in visible conditions? Never operate the snow thrower without good visibility or light. Will you use extreme caution clearing slopes and hills? Never attempt to clear steep slopes. Use caution when changing directions on slopes or inclines. For electric equipment, do you pay attention to where the cord is? Use an extension cord designed for outdoor use. Be aware of where the power cord is at all times when using the machine. Avoid tripping. Do not run over the power cord. Are pets and children inside while the snow thrower is operating? It’s best to keep kids and pets indoors and supervised while a snow thrower is operating. Do not allow them to play in the snow as it is tossed out of the chute. Learn More For further tips, visit [www.opei.org](http://www.opei.org).

## Backers of proposed Lake Michigan wind farm forge ahead despite failures

**Kevin Bessler**  
The Center Square

CHICAGO – Now that a proposed wind farm on Lake Erie has been scrapped, backers of a Lake Michigan wind farm near Illinois say it’s time to seize the moment. Rising costs, challenges from bird lovers and a lawsuit funded in part by a coal company managed to delay the Lake Erie wind project long enough to halt the project. Several Illinois lawmakers are calling for the General Assembly to pass the Rust Belt to Green Belt Act to pave the way for wind turbines in Lake Michigan off the coast of Illinois.

“News that Lake Erie won’t be home to offshore wind in the near future is unfortunate, but it also provides Illinois with the opportunity to take advantage of more of the federal resources on the table to help meet our state’s clean energy goals,” said state Rep. Marcus Evans, Jr., D-Chicago. Evans said such a project could create approximately 2,700 construction jobs for minority communities. In October, a Danish company pulled out of a billion dollar project to build wind turbines off the coast of New Jersey. U.S. Congressman Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, said the effects on marine life are just some of the

repercussions of a wind farm on the water. “Vessel navigation, including U.S. Navy ships, merchant cargo, fishing boats and search and rescue operations by the Coast Guard may be significantly hampered due to radar interference,” Smith said. The Pentagon also sounded alarms over the Biden administration’s plans for offshore wind projects along the Atlantic coast due to conflicts with military operations. Some of the groups who have expressed support for a Lake Michigan wind farm include Illinois AFL-CIO, Teamsters Joint Council 25 and the Chicago Urban League.

## Vote / from page A1

That often required voters to ask their state or local election official for an absentee ballot and, in some cases, explain why they wanted to vote by mail. In more recent years, Illinois and other states have made voting by mail an option for anyone by adopting “no-excuse” absentee voting laws, meaning anyone could request a mail ballot without giving a reason. Illinois also gives voters the option of asking to be placed on a permanent vote-by-mail list so they can automatically receive a mail-in ballot without having to fill out a new request for one each election cycle. And in 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly passed a law requiring local election officials automatically send vote-by-mail applications to every voter in their jurisdiction, instead of requiring voters to ask for one. During a special meeting of the House Ethics and Elections Committee Wednesday in her hometown of Urbana, Ammons said voting by mail has become increasingly popular. But she said the multi-step process of voting by mail is still inefficient because it requires voters to fill out and send in a vote-by-mail application to receive a ballot. “But when we went back to look at the utilization

of the ballots, the number that came back, and the cost associated with mailing a ballot, we realized as we talked to other jurisdictions that you would actually save the money if you simply mailed them the ballot,” she said. Ammons is the sponsor of House Bill 4198, which would allow county clerks and other local election authorities to make voting by mail the default option in their jurisdiction. It would give them the option of mailing ballots to all registered voters in their jurisdiction, without requiring voters to ask for one. But it would still require local election authorities to offer in-person voting as well for those who prefer to cast their ballot in person. Currently, eight states and Washington, D.C., operate elections almost entirely by mail. William Cavecche, an election administrator in King County, Washington, which includes the city of Seattle, said that state passed a similar law in 2005 and immediately, two-thirds of the counties in the state shifted to vote-by-mail systems. “Speaking to someone who has run both polling-place elections and vote-by-mail elections, I can tell you from experience that vote by mail elections are significantly easier to administer,” he said. Among other benefits, Cavecche said, in a vote-by-mail election, there is

no need to worry about problems that commonly occur at in-person polling places such as running out of ballots, voting machines breaking down or poll workers failing to show up. He also said vote-by-mail elections are more secure because all ballots can be counted in a centralized location. He said ballot counting can also be livestreamed on the internet to provide more public transparency. Wednesday’s meeting was a subject matter hearing, meaning the committee only heard testimony and did not take action on the bill. But Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, who chairs the panel, said he intends to hold additional hearings during the upcoming legislative session, which begins Tuesday, and it’s possible lawmakers could vote on the measure in time to take effect for the 2024 general election in November.

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# SPORTS

## Lady Maroons’ teams split games at home vs Lady Warriors

**Marc Rogers**  
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CLINTON — In their second game in three days at home, the Clinton Lady Maroons hosted the Lady Warriors of Tuscola in a conference match-up.

The Lady Warriors were on the top of the conference at 2-0 and had an overall record of 18-1. This would be a big challenge for the Lady Maroon varsity.

The JV teams began the evening’s play.

Neither team showed much offense in the first quarter with each team having only two players score. The hometeam took the advantage slightly by taking a 7-4 lead into the second quarter.

The Lady Maroons had their best quarter in the second, scoring in double figures to post a 19-12 lead at halftime.

The third and fourth quarters came and went with the Lady Maroons scoring only 9 points in each quarter. However, the home team held the opposition to 12 points while scoring their own 18. This gave the Lady Maroons a 37-24 win.

The JV pace was set by Carly Anderson (#24) with 17 points (including two 3-pointers) followed by Lilah Cluver (#11) with 12 points.

Next on the agenda was the varsity game.

The Lady Warriors found the Lady Maroons a tough opponent in the first quarter, fighting their way to a 1-point lead 14-13 heading into the second quarter. Though the scoring was low, the second quarter went to the home team, who entered the locker room at halftime with a 2-point lead 20-18.

Entering the third quarter, the Lady Maroons and their fans found out why the opposition was so highly rated. The Lady Warriors went on the war path with a 24-5 run to complete the quarter with a 42-25 lead.

The Lady Maroons struggled to come back by taking the final quarter 10-9, but it wasn’t enough. The Lady Warriors won this one 51-35.

The Maroons only had one player in double figures, Carly Anderson (#12) with 11 points on two 3-pointers and 6-6 free throw shooting.



All sports photos Marc Rogers / Journal  
Out of the flailing arms the Lady Maroons had the tip-off, then had it stolen by the opposition.

## CJHS volleyball win for 7th grade, loss for 8th grade team

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CLINTON — The CJHS Lady Maroons started the home season hosting the Central A&M (CAM) Lady Raiders. The matches began late because of a scheduling misunderstanding.

The first teams onto the court were the 7th graders. The Lady Maroons were given the initial serve in the first set and used it to take control and gain a sizable lead.

The opposition had one 5-point run that was stopped by the home team, which then proceeded to win the set 25-12.

The second set began with the Lady Raiders serving, but the Lady Maroons again took a substantial lead on a 7-point run. However, this time the Lady Raiders did not succumb to the home team rally and fought back into the fray.

The set went back and forth until the opposition pulled ahead in extra points to win by two at 26-24. This sent the match into a third set tie-breaker.

The Lady Maroons were again awarded the first

service and took a slight lead that was closely contested by the Lady Raiders throughout the set. The Lady Maroons were finally able to capitalize on their early lead and won the set 25-20 and the match 2-1.

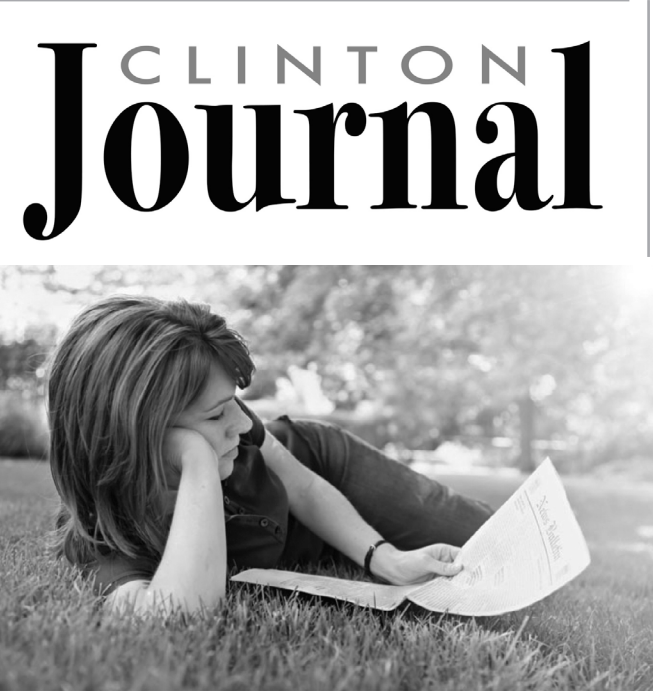
Next out onto the floor were the 8th grade teams. The opposition was given the first serve and after a couple of changes of service went on a 7-point run, which the Lady Maroons tried to gain back with a six point run of their own. But, it was not enough as the Lady Raiders took the first set 25-22.

The second set started with a home team service point and then the Lady Raiders took hold again with a 9-point run. The home team, not giving in, produced its own 9-point run to close in on the opposition.

This set then went into a back and forth in a point for point clash. In the end, the Lady Raiders commanded the win column with a 27-25 win in extra point time. The Lady Raiders took both sets, and the match 2-0.



A kill shot by Ava Cyrulik for the 8th graders.



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# SPORTS

## Maroons 17-1 after conference win over Rams

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CLINTON — It's the end of the second week in January and winter has finally arrived with arctic temperatures, high winds and blowing snow. Clinton hosted a Central Illinois Conference basketball game featuring the Shelbyville Rams (14-4) versus the Clinton Maroons (17-1).

The varsity game unfolded with the five starters for the Maroons scoring 30 points to the Rams' 14. The second quarter saw the Rams cut into the lead by four points, but the Maroons held a 49-37 lead at the half.

After the half, the Rams again cut into the Maroons' lead by 3 points in the third quarter but leaving the Maroons ahead 68-59.

With their third quarter

All sports photos Marc Rogers / Journal

Right: The ball is in the air in the varsity tip-off, who's going to jump.

19 points, the Maroons took the final stanza of the game by 6 points, winning their conference opener 87-72 in a high-scoring match-up.

This takes the Maroons to 18-1 on the season and 1-0 in conference play.

All five starters for the Maroons scored in double figures. Leading the way was Mason Walker (#3) with 24 points (on eight 3-pointers) followed by Brooks Cluver with 21 points (with one 3-pointer), Dawson Graves with 16 points, Colton Walker (#4) with 12 points, and Keaton Graves (#10) with 10 points (with one 3-pointer). The scoring was rounded out by Anthony Westbrooks (#0) who came in off the bench to assist defensively and scored 4 points for the offense.

See JV game coverage below.



## Maroons' JV falls to the Rams in close 50-44 game

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CLINTON — In the JV game, the Maroons seemed to be handling the opposition well, taking a 11-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. The opposition gained a point back in the second quarter, but the Maroons were still

in the lead at halftime 24-20.

All was still well in the third quarter as the Maroons upped their lead to six points at 38-32. Then, everything turned upside down.

The Maroons were able to drop in two 3-pointers, but the Rams charged in and took control of the

game, scoring 18 points to quell the hopes of a Maroon win. The Rams JV team won 50-44.

The Maroons' offense was led by Dalton Bell with 13 points, including two 3-pointers. As a whole the Maroons sank nin 3-pointers in the game.



A fourth quarter time out for the JV team to try and salvage the game.

## Lady Maroon's varsity over Lady Panthers 60-31

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CLINTON — The week of January 8, the Clinton Lady Maroons hit the hometown hardwood a couple of times. Their first outing was against the LeRoy Lady Panthers, who arrived with a 13-6 record.

The Lady Maroons have faced several tough teams this season so were expecting a long night of tough basketball.

The varsity game began after warm-ups and the National Anthem.

With the 13-6 record against the home team's 10-8, the Lady Panthers were the favorites, at least among the LeRoy fans. But, then the rout began.

The Lady Maroons surprised the Lady Panthers with their tenacity and quickness, outscoring the opposition 21-14 in the first quarter.

The second quarter was tamer, yet the Lady Maroons still outscored the opposition to lead 32-24 at halftime.

Hustling out after the brea, the Lady Maroons kept an even pace, scoring 14 points in each of the final two quarters, while holding the Lady Panthers to single digits (6 points in the 3rd and one in the 4th).

In the final 2:45 minutes of the game, the bench was cleared, giving all the Lady Maroons a part of this win. The Lady Maroons walked away from this game with a 60-31 win.

The Lady Maroons were led by Clara Dempsey (#0) with 17 points followed by Regan Filkin (#3) with 10 points. Each of these players, along with Heidi Humble (#2) scored 3-point baskets in the first quarter to get the home team started off on the right foot.



Lilah Cluver (#11) sinks one of her 7 free throws for the JV team - She was 7-7 on the line.

## Lady Maroons' JV over Lady Panthers 43-34

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CLINTON — The junior varsities (JV) were up to start the evening before the Jan. 8 week varsity game. The Lady Maroons declawed the Lady


Panthers early with a 20-9 lead in the first quarter. In the second quarter the offenses of both teams struggled as the defenses began to figure into the game. The teams scored 7 points each in the second quarter to give the home team a 27-16 advantage

going into the locker room at halftime.

Stepping back onto the floor after halftime, the LeRoy team showed a spark of life, outscoring the home team 13-8, cutting into the Lady Maroons lead. But, the Lady Maroons, still not

firing on all cylinders, held the Lady Panthers to just 5 points in the last quarter to win 43-34.

Carly Anderson (#24) paced the Lady Maroons with 17 points (including two 3-pointers), assisted by Lilah Cluver (#11) with 15 points.



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