



# BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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EDWARD K. BRAXTON

BISHOP OF BELLEVILLE

## Diocese gets new leader

Like Gregory, new leader was born in Chicago

By PATRICK J. POWERS  
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — Former St. Louis Auxiliary Bishop Edward K. Braxton, currently serving as bishop of Lake Charles, La., will be the eighth leader of the Belleville Diocese, the Vatican announced Tuesday.

"Now I am called to embrace the local church of Belleville,"

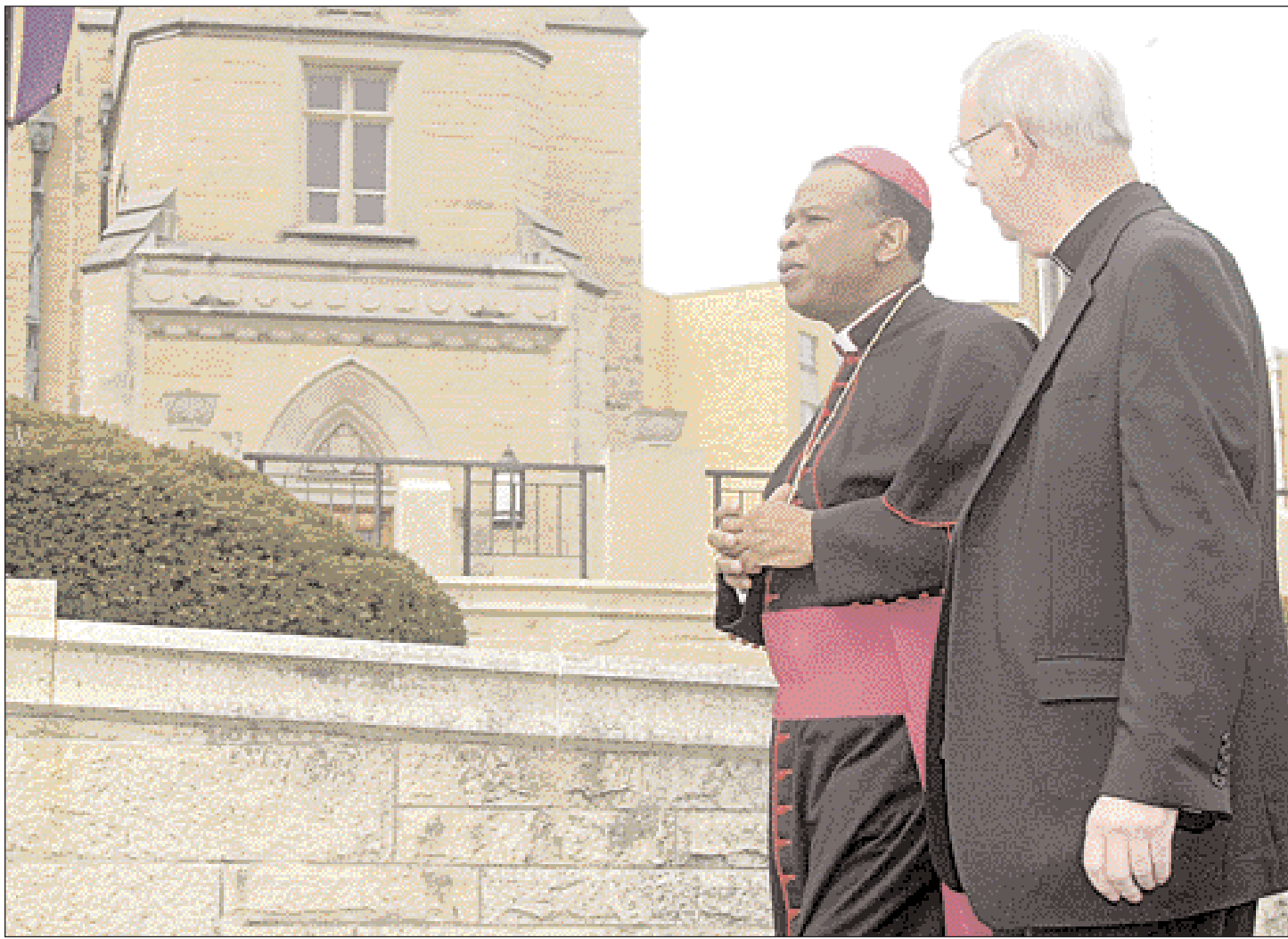
Braxton said. "I have no doubt that the face and heart of Christ will be revealed to me in new and different ways as I pray and work and serve with the dedicated priests, deacons, religious and Christian faithful of this diocese." Braxton, 60, has yet to set a date for his installation as Belleville's next bishop, but said he expects it to be in early June. Braxton will replace Bishop Wilton Gregory, who was installed Jan. 17 as the sixth archbishop of Atlanta.

"He comes to this appointment with an impressive heritage of scholarship, pastoral experience and zeal for the gospel of Jesus Christ," Gregory said. "May Bishop Braxton find all the graces he needs to fulfill his new assignment with success, personal satisfaction and great peace of heart."

Braxton, like Gregory, was born in Chicago and attended St. Mary of the Lake Seminary

Please see BISHOP, A3

WEB EXTRA: The complete text of Bishop Braxton's remarks Tuesday as well as links to his writings can be found online at www.bellevillenewsdemocrat.com.



DERIK HOLTSMANN/News-Democrat

Bishop Edward K. Braxton, left, walks with Monsignor James Margason on Tuesday outside St. Peter Cathedral in Belleville.



"Ordinary people do extraordinary things when they do what Jesus tells them to do."

Bishop Edward K. Braxton from a 2001 homily

## New bishop has wide range of interests

By JENNIFER A. BOWEN  
News-Democrat

New Belleville Bishop Edward K. Braxton has traveled around the world to speak to Catholics of various ethnic backgrounds, enjoys whitewater rafting and spends many evenings reading, studying and writing in the quiet company of his four-footed friend.

"His library is clearly the most important room here," said the Rev. Charles McMillin, the secretary for clergy and executive assistant to Braxton in Lake Charles, La. "I see him spending hours reading, studying, writing and praying at his desk in his Harvard University chair surrounded by his special friends, his very large collection

of books. Often, quiet classical music is playing in the background and his golden retriever, Erika, is at his feet."

Braxton, 60, was born in Chicago on June 28, 1944, to Evelyn and Cullen Braxton of Oak Park. He is the third of five children.

His father died on May 23, 1995, and his brother, Cullen L. Braxton Jr., 54, died of cancer eight years ago, only 1½ years after he lost his father. He published a two-part essay, "Grief Observed: A Lenten Reflection," in 1998 as his personal, pastoral and theological reflection about the losses of his father and brother. He said his brother was his dearest friend.

His mother still lives in Oak Park and continues to attend St.

Catherine of Siena Parish in Oak Park, the same parish in which Braxton grew up and served as pastor for five years before being appointed to St. Louis. He has three sisters: Gwendolyn L. Braxton, Patricia Braxton-Wells and Adrienne C. Braxton.

"My parents, the dearest of the dear in my life, have always been my best teachers in the school of faith and in the school of life," Braxton said. "My mother, who I have always called Mother Dear, is the light of my life. She was happy to have lived to see the day of my installation in Lake Charles. She celebrated her 85th birthday Friday."

Please see INTERESTS, A3

## Girl helps bailiffs nab rape suspect

Man identified at County Building

By BETH HUNSDORFER  
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — A 14-year-old girl pointed out a man in the St. Clair County Building to the bailiffs on Monday morning and told them he raped her.

On Tuesday, Harvie D. Winters, a convicted sex offender, was arraigned on charges of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

Winters, 24, was at the courthouse to appear on a domestic battery charge in Courtroom 109 when the girl spotted him and told a bailiff, said Chief Bailiff Tom Burns.

Burns called police in Washington Park, where the assault allegedly occurred, but was later told the case was turned over the Illinois State Police.

Bailiffs held Winters until it was determined whether he was wanted, Burns said, then turned him over to police.

Burns called the bailiffs involved "observant and responsive."

Winters was charged with forcing the girl to have sex with him and sodomizing her, according to the charges filed Tuesday by Illinois State Police.

In 2000, Winters pleaded guilty to aggravated criminal sexual abuse for having sex with a girl who was under 13.

He was sentenced to three years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on that charge and was required to register as a sex offender.

Illinois State Police records list his address as 2225 N. 57th St. in Washington Park and as being compliant with registration requirements.

But the charges filed Tuesday show Winters' address as 5736 Hallows St. in Washington Park.

Winters and his brother were the last people to see a 16-year-old girl alive before she fell into an East St. Louis creek and died.

Please see RAPE, A2



Winters



### Coming Thursday

The Cards' Albert Pujols answers five questions from Sports Editor Joe Ostermeier.

## Though miles separate two cities, both have many things in common

British town's mayor pays visit to Belleville

By LISA P. WHITE  
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — The history of Belleville dates back about 190 years. In the United States that seems like ancient history. In Britain, that's barely scratching the surface.

Bury St. Edmunds in southeastern England is so old, Mayor Frank

Warby doesn't know exactly when it was founded.

He does know the town was standing when the Magna Carta was signed — in 1215. In fact, he said the charter between King John and the rebellious barons was ratified later that year in Bury St. Edmunds.

Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert had lunch with Warby on Tuesday

and quickly discovered that despite the vast age difference — Belleville is a mere newborn compared to grizzled, old Bury St. Edmunds — the towns have quite a few things in common.

To wit: Belleville had Stag Brewery. Bury St. Edmunds has Greene King Brewery.

Belleville has Art on the Square, the nationally known art festival. Bury St. Edmunds has Bury in Bloom, the award-winning festival

during which the town is festooned with flowers.

Air force bases border both towns.

Politics doesn't pay in either place. Belleville Aldermen make \$7,500 per year. Bury St. Edmunds councilmen get the equivalent of \$8,000.

The mayors exchanged gifts and talked shop over salads. Warby presented Eckert with a set of shot glasses and decanter etched with the four gates of the Abbey of

Bury St. Edmunds. Eckert gave Warby a Belleville coffee mug, flag, pen and pencil.

Eckert described Belleville as a town on the move with home construction up and downtown redevelopment bubbling.

"The cost of living is a little less here than in Missouri," Eckert said. "When you couple that with good schools, the sky's the limit."

Please see CITIES, A2

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- Little Lotto: 04-08-19-22-25
- Pick 4-Midday: 2-0-6-1
- Jackpot: \$25 million

MEGA MILLIONS Game: 14-26-27-34-44

Mega Ball: 27

Jackpot: \$27 million

FOR MISSOURI

- Pick 3-Midday: 4-5-3
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