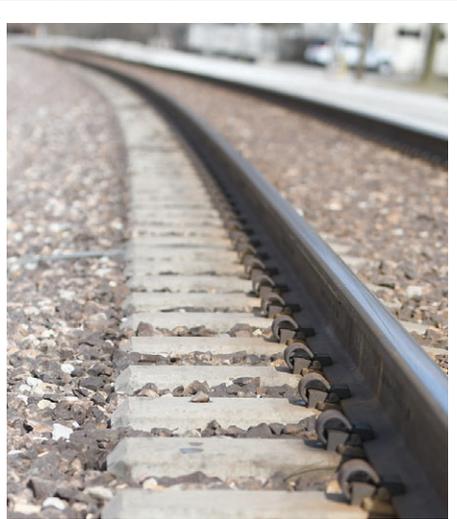


PROGRESS 2018

The investment being made in rail



On the cover

The investment in rail

Pinpoint the projects bringing the most progress to the area and they all have one thing in common... they're influenced by rail.

Rail and trucking are what is driving growth in Grundy and Will counties these days. The largest inland port in the U.S. is located at Elwood and the build-out continues for the 22 million square foot, rail-served, logistics park at RidgePort at I-55 and Lorenzo Road, Wilmington.

Seems every developer wants rail service close by. Recent projects include \$12 million to bring a 415,000 square foot warehouse built by Hoffman Transportation south of Coal City. In Wilmington it's the state-of-the-art 1.5 million sf warehouse for General Mills at RidgePort.

Even Illinois' High Speed Rail project, with its \$1.9 billion price tag, is bringing progress.

Take a drive along

Highway 53 from Elwood to Gardner and you'll see improved rail crossings, upgrades at dangerous intersections (stoplights at Coal City Road and at Stripmine Road), wrought iron fences shielding the tracks from Godley to Braceville and through Gardner.

The high speed rail upgrades, to run trains up to 110 mph between St. Louis and Chicago, began nearly eight years ago. Fast trains aren't speeding through our towns yet, but they have brought much needed safety improvements into our communities.

It's what you call progress and a lot more than those nine pennies you see lined up on the tracks in the photo on the front cover are being spent.

One thing we're certain of is that progress will continue Grundy and Will counties and that will be from the investment in rail.

Whitmore Ace: Committed to communities

It's not just about offering the things residents of their communities need; it's also about helping those in need in their communities.

By allowing Whitmore Ace Hardware to round up their totals at the register over a period of three months, the hardware store's customers helped raise more than \$64,000 for the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in 2017.

Lurie's is the philanthropic focus for Ace Hardware, and the local stores piggyback on the corporation's efforts. Many youngsters from the communities where the stores are located have been treated at Lurie's.

"It was over 200 in this community [Wilmington] who have been treated," notes David Cripe, who, with his brother Michael, have been operating the Whitmore Ace Hardware stores for the last five years or so.

Murph Mitchell, the manager of the Wilmington store, said close to the same number of Braidwood children have been treated at Lurie's.

"We all know people with kids who have been up there, and that's big," Mitchell said.

"...We have little kids, and it's more of a miracle when your kid can be healthy," David Cripe added. "... We're pretty lucky to live near a hospital like that."

Five Whitmore Ace Hardware stores raised \$54,540 last year for Lurie's — with the average round-up contribution being just 11 cents.

"We didn't raise it, our customers donated it through us," noted David.

Duracell made additional \$10,000 donations in the name of the nation's top fundraising stores in several categories. Whitmore Ace was a top fundraiser in the multi-store category, and earned the Duracell donation in its name.

The Whitmore Ace stores' customers also raised about \$7,500 in 2017 to aid the relief effort for flood and hurricane victims.

Whitmore Ace Hardware is also committed to hyperlocal causes, sponsoring the recent Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box prom dress and accessories event and the Dollars for Dogs fundraiser for a host of non-profit organizations and activities all summer long.

"We're supported so well by our customers that I think we have a moral obligation to support our towns, and we want to," David said. "One of our core values has to do with being committed to our communities, so we don't just say it, we live it."

The Whitmore Ace Hardware family grew by one more store in 2017, just as it had the year before. New Lenox Ace Hardware's previous owner of 31 years was ready to retire and his store



THANKS TO THE SUPPORT of customers who agreed to round up purchases at the register, Whitmore Ace Hardware stores were able to present a donation of more than \$54,000 to the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. The hardware stores are operated by David Cripe (left) and his brother, Michael Cripe, who believe in the store's commitment to service, quality and community.

became store number six for Whitmore Ace. The Cripe brothers are in the midst of remodeling the store at 358 W. Maple St., which, when complete, will represent a \$500,000 investment, including new inventory.

"It'll be a beautiful store when it's done," David commented. "We put all new lighting in, opened up the ceiling, we're putting all new fixtures and inventory into it."

Although the closure of the Ben Franklin store in Wilmington presented the opportunity for the hardware store to expand its product line, a commitment to quality played an equal part in the new additions. The Water Street Market was completed early last year, and then Carhartt, Red Wing boots and Stihl power equipment, as well as an expanded barbecuing department came throughout the remainder of the year.

"We knew we wanted to bring in Stihl before Ben Franklin was closing, and then once it was, we took on the opportunity to expand the work wear,

but at the same time, because we knew we had to make a lot of moves, Murph decided he wanted a bigger barbecue section, which was a great idea," David explained.

"The whole move worked out great for us," commented Mitchell, the store's resident barbecue expert.

The expanded departments allowed the store to bring in new lines of items, which gives residents the option of shopping in town, which pumps revenue into the community.

Michael Cripe said Stihl power equipment is a premium line.

"It just works with us, Ace and quality," Murph said.

"Our mantra is, Service, Convenience, Quality, so those are the three things we try to enhance, so it [the Stihl line] goes with the quality portion," David added.

Whitmore Ace Hardware will celebrate its 122nd anniversary in 2018. It has stores in Braidwood, Wilmington, Manhattan, Manteno, New Lenox and Mokena.

About Progress 2018

The Free Press Newspapers appreciate the businesses and organizations who responded by placing advertisements and articles in Progress 2018.

While this special section contains many of the businesses in the Braidwood, Coal City and Wilmington area, it does not contain all of them. Those absent from this issue were not intentionally overlooked.

The newspaper focused on those who replied to promotional advertisements and mailed correspondence. The newspaper staff hopes its readers enjoy this special section just as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

**Celebrating 10 years
in Coal City**



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Renew brings benefits of 'floating' to Wilmington

BY BRENT SUMNER
STAFF WRITER

Renew Clinical Massage and Wellness has completed a room that is providing relief from aches and pains. All clients have to do is be willing to float.

Float rooms originated in the Dead Sea where people would travel to experience the benefits of dense salt water.

"Floating" recently gained in popularity in the U.S. among elderly people with health problems and in helping athletes recuperate.

"It is always one of those things where you think, 'Oh, it's an old person thing. Soaking your foot in Epsom salt or clean it with Epsom salt,'" said owner Melanie Wilkerson. "In a tank, you have such a strong solution that your body absorbs the magnesium."

The benefits from "floating" are wide ranging. It combats arthritis and inflammation, aid in

muscle recovery, relieve headaches, help calm those with autism, or even muscular dystrophy.

Wilkerson spoke of her receptionist who suffers from muscular dystrophy, who found relief by chance,

"I had an appointment for a float at a place in Streator, and she took my appointment. She was talking about how she was in so much pain that she would have to go to the emergency room by the end of the day," Wilkerson said. "She got out of it and told me that she had no pain. She made the trip to Streator frequently because it helped so much with the pain."

According to Wilkerson, magnesium gets absorbed while floating, and can help with swelling and many different issues. It also has the added benefit of letting the body fully relax while floating, relieving and relaxing muscles, and can even alleviate a headache.

To get the benefits from floating a simple rule applies, longer is

better. It takes about an hour in the bath to receive the benefits from the salt.

The price for a float is \$60 an hour, but there will also be packages available.

"For anybody coming in for the first time, for you to get used to the float, you spend about half the time adjusting," Wilkerson added. "So for their first time we offer a discount."

The Chicago Cubs have two float baths, the Bears are putting a couple in their field house, and the Blackhawks go to Float Sixty in Chicago. It is just vital to recovery of their muscles."

Most people when thinking of a float room think of the pods, which are usually depicted on TV or in movies as a small capsule with water.

However, good news for the ones who are claustrophobic, Renew's is a float room, with a tank that stretches 6.5 feet wide and 10 feet long. It will have about 12 inches of water to float on, and will

have 1,000 pounds of Epsom salt.

"I have so many people saying that they can't go in one of those things, and they are thinking of the pods," Wilkerson added. "Also, if someone can't float in a lake or pool, they will float in this."

Since the float room became operational last month, inquiries to Renew Clinical Massage have increased.

"We already have lots of people calling, and it is a little bit of everything from college athletes to those in their 40's and 50's."

Bathing suits are optional, and they can also participate in sensory deprivation, or have music playing.

"The major idea of it is for sensory deprivation, and one of the big groups that have benefits with this are people with autism," Wilkerson noted. "If you as a parent have a child with autism, and they want to do sensory deprivation, it is very relaxing for the child."

General information on float-

ing includes:

- A parent with a small child can go in the water with them. If they are under 13, they can be in the room with the child. Anyone under 17, a parent has to be on the premises with them.

- The sodium content is so high that it is antibacterial. Bacteria can't survive. The water is also run through a UV filtration system.

- You can wear a bathing suit or go nude. You shower before and after getting in.

- You should float for at least an hour to get all the benefits of what you are paying for.

- Can help anything from: Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, chronic pain, whiplash, depression, anxiety, muscle soreness, sports injuries, weight reduction, smoking cessation, recovering from addictions, migraines, hangovers, jet lag, and PMS and pregnancy pains.

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Wilmington

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- Massage
- Cupping
- Nutrition
- Healthy Living
- Acupuncture

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an appointment!
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VFW waiting to rebuild

The VFW Post 5422 Commander Terry Cerutti, the officers and some of the members have been working hard to reestablish the VFW in the same location as before.

VFW State has requested a business plan to be submitted with the details before beginning to build.

Secretary Ray Genis and Director of Operations Gina Wills have been working diligently on the business plan and collecting all the information needed to proceed.

A court session was held on Feb 10, at which time the VFW obtained partial funds. The lawyer for the VFW is continuing to attend court for the VFW's defense.

Although it hasn't been given a time line when building can occur, prices seem to increase as they

wait. Everyone is lined up and ready to proceed once they get the green light to do so.

The VFW has received many calls, emails and texts regarding when it will be open.

An email was recently received from a local veteran wondering what has become of the veterans in Wilmington. He was hoping for a new muster point in town by now.

The VFW responded that it will rebuild and he would have a place to visit again. He said he misses the joint.

The honor guard has not missed a beat since the fire April 25, 2016.

The VFW thanks the community and veterans for their continued support and hopes to see everyone soon.

25 Years of Gentle Family Dentistry

Dr. Garrett B. Smith, D.D.S.



Kelly Olson, Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett Smith, Sara Daniels, Beth Peterson

220 S. Main St., Wilmington
815-476-9715

Coal City Healthcare Center offers care for all ages

Board-certified pediatrician Dr. Aamair "TJ" Tajuddin believes the atmosphere alone at Coal City Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital can have patients walking away feeling better.

"You won't go five minutes in our clinic without hearing someone laugh," Dr. Tajuddin said. "Part of the reason I chose pediatrics as a specialty is because everyone involved in the field has a cheerful outlook on life, and the staff at Coal City Healthcare Center is phenomenal."

The Coal City Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital opened its doors to the community in Sept. 2016 at its current location at 4 East North Street, approximately one-half mile north of the intersection of Route 113 and Broadway Street at Crossroads Plaza in Coal City.

Services include family medicine and pediatrics, which means care is available at this location for patients of all ages.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Tajuddin provides care for patients ages newborn through 17.

His focus is preventive care and management of health in infants, children and teens, including monitoring of growth and development, illness management, nutritional counseling, immunizations and physical fitness. Dr. Tajuddin has a special inter-



PATIENTS WALK AWAY feeling better after encountering (from left): Dena Giegler, Dr. Aamair Tajuddin, Stacey McGuan, Becky Wasko and Jessica Lamango at the Coal City Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital.

est in newborn care, asthma, ADHD and weight management.

Born and raised in Lombard, Ill., Dr. Tajuddin attended medical school at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Stratford, N.J.

He completed a pediatrics residency at

Loyola University Medical Center. He is certified by the American Heart Association in Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation and Basic Life Support, and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Family Nurse Practitioner Stacey

McGuan, a Wilmington native and current resident of Coal City, is the most recent addition to the Coal City Healthcare Center, having joined the practice in July 2017.

She is qualified to serve as the primary health care provider for patients of all ages and is able to order and interpret diagnostic tests, diagnose disease, provide appropriate treatments, and prescribe medications.

McGuan had three years' experience as a family nurse practitioner before joining the Coal City Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital. Prior to that, she was a registered nurse at Morris Hospital for 19 years where she was awarded the Nurse of the Year Award in 2008.

McGuan received her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and her Family Nurse Practitioner certificate from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill. She is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and she is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

To schedule a free meet-and-greet appointment with Stacey McGuan or Dr. Tajuddin, call 815-518-5755. For more information, visit www.morrishospital.org/coal-city.

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Office & Storage - 2920 Rt. 113, Diamond
(1/4 Mile West of I-55)

Northern Insurance doing what's best for its customers

Northern Insurance has its roots in several hometown independent insurance agencies dating back to 1919. The Wilmington location was formed by combining the Bale Agency and Illinois Insurance Consultants, formerly the Harry Tennant Agency.

When Henry and Diane Bale retired last year, they entrusted their clients to Northern Insurance Group, which moved from its old location on Baltimore Street to the Bale building at 206 S. Water St.

Northern Insurance Group is always looking to expand its footprint in Illinois. It has contracts with more than 100 insurance companies which gives it the strength and flexibility to solve any insurance need, no matter what the level of complexity.

Owner and manager Armand D'Andrea and his associates have several decades of experience. In addition to Wilmington they have offices in Joliet, Morris, Chicago, Ottawa, Plainfield and Glen Ellyn.

There is one simple goal at Northern Insurance Group - to always do what is best for the customer.

The independent insurance agency gives to numerous local charitable and civic organizations in the communities it serves.

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. They can be reached at 815-476-2900 or email adandrea@northernins.com.

For more information visit www.northernins.com or on Facebook at Northern Insurance Group.



Mustachio's Bar & Grill

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815-518-5411

We Specialize in Quality Food & Excellent Service

Kitchen Hours:
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11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday - Saturday
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Bar Open Later



Mexican Mondays Margaritas

Tuesday Nite "Steak Nite" Sirloin or NY

Friday Fish Fry

Saturday Night Prime Rib Monthly Call for date!

Sundays Bloodys & Wings

Coming Soon!! Brick Oven Pizza

Paraphernalia continues in the tradition of its founders

Charles Jeffries is continuing the family business started 52 years ago by his parents, Sue and Charles "Chuck" Jeffries III.

Paraphernalia Antiques operates from three storefronts, at 112, 114 and 124 N. Water St.

Paraphernalia offers antiques, specializing in European imports. It has a huge selection of furniture and one-of-a-kind lighting fixtures. The trio of storefronts is also renown for its large selection of new and unique estate jewelry.

Charles notes that Sue's passing last summer left a huge hole in the shop. He spent the end of last year regrouping and reorganizing. Now, his longtime girlfriend Emily Burow has joined him at the shop to help with the day-to-day operations.

One of the most rewarding aspects of running the

business is meeting all the different people who come to browse the treasures of the district, Charles says.

Paraphernalia will be holding some sizable sales this year — a birthstone monthly special featuring a 40 percent discount, 50 percent off sterling silver during Catfish Days and 40 percent off diamonds for Christmas and Valentine's Day.

Plans for 2018 include some renovations of the main building at 112 N. Water St. as well as some exterior renovations at 110 N. Water St.

Paraphernalia is open Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on Fridays.

Find Paraphernalia Antiques on Facebook, contact the store at 815-476-9811, or best yet, stop in.

Mustachios thrives on good food and fun

It's a cozy place in a small town where after a couple of visits they know your name and beverage of choice.

Mustachios in Carbon Hill thrives on good food, fun and friendly service. Everyone who steps in the door becomes part of the family.

Coal City residents Steve and Diane Eartly purchased the restaurant in June 2016. Steve had recently retired from a career with Exelon and Diane had been running the business under different ownership.

Diane has been part of the restaurant business all of her adult life. Her grandmother owned Bates Restaurant in Coal City and that started it all. She car-hopped at the Diamond Dairy Queen, then on to Jo's Steak House for 15 years and to a few Morris establishments.

When the opportunity of owning their own restaurant presented itself, Steve and Diane decided to jump on board.

The Eartly's currently have 10 employees.

Priding themselves on being family-oriented—two of their employees are daughters Stacie and Katie who serve as

bartenders/servers. Daughter Deanne and her husband Scott help on weekends, as do grandsons Austin and Alex who are bussers. Guests will also find granddaughter Lilliauna helping out too.

The kitchen is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The bar is open later.

The building itself, has a history. While dining you can check out the list of all the previous owners, previous names of the establishment and the years that they were owned. The history of the building was completed by Michelle Micetich, curator of the Carbon Hill School Museum.

Over the past year the couple has made improvements to the inside dining section and outside patio.

New tables and chairs were purchased for indoor dining and a fireplace was added outside, now renting the space for weddings, class reunions and birthday parties.

As for the menu, Mustachio's introduced bluegill, the first restaurant in Grundy County to offer it.

The restaurant specializes in mango-jalepeno margaritas that go

great with the selections offered on Mexican Mondays or any day of the week. Mustachios also has Tuesday Steak Nights, Fish-fry Fridays and on Sundays customers flock in for wings and Bloody Mary specials.

Once a month Mustachio's features a Saturday prime rib special and even crab legs.

All bartenders are BASSET trained and all staff has been trained in food handling. The cooks are certified in state management sanitation.

The owners are adding brick oven pizza, a kitchen expansion, the potential for outdoor cooking and more special night entrees, as well as new menu options.

A second anniversary party is being planned in June and check out specials during Carbon Hill Homecoming.

Steve and Diane care about making customers happy with their quality food and excellent service. They want Mustachios to be the place you want to go.

So stop at Mustachios, 785 Third St, Carbon Hill, they'll be glad you came, and so will you.

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Clubb Construction specializes in residential home construction and complete home remodeling.

For more than 30 years Dave and Lori Clubb have given their business and continue to expand. They have enjoyed serving their customers, seeing the finished product and how happy their clients are when a project is completed.

The Clubbs enjoy serving the community and acquiring new clients as well as friendships.

Clubb Construction plans to speculate on homes that are affordable and attractive to the first-time home buyer, as well as continue to remodel kitchens and bathrooms.

"We take pride in every project that we perform and we make sure that every customer is completely satisfied when the job is completed," said Dave Clubb.

Clubb Construction can be reached at 815-634-2544 or e-mail clubb23@yahoo.com.

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Hometown Storage expanding space

Since 1993, Hometown Storage has provided area residents with a place to store extra stuff.

Coal City residents Chuck and Jodi Dennison got into the self-storage business when they purchased two storage buildings on Sixth Street in Braidwood. Four years later they purchased a 5-acre parcel of land along Route 113 in Diamond that allowed them to expand the business into a new community.

Beside storage, the Diamond facility offers an office complex, spaces that were constructed after the November

2013 tornado.

Once the rebuilding project was complete, the couple further expanded the business with the addition of a storage facility in Gardner. In all, Hometown Storage offers 54,000 square feet of storage space in 17 buildings, including a climate controlled building, a commercial space and several recreational vehicle stalls across three communities.

The Dennison's are members of the Illinois State Storage Association and the National Storage Association. Hometown Storage employees, man-

aged by Peggy Hanna, attend seminars at these associations to keep them updated on current trends in storage technology, security and legality.

Hometown Storage strives to offer clean, dry storage units at competitive prices. They also offer clients a variety of products from boxes to locks.

Office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information visit www.diamondhometownstorage.com or call 815-634-3333.

Dr. Garrett Smith

Dental care for a dazzling smile

Consult the professionals at the office of Dr. Garrett B. Smith, DDS, and let us take care of all your family's dental health needs.

Founded in 1994, the clinic provides a full range of dentistry services in a friendly and professional atmosphere. You'll want to smile all day long after we've finished caring for your teeth!

Dr. Smith's patients can consult their dental care team by appointment or in the event of an emergency. Your oral health is our main concern; that is why we are always available to do check-ups, cleanings, gum care, fillings, and tooth extractions.

We welcome patients of all ages so that the whole family can have access to the quality care provided by our staff. Our state-of-the-art clinic specializes in prevention programs for children and adults, specialized care, and personalized follow-up.

Do you grind your teeth? Do you have persistent bad breath? We have solutions for you, whatever your dental and oral health concerns might be.

We can advise you on endodontics, orthodontics or prosthetics (dentures and implants) and refer you to the best specialists when necessary. Dental crowns and bridges are also part of our services, as well as many other treatments for the teeth and gums.

If you dream of a brighter smile, remember the office of Dr. Garrett B. Smith, DDS, also offers esthetic dental care, including teeth whitening treatments. Our professional-grade products and in-depth treatments provide visible results. Don't hesitate to ask us about the different options available to you if you would like to have gleaming pearly whites!



Our dental care professionals will be happy to answer all your questions about your oral health. They can explain how to take better care of your teeth every day at home, suggest a treatment plan, and offer you advice. Make an appointment now and take advantage of the warm welcome awaiting you. Our mission is to help you enjoy good oral health for the rest of your life!

Dr. Smith's office is located at 220 S. Main St., Wilmington. You can get more information about services provided or make an appointment by calling 815-476-9715.

Choosing a healthcare provider is an important decision.

Whether you're looking for a primary care provider or a specialist, we offer 180 options in 38 different specialties. Plus, you'll find providers on the Morris Hospital medical staff in Braidwood, Channahon, Coal City, Dwight, Gardner, Marseilles, Mazon, Minooka, Morris, Newark, Ottawa, Seneca, and Yorkville.

That's a lot of options, without having to search far from home.

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Cardiology
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Immediate Care
Infectious Disease

Internal Medicine
Nephrology
Neurology
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Occupational Medicine
Oncology/Hematology
Ophthalmology
Orthopedic Spine Surgery
Orthopedic Surgery
Otolaryngology
(Ear, Nose & Throat)
Pain Management
Pathology
Pediatrics
Pediatric Cardiology

Physical Medicine
& Rehabilitation
Plastic Surgery
Podiatry
Psychiatry
Pulmonary Medicine
Radiation Oncology
Radiology
Rheumatology
Surgery, General
Urology

To learn more about the providers by specialty, visit morrishospital.org/doctors.



This is your connection to Morris Hospital.



Burst at the seams, Trinity Knot expands

Doubled in size? The space recently added to Trinity Knot might be even more than that.

Trinity Knot, the home of R&S Woodworking, is located at 119 N. Water St. It sells antiques and a variety of merchandise, including Irish-themed merchandise such as sweaters, hats, jewelry and colognes, as well as the hand-crafted works of art turned

out by co-owner Randy Skonetski and partner Sam Madia.

They were exhibitors at Trinity Knot when it went up for sale in 2014, and bought it so they didn't have to go back to doing craft shows.

They started with two storefronts, and now occupy five, at 7,500 square feet, plus have exhibitor space in the basement.

Meeting people is what Madia and Skonetski like about being in business.

In addition to the opportunity to browse away a lazy afternoon, Trinity Knot offers custom woodworking services.

Trinity Knot is open Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the store at 815-476-1818.

Big new space at Milltown Market

Renovations complete, now let's fill it

Milltown Market in Wilmington opened its new entrance and added hundreds of square feet of new vendor space in 2017.

The market specializes in antiques, collectibles, reused and repurposed items and primitives. It's a 17,000-square foot destination shop that attracts locals and out-of-town shoppers for items that are not only antique, but quite often, unique.

Gary and Kay Ernst have owned and operated Milltown Market and Storage for the past 11 years. Gary Ernst says that since most customers are limited to buying essential items, he keeps prices competitive and merchandise in good condition.

The nearly 40 vendors and over 100 consignors who use some of the space at Milltown Market bring out items that appeal to customers, such as functional pieces or do-it-yourself products. Shoppers will find hand-crafted soaps, guitars and other musical instruments, antiques and retro pieces.

Someone is in the shop every day to greet visitors from all over the world. The Ernsts enjoy seeing customers from all walks of life who visit their store and say their enthusiasm in contagious.

Milltown Market's front entrance changed from North Kankakee Street to the south side of the building on Canal Street, in advance of a project to reconstruct the railroad crossing on Kankakee Street for high

speed rail. The new entrance is right in the middle of a new 110-foot long porch that offers outdoor display space and a shady spot to browse. The change gave Milltown Market additional parking right outside the front door too.

Shoppers can anticipate finding new vendors and merchandise, consignment items and a more attractive variety every time they visit.

Vendors participate in planning and attend special events throughout the year. They're planning to give guitar lessons, hold classes on creating garden art from old glassware, and hosting family portrait events.

Milltown Market will continue to support the community this year by participating in the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor and Catfish Days festivals, while supporting St. Rose Church, the Wilmington Rotary Club and the Wilmington Lions Club.

The mantra for Milltown Market and Storage is "A walk in the past." Gary and Kay believe in reuse, and the vision that goes with it, to reduce the amount of items that go to waste and take up space in landfills.

Milltown Market and Storage is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.; and Sunday from 12:30 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The mall is located at 508 N. Kankakee St. in Wilmington. Visit online at www.milltownmall.com or on Facebook at Milltown Market; call 815-476-0386; or email milltownmarket@hotmail.com



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Geo's Pizza, delivering the best

Geo's Pizza was founded in 1985 in what is still its current location, 715 S. Broadway in Coal City. At that time it was known as Coal Valley Pizza Express.

The business began with four partners, two employees, a very small kitchen and seating for 45 guests. Most of its business was dine-in or carry-out.

As the delivery business grew, employees and equipment were added, which is something the business has done every year.

Throughout the following 32 years, the remaining dining was removed to expand the kitchen that now takes up the entire building.

Several years ago, with the continued capacity

expansion, an offsite office was needed so the Tarmans purchased and renovated the building at 355 S. Broadway in Coal City which is currently the office for Geo's Pizza. The street side of the building is leased to 21st Century Real Estate.

Geo's Pizza currently has 32 members on its team, some of them second generation. The staff is directed by Operations Manager Gail Watson and General Managing Partner Jenn Shipman.

The Tarmans are very proud of their employees and consider their current success directly related to the dedication of these and past team members.

Employees are trained

and educated beyond the National Restaurant Association standards including attendance annually at the National Restaurant Association show and the International Pizza Expo

From the very beginning Geo's Pizza has made a commitment to always treat customers with the utmost respect and dignity, believing from day one that if customers were served the best quality product at a fair and reasonable price they would be successful.

Thirty two years later they are still totally committed to that belief.

With the addition of three new high efficiency high capacity pizza ovens

and a heated delivery vehicle, Geo's Pizza currently has the capacity to produce and deliver over 200 16-inch pizzas in one hour. They have successfully delivered that amount to a local commercial customer in a record 58 minutes, a feat they feel none of their competitors can come close to.

The year 2015 brought the Best Pizza of Greater Grundy Award along with the addition of new partners helping to continue to provide the area with the award-winning pizza that everyone loves.

"We are happy to introduce Jenn and Frank Shipman as partners at Geo's Pizza," Larry Tarman said.

Jenn has been a member of the Geo's team the past 17 years as General Manager, working to continue the tradition of excellence at Geo's, not only in the quality of the product but in the excellent service that everyone has become accustomed to.

Jenn has been behind the scenes for many years advancing Geo's in the latest technology, introducing Facebook and being the first restaurant in the area with online ordering.

"Every year for the past 32 years, we have given back 10 percent of the profit to our community. It's a commitment that is now one of the most rewarding parts of our business. This is something that the Shipman's believe in and have continued to do," Larry Tarman said.

Geo's Pizza has also made a commitment to constantly seek out and improve their menu. They currently use the number one mozzarella cheese in the world.

Geo's decided to take the high road when it comes to food, service and equipment, and believes this decision is the reason they are still in business and expanding after a quarter of a century.

Find Geo's Pizza online at www.geospizza.net or on Facebook at Geo's Pizza Coal City.

Coal City Dental planning renovation

Coal City Dental Center has been removing the fear of going to the dentist the past 28 years.

Dr. Robin Trevison started her practice in a storefront in 1990 on South Broadway Street and after a few years moved to her practice to its current location on Division Street.

The dental center is known for "catering to the dental coward," as they provide comfort, compassion and quality. Trevison and her eight-member staff strive to make sure patients are aware of treatment decisions, provide information and education, and take into consideration that everyone's budget is different.

This year hygienist Debbie Dye will be celebrating her 10-year anniversary with the company. Dye has been in the business for 28 years and everyone on staff will say she is an excellent partner for Dr. Trevison.

"She is a true advocate for all of her patients' oral and overall health," said officer manager Chy Anne Blavin.

Along with celebrating Dye's 10-year anniversary, the dental center will undergo an exterior makeover. The plan is to replace the ware-

house look with a cottage-home style renovation.

The Coal City Dental Center's main goal is to make sure they always stay true to their core values of individualized personal care in an environment where corporate dental care is rapidly expanding. Treating the patient, and not their insurance, requires constant education to learn how to best maximize the benefit of their customers.

The Coal City Dental Center has been generous to the community and local organizations such as TaTa Trot, Puppy Trot, Liberty Days, Breath of Hope, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Coal City Easter Scramble, Joliet Hospice Care and Will County Humane Society.

The dental center, 645 E. Division St., is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 12 to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To learn more about the services provided by Dr. Trevison and staff visit www.coalcitydental.com. They are also on Facebook and Twitter. To schedule an appointment call at 815-634-4999.

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Riverside helps patients find the best provider

Your relationship with your healthcare provider is one of the most important in your life. You should be able to trust them with your most private health issues or problems and should feel certain he or she is your ally.

You may need to choose a new doctor or advanced practice provider if your current one stops participating in your health insurance plan or no longer satisfies your particular needs.

Steps to Take

- Look for a doctor when you're healthy. When ill or in pain, you won't have the time or energy to carefully gather information about the qualifications or qualities of a new provider.

- Gather names from several sources. Begin by asking your employer or health insurance representative for a list of primary care providers in your plan. In most cases, your out-of-pocket expenses will be less

if you chose a participating provider. Follow up by asking coworkers, friends, and relatives if they would recommend or advise against any of the individuals on the list.

- Consider care from a 'team approach'. Practices that incorporate both physicians and advanced practice providers such as Nurse Practitioners (NPs) or Physician Assistants (PAs) into the health care team can provide the best of both worlds—great care and convenience along with many minds focused on your health and well-being.

Together, these teams will decide the best use of everyone's skills and divide appointments and patient care accordingly. NPs and PAs can be indispensable in handling everyday problems such as sore throats or urinary tract infections or participating in the close monitoring, patient engagement



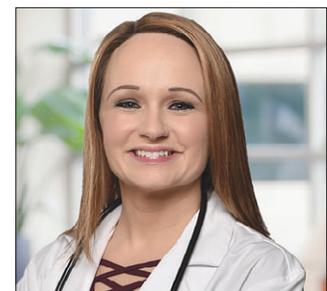
DR. COLIN KAO



WENDY DYER, CNP



Dr. RAYMOND MACEREN.



KARIE PROKOP, PA-C

and education of chronic illnesses while physicians may focus on more complex conditions and patient matters.

- Make an appointment. Before you decide on a provider, make an appointment with one who looks promising. This meeting will help you determine whether you're comfortable with the doctor, the support staff, and the facilities.

Keep in mind that, as a new patient, it may take you longer to get in to see the doctor. Insurance won't pay for a doctor's visit that's not for a checkup or for a health problem, so you should schedule the visit with the intent of establishing care.

What to Ask

- How can I reach you in an emergency?
- Is it always necessary to make an appointment, or will you or a nurse answer routine questions over the phone?
- Who provides care for your patients in your absence?

- At what hospitals do you have privileges? (Make sure the hospital is covered by your insurance.)

Board certification indicates that doctors are highly trained in the specialty they practice. They've had three or more years of training beyond medical school, practiced that specialty for a specified number of years, and passed an examination.

To remain certified, doctors and nurse practitioners must attend continuing medical education programs throughout their careers.

Mistakes to Avoid

- Using your cell phone.

Don't answer that call, text or e-mail. Your health is more important than making plans with friends or answering work e-mails.

- Confusing your provider with a mind reader. The provider needs to know why you're there, along with your expectations of the visit. If you need a refill or think you need to be tested for something, say so.

- Your pants are on fire. Your provider needs to know the best way to treat you, so be honest. Don't lie about drinking habits, sexual activity or drug use (including prescriptions). An accurate family history is important for determining if certain procedures are needed.

- Telling your provider what you think they want to hear. If you don't take vitamins daily, don't say you do. If you miss doses of your prescription, admit it. And if you're not actually putting 30 minutes of exercise 3 days a week, don't claim you are.

Rate Your Visit

Afterward, assess your visit. After following the steps above, ask yourself: Was I treated courteously by the healthcare provider and the office staff? Were all of my questions answered? Did I feel rushed or dismissed? Do I agree with the doctor's office policies and wellness philosophy?

If not satisfied, check with your insurer to see if you can visit another doctor or provider without paying the full cost of the visit.

Give the doctor a try. Just as every doctor has a different style, every patient has different needs. Therefore, it's important to

have a trial period with your prospective doctor to make sure you're comfortable, have clear lines of communication, and receive excellent care. If you're not happy with your doctor, resume your search.

Looking for a new provider near you? Riverside Medical Group has more than 140 providers including primary care physicians and specialists.

Riverside's Coal City Campus and Wilmington Primary Care is home to both primary and specialty

care providers. Dr. Colin Kao, DO and Wendy Dyer, CNP are both accepting new patients in Coal City. Dr. Raymond Maceren, MD and Karie Prokop, PA-C are accepting new patients in Wilmington.

Same day appointments available at both locations.

Learn more about these and other Riverside Medical Group providers by visiting doctors.riversidehealthcare.org or make an appointment today by calling 855-404-DOCS.



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Partners for purpose and progress

As the saying goes, there is strength in numbers - especially when it comes to the partnership of two strong, local, community banks with Midwestern roots.

Busey Bank, headquartered in Champaign, IL, and First Community Financial Bank, with locations throughout Chicagoland, partnered for purpose and progress last year.

Today, both organizations are growing forward, together continuing a shared commitment to providing premier customer service, building and maintaining strong relationships and bridging the needs of communities.

"Service excellence in everything we do is behind the service-oriented culture of both organizations," says Debbie Durando, Vice

President and Mazon Market Branch Manager of Busey Bank.

"Our more than 1,300 combined associates are passionate, committed and dedicated to the success of customers, from homeownership and entrepreneurship to college, retirement and beyond."

For help achieving those dreams, First Community customers now have access to more than 60 banking centers, including 44 conveniently located throughout Illinois, from Joliet and Coal City to Champaign, Decatur and beyond.

Additionally, Busey has 13 branches in the St. Louis, Missouri metropolitan area, five in southwest Florida, one in the Indianapolis, Indiana area and 25,000+ surcharge-free MoneyPass® ATMs across the country.

Beyond the many conveniently located banking centers, Busey also has an innovative suite of online and mobile banking services enabling customers to bank anytime, anywhere.

"Through more than two dozen online and mobile banking services, customers can securely access their money whenever they want, wherever they are," says Durando.

"When you download the Busey Mobile App, you can deposit checks, view recent transactions, find a branch or ATM nearest you, transfer funds and even pay bills, all on your schedule."

Additional capabilities through the Busey and First Community partnership include trust and investment services. Whether the dream is to retire worry-free, save for a child's or grandchild's

education or leave a lasting legacy, Busey Wealth Management's advisors can help achieve them with significant expertise in asset management and estate and retirement planning.

Customers also benefit from expanded commercial banking offerings, including larger lending limits and added expertise. Busey Bank participates in a wide variety of specialized programs and is able to tailor lending packages to the unique situation of customers.

Regardless of size, credit decisions are made quickly by a local, trusted partner.

For farmers and agribusiness owners, Busey Ag Services and Farm Brokerage can provide the resources to manage production costs or to purchase land and equipment.

From the day-to-day operations to planning for future generations, Busey's knowledgeable team understands the unique challenges producers face.

From in-house to online, financial expertise can also be found in the Resource Center on Busey's website, busey.com, featuring Expert Insight articles, financial calculators, podcasts and more.

"Busey also has a MoneySmart Youth program to prepare today's youth for tomorrow's financial responsibility," says Durando.

"Children ages five to 10 can learn how money is used, earned, saved and taxed through complimentary video lessons and interactive worksheets on busey.com."

Educating children on money matters is just one of the many ways Busey helps bridge the needs of the community. Associates of both organizations give generously of their time, volunteering nearly 20,000 hours last year alone, and financial resources, donating more than \$1 million annually.

"We look forward to vol-

unteering during Community Promise Month in April, Busey's month-long initiative that coincides with National Volunteer Month," says Durando.

"Since the inception of Community Promise Month in 2012, Busey associates have volunteered an impressive 10,000 hours. We are excited to further contribute to the cause and support our neighbors in need."

Busey and First Community are true partners for purpose and progress, growing forward, together and building upon the history of service excellence of both organizations.

To learn more about this partnership, including the expanded expertise and solutions to your personal, business and wealth management needs, visit any one of Busey's many convenient locations, including Braidwood, Coal City and Mazon, call 1-800-671 Busey or visit busey.comtoday.



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Please come join us

We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at U.S. Bank, 417 S. Water St., Wilmington. Learn more about gardening from guest speakers, garden enthusiasts and more. For details Carol 815-476-2469 or Judy 815-476-1875

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\$33,316 Conditional Price



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Stk# J139

\$33,460 List
- \$3,000 Savings

\$30,460 Sale
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- \$3,000 Conquest

\$26,710 Conditional Price



2018 Sierra 1500 Double Cab Elevation Edition

Stk# J103

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\$40,579 Sale
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\$37,079 Conditional Price



2018 Sierra 2500 HD Crew Cab Duramax SLT

Stk# J118

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\$63,689 Sale
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- \$1,000 Down Payment Assist

\$60,189 Conditional Price



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Fox River Foot & Ankle strives for quality podiatric care

Fox River Foot & Ankle Center PC provides quality podiatric care within Coal City, Oswego, and the Channahon/ Minooka area.

The practice specializes in podiatric medicine treating all conditions of the foot and ankle.

The clinic's mission: To continually strive for "one stop treatment convenience for our patients." This goal is achieved through the clinic offering a podiatry service center where the majority of patient care may be met on site.

This means a minimized need for additional appointments, and helping patients meet the goal of walking comfortably on their own feet.

The clinic offers diagnostic and treatment options in house, including fluoroscopy, diagnostic soft tissue ultrasound, physical therapy, and on site x-ray in their Oswego location. Additionally, the clinics are Durable Medical Equipment suppliers within the scope of the practice, so walking casts, braces, knee walkers, shoes, etc., may be dispensed on site.

Helping patients understand their insurance coverage is a priority within the clinic.

The staff takes the extra step of contacting each insurance company to get a quote from the patient's plan in relation to the possible treatment.

The clinic believes in helping patients sift through the details of their coverage, while encouraging the patients to steward their own medical care. It is a philosophy of self-empowered choice through knowledge.

The clinics' treatment options can address all conditions of the foot and ankle, from ESWT non-invasive treatment for heel pain, laser treatment for fungal nails, new and improved surgical techniques for correction of bunions or addressing ingrown nails, warts, sprains and strains.

The clinic evaluates each patient indi-

vidually to offer the best treatment options for their specific situation.

The clinics have recently brought in additional stem cell therapies that have been successfully helping patients with healing chronic and acute wounds, sports medicine injuries, as well as surgical applications to provide a barrier to reduce the amount of scar tissue formation, provide a local anti-inflammatory and help with soft tissue healing of the area.

Dr. Howard Craig Fox has been the owner and primary podiatrist for the clinics. He graduated with a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine from Des Moines University.

He completed his residency at Michigan Hospital Medical Center, and is a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association and the Illinois Podiatric Medical Association. Dr. Fox is Board Certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery by the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery.

Dr. Kyle V. Templin joined the practice in December 2016. Dr. Templin works with the clinic at all three of the clinic locations. He graduated from Rosalind Frankly University - Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine.

He completed his residency at Presence St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago.

Both of their doctors look forward to getting to know you and offer treatment plans that are both non-surgical and surgical options - and happily address all questions or concerns.

Fox River Foot & Ankle Center PC has locations at:

- 810 E. Division in Coal City, 815-634-2324
- 2081 Ridge Road, Suite 113 in Minooka (in Jewel outlot), 815-521-9347
- 3963 US HWY 34 in Oswego, 630-551-3338

Additional information, as well as appointments may be requested online via their website at www.fox-feet.com.

Wilmington Lions serve the community

The Wilmington Lions Club plays an integrate part in the community, living up to its motto, "We serve."

The Lions are a group of hard working people that like to bring joy and happiness to their neighbors.

In the past five years, the Wilmington Lions Club has started hosting an Easter egg hunt and fishing derby on the South Island, the Party In the Park on the North Island, and a puzzle exchange at the Lions Hall.

Meals on Wheels is hosted at the Lions Hall. Meals are sent to local citizens Monday through Friday at no cost.

The Wilmington Lions Club still holds it's annual Spook Hike and the Island Christmas Walk. Both events raise money that the Lions put back into the community such as purchasing eye glasses and hearing aids for those in need, and awarding two scholarships each year to Wilmington High School

graduates.

The Lions Club still has an extensive supply of wheel chairs, walkers and shower chairs to lend out to Wilmington residents.

The Lions meet at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month unless otherwise posted. New members are always welcome and visitors are invited to attend.

The Wilmington Lions Club is located at 805 River St.

Sunshine Garden Center continues to grow with more garden ideas

Sunshine Garden Center is a second-generation garden center and one of Diamond's oldest businesses.

Since 2013, they have made significant changes to the store, their products and focus. Last year they were recognized in Voyage Chicago Magazine for a unique take on retail. 2018 will be the year where people really see the vision of what Sunshine Garden Center has been working towards come to life.

This year there is a more

cohesive feel as you walk through the store and out into the greenhouse and gardens.

In 2018, you will see a more prominent local product mix, more inspiration and ideas, unique items, and a more comfortable shopping environment.

Last fall, they began the installation of a new display garden to tie in with the existing vegetable garden.

The garden center wants adults and children to feel at home here.

"We continue to tweak

our layout to make it easier to maneuver and shop. This is our fourth year having regular business hours through the winter and we are continually changing what you find when you come in," commented owner Sarah Beach.

This year they are building onto their events and classes. Last year Sunshine hosted Makers' Marts and Pop Up Shops in the greenhouse from October through March. The Fairy Festival and Coal City Jr. Women's Clubs Witch's Night Out will

be returning.

The Make and Take Classes are coming back and evolving as well. They are also launching some new events throughout the year. Beginning April 14, Beach will have a Kids in the Garden Series. Each Saturday morning, kids can come out and work in the gardens with her. They'll get dirty, learn and have fun.

Yoga will also be back over the summer for an 8-week series. There are also plans for a Meet Me in The Garden Series, complete

with food trucks, so watch for details on that.

The biggest announcement yet is that Sunshine Garden Center is now booking private events. Packages will range from small gatherings for a girl's night out or private make and take class to team building and larger scale events (like a family reunion or fundraiser). You can rent the greenhouse or one of the gardens for a truly unique venue.

Clubs that need space to meet have also been thought of. This program is in its final stages of planning and will be announced at the end of March.

It's no secret that Sunshine Garden Center supports locals and small businesses. It has been the basis of what they do for years. Sarah was recently

recognized by American Express for her work as a Neighborhood Champion for Small Business Saturday in November.

The garden center is perpetually grateful for the opportunities they have had to help improve the community and bring back new life to it.

From helping build playgrounds to being a part of the Market Fresh on Broadway Farmers Market, to helping kickstart local small businesses, Sunshine is looking forward to new projects this year and new opportunities.

You can expect that 2018 will follow suit and Sunshine Garden Center will continue to do what they can and help continue to grow the community.

Old Smokey to undergo drainage project

The Braidwood Park District has its eye on a number of improvements this year, including the continua-

tion of work to bring some new ballfields to Old Smokey City Park.

"We are still working in

conjunction with [Braidwood Baseball and Softball Association] to create a new multi-level ball field," explained park district secretary Josh Bolatto. "At the beginning of last year, we brought onboard the engineering firm of M. Gingerich, Gereaux and Associates (MG2A) to provide engineering services for an upcoming drainage project. We also asked MG2A to review our ongoing projects, including the development of the proposed baseball field which was to be located on the site where the small Old Smokey sledding hill was located."

Bolatto said the plans for the new ballfields have run behind the original intended schedule, after board members expressed concerns about proper guidelines for spectator seating buffer zones, parking constrictions and vehicle turning radius constrictions.

A review of those concerns put the plans for the new fields on hold for further review.

Also in the works for 2018 is a storm sewer drainage project.

Park district officials said that over the past several years, drainage issues have made themselves known throughout the park following rainfall events.

The district's first priority is in the south parking lot near the corner junction where the ball fields, walking path, parking lot and playground areas meet. The area becomes very muddy and slippery when it rains as runoff from the gravel parking lot covers the waking path, and it can take several hours for water to drain out of that area.

The district will install drainage pipe and outlets for the first phase of the project, set to begin in April. Due to the district's tight budget, the second phase may be moved to the agenda for 2019.

Other projects on deck for 2018 include continuing community events at the parks, including the Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt, the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life Party In The Park, the Braidwood Lions Club's Annual Summerfest, the Braidwood Police Department's National Night Out, the city of Braidwood's Annual Scarecrow Festival and the Braidwood Lions Annual Halloween Hot Dog Giveaway.

Information on the Braidwood Park District's activities and events can be found online, at braidwood-parkdistrict.com.

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www.diamondtherapycenter.net



Diamond Therapy devoted to health and well being

Diamond Therapy has been devoted to the communities' health and well being for over 20 years.

It is a multidisciplinary practice that offers chiropractic care, massage therapy, nutritional counseling and physical therapy.

Diamond Therapy staff believe that "we are treating the cause, not just the symptoms" and are truly vested in their patients' well-being and will do whatever they can to get you to a better state of health.

It is now the only facility in the area to offer (FDA cleared) advanced decompression therapy which is a non-surgical treatment of bulging, herniated, degenerative, spinal stenosis, ruptured disks, as well as failed surgeries in the cervical and lumbar region.

Decompression therapy effectively enhances the healing process and often renders quick, effective and amazing pain relief that enables most patients to return to a more active lifestyle.

Decompression therapy begins with a series of sessions, typically three to four times per week. Each session is approximately eight to 12 minutes.

During each session, electrical muscle stimulation or ultrasound may be applied to help relax the muscles and promote healing of injured tissues.

After treatment, specific exercises may be prescribed

that are designed to help regain proper control and strength of the stabilization muscles which can help create long-term benefits.

At Diamond Therapy Center each patient is treated as a unique individual that requires a customized treatment plan taking into consideration each person's own abilities, needs and goals.

Doctors and therapists are committed to stay advanced in their treatment knowledge by attending numerous seminars and continuing education classes throughout the year.

Through extensive training and expertise, the staff can provide individualized treatment options and better quality of care designed to improve flexibility, stability, strength, and endurance, thereby reducing stress and muscular fatigue, and allowing patients to recover quickly.

Early diagnosis and treatment of any injury is essential for the best recovery outcome. Treatment can help minimize detrimental effects that may occur, even years later, if injuries are not treated as soon as possible.

The staff at Diamond Therapy Center in Diamond is committed to helping their patients fight these detrimental effects, including chronic illness, injury, pain, fatigue, fibromyalgia and degenerative or arthritic conditions.

Diamond Therapy

Center is located at 1370 East Division St. in Diamond. The 3,000 square foot facility features state-of-the-art high performance therapy and rehabilitation equipment in a large open setting with six private rooms available and x-rays on site.

Custom feet orthotics are also offered at Diamond Therapy Center. Orthotics help with balance and stabilization problems, which can cause discomfort or pain in the feet, ankles, knees, hips, back, and possibly up to the shoulder and neck regions.

Improved support in the arches of feet can help fight issues such as poor posture, muscle tension, weakness, fatigue, pain, heel spurs, scoliosis, degenerative and arthritic changes, bunions, plantar fasciitis, and even neurologic conditions.

Diamond Therapy Center also carries items for purchase, including Rock Sauce Ice and Fire, KT and RockTape, Biofreeze lotion, custom-made foot orthotics, exercise balls, resistance tubing, neck and back pillows, TENS units, home traction units, vitamins and supplements.

Diamond Therapy Center is committed to providing exceptional care and service to the community.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center at 815.634.0755.

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Community GMC planning a 50th year celebration, new Sierra arrival

Community GMC is not your typical automotive dealership. Walk into the Wilmington showroom and you'll notice a difference.

No fancy displays, no vehicles staged under flashy lights, just a down-to-basics approach to finding the vehicle that's right for you.

It's a difference that has stood the test of time as Community GMC prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary under the Zouganelis family. Coming in May the dealership is planning a Golden Anniversary with festivities in the works. It's going to be fun.

For nearly five decades the Zouganelis family has sold luxury. When George Sr. was in charge, luxury meant buying an

Oldsmobile, not so much a pick-up truck. But today, with George Jr. in charge, GMC trucks and SUVs come standard with luxury and award-winning engineering.

That is apparent in the Denali lineup of Sierra pickups, the Yukon, Acadia and Terrain. Denali sets a higher standard with first-class appointments, the latest technology, and advanced safety features second to none. Denali is the pinnacle of what it means to be professional grade.

"Denali signifies comfort and quality with attention to detail, including premium features and materials," Zouganelis said. "Leather-appointed, heated driver and front-passenger seating, uncompromised cabin quietness,

real aluminum trim, unique seat trims and French stitching is just a taste of the luxury of comfort and style you get in a Denali."

While other manufacturers have moved away from luxury sport utility vehicles and trucks, GMC understands this niche market.

Zouganelis said excitement is building for the arrival of the next generation 2019 GMC Sierra coming in the fall of this year.

"It's the largest, boldest Sierra ever with the new multipro tailgate that will function six different ways, a multi-color 3"x7" head-up display with rear camera, touch-screen driver information center, an advanced powertrain and safety advancements," Zouganelis noted.

"It's going to be a real step up in the pick-up market. So the market is good right now and GMC has been out front with the Sierra and Denali SUVs."

Community GMC backs every vehicle it sells with certified service and a rewards program that can be applied to future parts and services, such as oil changes and tires.

The service department at Community invested in a state-of-the-art tire and wheel balancer. It actually simulates the weight of the vehicle on the wheel and tire while being balanced, so a tire technician can adjust for a smoother ride.

Community has always had tire service with their price match guarantee backed by GM. Competitive prices help keep peo-

ple loyal to the dealer, with specials on items such as brakes, tires and oil changes.

"We have a full line of GM accessories, Rough Country lift kits, tires and wheels, along with a complete array of commercial up-fits available to get your new GMC ready for work or play," Zouganelis commented.

Community GMC, featuring new, used and certified pre-owned vehicles, provides a dozen jobs in Wilmington, while keeping an average inventory of 40+ new and 30+ used and/or certified pre-owned vehicles.

Visit Community GMC at 317 S. Water St. in Wilmington, and online www.communitygmc.com.

Braidwood Lions Club

Christmas in July will arrive during Summerfest

The Braidwood Lions Club was chartered on Feb. 24, 1969 and currently is comprised of 28 members and dozens of non-member volunteers.

Members of the club are committed to serving those in need, and the community, by providing sight and sound humanitarian services, community events and beautification projects.

The focus of Lions all across the globe is to provide sight and sound humanitarian services to those in need, and the Braidwood Lions pride themselves in being able to provide these services to the visually and hearing impaired who reside within the Braidwood, Godley and Shadow Lakes communities.

Each year, the club assists dozens of residents and school children in need with obtaining eye exams and glasses as well as hearing screenings and hearing aids. Funds generated from various fundraisers throughout the year help to make these services and projects possible.

The club's members and volunteers are gearing up for

the 37th year of fun in the sun and all the excitement that comes during the annual Braidwood Lions Club Summerfest. The club's festival, the largest fundraiser of the year, will feature a "Christmas In July" theme and kicks off on Thursday, July 19 and runs through Sunday, July 22 in the Braidwood Park District's Old Smokey City Park.

The four-day festival will once again feature loads of family and community-oriented fun including carnival rides, games, food vendors, bingo games, free live entertainment, kids' activities and much, much more.

There's something for everyone to enjoy during what has become the largest community event of the summer. The annual Summerfest Flea Market Arts and Crafts Show will take place on Saturday and Sunday during the festival and the Hometown Proud Parade will kick off at 1 p.m. Sunday afternoon along Braidwood's Main Street.

Sunday night, a spectacular fireworks display will light up the skies above the festival grounds starting at

9:30 p.m. Information and registration packets for all Summerfest events, activities, entertainment & competitions will be available soon on the club's website www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

While Summerfest may be the club's largest event of the year, numerous other event are sponsored or hosted by the Braidwood Lions. The Lions are raising funds for new playground equipment at the Lions Kiddie Park on Lincoln Street in Braidwood. Over the past year, the club has raise money with proceeds earmarked for the purchase of playground equipment and members appreciate the support that will benefit children of the community.

Visit the club's website or check out their Facebook page for updates club activities.

The Braidwood Lions thank the residents of Braidwood, Godley and Shadow Lakes for their continued support and look forward to serving the communities for years to come.

Braidwood Historical Society worth a visit

The Braidwood Area Historical Society (BAHS) will celebrate its 11th anniversary in March, and in April its seventh year of occupying the museum.

Special displays of U.S. presidents and their families were featured during February and unique veterans' artifacts were featured from May 30 through July 4 at the museum in 2017.

As usual, BAHS participated in many community events including the Red Carpet Route 66 Corridor event the first Saturday in May, the June Braidwood Garage Sale Days and the July Braidwood Lions Summerfest festivities and plan to do so again this year.

The museum, at 111 N. Center St., had approximately 200 visitors in 2017. It features artifacts from the area's coal mines and historical displays of local churches, schools, businesses, industries and the railroad.

"Braidwood Sesquicentennial - 15 Decades of Work and Play" (\$20), "The Braidwood Story" (\$25) and "Traveling the Historic Route 66" are available for purchase at the museum along with small bags of coal, vintage postcards and informational booklets.

The museum is open every Saturday from noon to

3 p.m., and from May through August will also be open on Sundays from noon to 3 p.m.

Appointments to visit

can be made by calling Ed at 815-458-2431 or Carida at 815-258-4026. There is never an admission charge but donations are appreciated.



The Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC),

a 501c3 organization founded in 2008, is a group of local volunteers from all sectors dedicated to the betterment of the community.

Are you interested in learning more about the BAHCC?

Are you interested in becoming involved?

Regular meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the board room at our new home: The Center (the former Reed Custer Primary School), 25445 S Washington St., Custer Park, IL 60481. Anyone who is interested in getting involved—from youth to senior—is invited to attend.



www.braidwoodcoalition.org

Allegra Coal City expands services in 2018

A new year brings new services to Allegra Coal City, the area's full-service printer.

The print shop located at 273 S. Broadway has served Grundy County with quality printing services since 1948.

"Deciding how to promote your business is more challenging than ever, because there are simply so many choices to consider. Allegra works to solve that problem for your business, helping you determine the right role, the right mix and the creative strategies to help you reach your business goals," said owner Todd Garcia.

Three new enhancements have been added in the areas of mailing services, marketing programs and production equipment.

Allegra continues to invest in the local production facility, adding equipment to improve quality, increase capability, while keeping prices affordable.

New additions include the Horizon CRF 362 creaser/folder, to improve the quality of its finishing solutions for digitally produced products, as well as the iJet Color Memjet envelope printer to provide a new level of capability in envelope production and affordability.

As part of its commitment to continue to offer the best solutions, Allegra has invested in the mailing services of the facility by introducing new mailing software to leverage the variable print capabilities of the existing digital process equipment in house.

"This means Allegra will be able to offer even greater flexibility to their clients, allowing them to deliver exiting and personalized offers to their customers.

To complement its mailing services, Allegra has recently added the DirectConnect solution to its marketing services

lineup. The DirectConnect product combines the power of print, digital and social marketing channels into one streamlined solution, while providing the tools to track performance and return on investment.

According to Garcia, the solution helped one organization achieve a 30 percent increase over the prior year's campaign.

"Even with all the new additions, our primary focus remains providing the level of customer service our customers have come to expect," Garcia said.

Allegra Coal City, managed by Dan Royer, is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. To learn more about the services visit the website at www.allegracoalcity.com.

J&C Travel plans the perfect getaway

Travel changes constantly. But for Angie Hutton, that's a challenge she and her coworkers at J&C Travel are happy to take on to keep customers happy.

"I like being in the travel industry not only for the daily learning but for the people I have met," Hutton said. "There are so many challenges when booking someone's special trip! Making someone's dreams come true, going above and beyond what they expected from their trip make the hours so worthwhile. I have met so many people I would not have met if not for the travel business and I love the friendships."

Hutton has attended conferences near and far, including Jamaica, Mexico, Fiji, St. Croix, and St. Lucia all to pass that knowledge along to clients.

"There is so much out there to see, but learning about the countries from those who live and work there is so fulfilling," Hutton said. "Our agency shares packing tips, passport rules, being married on a cruise ship versus being married at resort, rules for destination weddings and more."

Hutton said that traveling is not just about picking a destination, but also about a lot of planning. It's that planning that J&C Travel is expert at fulfilling.

Hutton recently trained with Bernadette Smith, a

travel expert with insider tips. She also attended a tourism conference in Las Vegas, gaining knowledge to help travelers from all walks of life, including traveling as a family, as singles, or for LGBTQ, bachelor or bachelorette parties.

"Alaska, Fiji, Grenada, Barbados are very exciting places my clients are going to," Hutton said "Networking with other agents, meeting the general managers from the resorts is so helpful in finding the right place for each person. Staying on top of the resorts being built, changes to the ones that are already on the clients' radar, knowing which resort is good for children, which resort has walk-out rooms, or even which has room service is always on top the list of things to learn... Research is always ongoing!"

"One of the things I'm proud of is that I am available for clients from the time we start the process of finding a vacation/honeymoon/destination wedding, right up to the time they return," Hutton said. "I am there as a resource, so they can make decisions on travel. I love being able to take care of some of the stress. It is so refreshing to help!"

Reach Hutton at 815-353-3053, <http://jctravelinc.com>, and on Facebook by searching Angie Hutton - J&C Travel.

Dive on in to Genuine Pool Care

Swim suit season is approaching and Genuine Pool Care is here to get your pool ready for those sunny summer days.

"We always enjoy seeing our customers in the spring after the winter months," said Maureen Bloom, who owns and operates the pool care center with her husband, Jim.

The Blooms' dove into the business nearly 27 years ago when they started a pool service company, and for the past 10, they have operated a retail shop in Coal City.

Having a retail store was something they always had in the back of their minds, so when an opportunity presented itself they took a leap and jumped in.

Since opening the doors of the retail shop, Genuine Pool Care has expanded its services and product lines.

The business provides swimming pool and spa service, specializing in the opening and closing of pools, as well as weekly maintenance for both above- and in-ground pools.

The retail location carries a wide range of pool and spa chemical brands, there is something to fit all water chemistry demands and product types. And, they offer free water testing.

Jim and Maureen pride themselves in providing genuine services and supplies at a fair price and ensuring their customers receive chemicals and solutions that work.

In addition to chemicals, Genuine Pool Care carries a variety of pool and spa

supplies, floats and pool toys.

To stay current in the field and provide clients the best products available the couple attends a few of the annual pool shows.

This spring, customers can look forward to checking out the new toys and games that will be offered in the store, as well as pool deck decor.

Maureen reports the retail shop is carrying Lobster Trap Art, decor for the home and pool deck. The items crafted in Islamorada in the Florida Keys. They also have a selection of resin animal pool deck statues.

Pool and spa patrons often look forward to the shops big Customer Appreciation, Memorial Day and Fourth of July sales. A calendar of events noting these special events are among items Genuine Pool Care posts on its Facebook page.

"The retail store is celebrating 10 years in Coal City and we look forward to serving our community for many years to come," Maureen said.

In season, May to November, Genuine Pool is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with limited winter hours. For information or to schedule an appointment call 815-634-8535, visit genuinepools.com or their Facebook page, you can even drop them an e-mail at genuinepools@comcast.net.



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Reeves, Baskerville Funeral Homes continue to earn prestigious awards

Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. and Baskerville Funeral Home continue to be an elite funeral service provider that is raising the bar on funeral service excellence, all while providing an unsurpassed commitment to families and the local communities.

The National Funeral Directors Association Chief Executive Officer, Christine Pepper, CAE commended the funeral homes by stating, "Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes reflect a clear determination to exceed the expectations of those they serve... Families can be assured of the high-quality, compassionate service they will receive the moment they walk through the funeral homes' front door."

The funeral homes continue to be awarded the National Funeral Directors Association's most prestigious award, The Pursuit of Excellence Eagle Award.

Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City benchmarked the 11th year, and Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington was proud to have been bestowed the award for the 17th year.

This prestigious honor is awarded to NFDA-member funeral homes that consistently exceed business standards set forth by the Pursuit of Excellence program. To earn this, the funeral homes must demonstrate proficiency in key areas of funeral service.

This includes compliance with state and federal regulations; providing ongoing education and professional development oppor-

tunities for staff; offering outstanding programs and resources to bereaved families; maintaining an active level of involvement within their communities; participating and actively serving in the funeral service profession; and promoting funeral home services through a variety of marketing, advertising and public relations programs.

"This award may not be important to those who year after year read of our funeral homes receiving it, but what is important is what we do to earn it," said Matt Baskerville.

"We are extremely proud to be a progressive and innovative leader in funeral and cremation services. We are reminded everyday how grateful family members are for the compassion and care they receive from us at their most difficult times."

In October of 2017, Matt Baskerville attended the National Funeral Directors Association International Convention and Expo held in Boston, MA. This included more than 16 hours of continuing education seminars in funeral service, as well as introduced hundreds of new funeral products, services and resources. It also provided networking among funeral directors across the country and the world.

"I feel it is truly important to be abreast of the newest offerings that we can provide to the families that we serve," said Baskerville.

"I am gratified to know that so many of the offerings and services that we piloted

and trail blazed, have become service standards locally."

From video tributes, fingerprint and handmade glass memorial keepsakes, online presence and offerings, personal memorial walls, and interactive social media (to mention a few), you can always count on Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes to be at the forefront of current and relative resources.

Matt was also honored to have the opportunity to speak at the convention about the importance of being a Certified Crematory Operator (CCO), as well as being a certified cremation services provider.

"With families choosing cremation services more than in years past, understanding our professional and ethical obligations when it comes to serving families that prefer cremation is more important than ever," said Baskerville.

"This is why we have gone above and beyond to become certified as crematory operators and service providers."

Reeves and Baskerville not only offer traditional flame cremation, but are also the only funeral homes in the area to have introduced flameless cremation. They have been offering this eco-friendly option for the past 5 years, and welcome anyone who may have questions or be interested in this alternative option to watch the video on their website, or contact any one of their funeral services professionals.

The entire family of staff understand relationships and grief. They possess years of experience, skill, and knowledge to compassionately help survivors through all of the decisions that occur at a time of loss, and can sensibly guide individuals at a time of advance planning needs, as well.

A funeral or celebration of life is an event that requires responsible planning, much like a birth, wedding, graduation, anniversary or retirement. Reeves

and Baskerville Funeral Homes offer advance funeral planning options for every individual and budget, and can meet you in your home or one of theirs, seven days a week, with no obligation.

Their funeral homes are the only local funeral homes that have Certified Prearrangement Consultants on staff. Individuals can be assured when working with one of their staff making advance funeral plans, that they are licensed, trained and certified to handle any pre-payment options.

It is the mission, passion and purpose of Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes, to provide a personal, meaningful, and healing funeral or memorial experience for every family. They strive to be innovative, progressive, and proactive in designing a tribute to a life lived, and to accomplish this within the framework of one's individual faith, traditions, and customs.

Funeral Director/President Matt Baskerville is a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner (CFSP), Certified Prearrangement Consultant (CPC), Certified Crematory Operator (CCO) and Certified Funeral Celebrant (CFC).

He works alongside Funeral Director Alex Nolan, CCO; Funeral Director Jim Benuska; Business Manager and Aftercare Specialist John Fonck, CPC; Advance Funeral Planning Consultant and Celebrant Violette Baskerville, CPC, CFC; and Executive Administrator Sheila Allen.

A host of dedicated support staff who represent their services, welcome you to the funeral homes and maintain the facilities include Ray and Kenna Baskerville, Scott Kuriger, Sandi Dransfeldt, Jan Hibler, John Hollmeyer, Kay Attaway, Robin Cirrencione, Don Jensen, Dr. Craig Eckert, Gregory Reeves, Joe Fonck, Cecilia Storbeck, Allison Anderson, Julie Leiter, Mary Rossio and Betty VanWinsen.

Leo and Karen Reeves, as well as Roger Freitag also

continue to be active advisors and continuous support to the operations.

In July of 2017, the funeral homes were also excited to welcome Katie, their grief therapy dog. Katie is a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel who has already truly comforted and put smiles on countless family members, attendees and children in the funeral homes.

She is currently still undergoing training, and is anticipated to begin formal grief therapy school later in 2018. Katie has certainly become one of the most popular team members of the funeral home, and as she matures and completes her training, she will be seen more, not only in the funeral homes, but throughout the communities.

Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes understand that families have a choice when they select a funeral home and funeral director. It is a very important decision and can ultimately have a lifelong, lasting impression. There is certainly much more to consider than the bricks and mortar of the building, which establishes the business.

When making funeral arrangements, whether at a time of need or in advance, individuals need to be comfortable with whom they are working with. They need to know that they are being cared for by professionals whom not only can offer everything the larger funeral services professionals provide, but can extend individual and personal attention when it matters most.

The family of staff at Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes are the very individuals who have been raised and educated in the local communities, as well as call Will and Grundy County their home.

Reeves and Baskerville have comfortable, well furnished, boutique style funeral home locations in Morris, Coal City, Gardner and Wilmington. However, their first class services are not restricted to the physical funeral home facilities.

Through countless professional relationships with funeral homes in Chicago, the suburbs and throughout Illinois, Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes can also accommodate most any out of town arrangements.

The funeral homes have been voted the Best Funeral Service Provider in Grundy County, as well as one of the Best of Will County, year after year.

This is just an example of the dedication, compassion, attention to detail and unparalleled level of service that Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes have to offer.

Check out the testimonies of families who have been served by Reeves and Baskerville at www.Reeves-Baskerville.com.

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Inside Trinity Knot

Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire keeps the community moving

Bob Davis is always looking out for his customers. His goal is to keep the community moving, be it a set of new tires, routine maintenance, or an overhaul of your vehicle's engine.

Since opening Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire in 2010, Davis has experienced steady growth in business, so much so he enlarged his repair shop, added a secure space for long-term storage and in the past year expanded the business' towing service with a heavy duty tow truck.

An ASE certified auto repair and tire shop, Bob's Advanced Auto specializes in complete auto and light truck repair, as well as tire repair and replacement.

Services include, but are not limited to, computer diagnostics, engine repairs and overhauls, belt replacement, muffler repairs, elec-

trical diagnosis and repairs, transmission service, repair and replacement, and full computerized wheel alignment.

The shop also offers fuel system service, oil changes and filter replacement, as well as battery replacement and towing service.

"We pride ourselves in providing expert auto repair and maintenance service. We dedicate ourselves to doing faster, more reliable services. Most repairs and maintenance is completed the same day. We have the technicians, vendor relationships and the service bays to make sure this happens," said Davis, a certified ASE master technician.

All of the service techs at Bob's Advanced Auto are ASE certified and utilize state-of-the-art equipment.

"Our customers know we care about them and



BOB'S ADVANCED AUTO and Tire Repair has added a heavy-duty tow truck to its roadside emergency fleet in order to serve its customers better. The service shop offers 24-hour towing.

their cars. Most of our customers have been with us for many years. We have grown our business based on referrals from satisfied customers," Davis said.

Davis and his staff are involved in the community and the shop supports numerous fundraisers and community events.

Located at 60 E. Chestnut St., the shop is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. To make an appointment or schedule a tow call 815-634-0004. To keep up with what's going on at the shop like Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire, Inc. on Facebook.

Two Cousins Quilting now at Trinity Knot

Kim Solley began offering quilting and simple alterations at Kimmy's Korner four years ago.

A few years later her cousin, Deb Galvan, joined her to offer crocheting and knitting in addition to quilting and alterations, and the name was changed to Two Cousins Quilting.

They made the decision eight months ago to move to the Trinity Knot at 119 N. Water St. The move has provided them the opportunity to improve their services, expand classes and add more merchandise such as fabric, ribbon and quilting supplies. If they don't have it, they will get it.

Longarm quilting services are also offered at a competitive rate. Quilting is a big part of the business. Solley and Galvan offer vintage quilt repair, custom quilts, T-shirt quilts and memory quilts from a loved one's clothing.

In the upcoming year they plan to expand classes to include quilting, crocheting, knitting and fabric painting, and continue to increase notions, fabrics and yarns. Everyone is invited to stop by and check out the calendar of classes.

The two cousins love

having their own business. They enjoy meeting with customers and sharing their knowledge of quilting and crafts. They pride themselves in the fact that they are self-taught like many other experienced quilters. Kim has 25 years of quilting experience. Deb has five years experience and tributes her skills to the training she's received from Kim. They are always learning to keep current.

Last year Two Cousins Quilting donated a Patriot quilt to American Gold Star Moms to use for a fundraiser.

Future plans are being made for Blankets of Comfort, quilts for the elderly, homeless, cancer patients and anyone else needing a hug, and Pillowcase Happiness, pillowcases made from fabric for children who are hospitalized.

People are pleasantly surprised when they discover Two Cousins Quilting inside the back half of one of The Trinity Knot's buildings. So stop by and meet Kim and Deb Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They can be reached at 815-545-1824.



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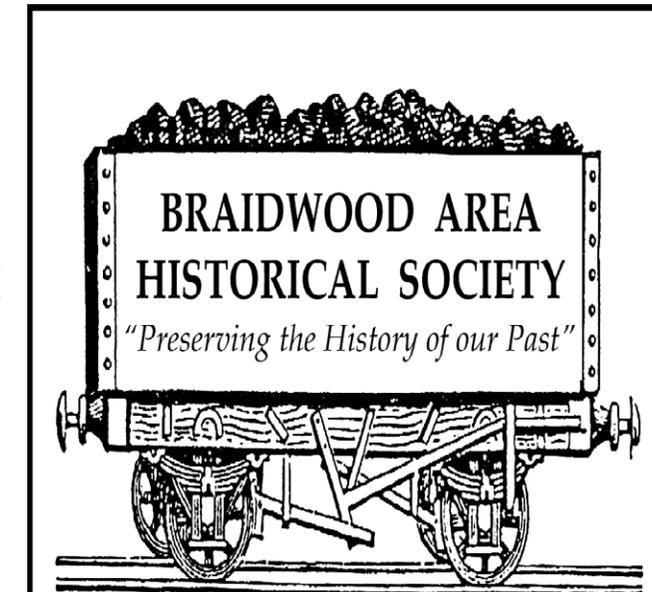
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The Flower Loft provides the unique for local communities

In May 2014 when an opportunity came about to re-open the Flower Loft, it only seemed right to fill need for a full service florist and unique gift boutique within the community.

"We are proud to be part of the community because we wanted to re-establish the long earned reputation that The Flower Loft created over the previous several decades," Cecilia Storbeck commented.

Cecilia is the professional floral designer who worked alongside previous owner Bonnie Southall prior to the devastating fire in May 2006 that closed the doors of the shop located in the historic downtown building.

Over the past four years, the shop has definitely taken on more than fresh flowers and plants. Several lines of unique gifts, merchandise, jewelry and home decor items are ever changing at The Flower Loft.

One of the best selling lines continue to be Lampe Berger, Paris - home fragrances and lamps. Other familiar and regularly updated offerings include: Moving Flame - Flameless Candles; Darren Gygi - home décor artwork for home, hobby and holiday and Kindred

Hearts Authentic American Made Gifts, that inspire the soul.

Newer and increasingly popular lines include Lizzy James, handmade convertible jewelry; Strung, hand-crafted bracelets with soul; Liza's Jewelry, high quality German made crystal stackable accessories; Kinzig Designs lamps, which are each hand made by accomplished artisan sisters in San Francisco; Second Hand by Nature, local Midwestern reclaimed barn wood home décor and the newest collection: My Saint My Hero, which includes hand crafted accessories that bring faith, hope and purpose into everyday life.

The Flower Loft is a member of the Downtown Merchants Association, and Storbeck is the current president. The Flower Loft participates in the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Event, Bewitched on Route 66, The Chamber of Commerce Holiday festivities, and late night shopping events, and as well as the Summer Water Street Markets, and ongoing attractions that draw visitors and residents to the downtown.

Nick Facchina, the shop manager said, "3-D Creative

Crystal Art by far, has been the most talked about product we have brought into the shop. Your photo can be turned into a three dimensional crystal piece of art. Indescribable by words, you must stop in the shop to see our display of various shapes and sizes."

The shop is known for its holiday open house in November. The Flower Loft was again recognized by the Readers Choice Awards, as The Best Florists Will County.

"We are honored to be a dominant provider of flowers for weddings, birthdays, funerals, memorials, anniversaries, baptisms, get well, thinking of you, congratulations, new home, loss of a pet, just because, thank you, holiday, new neighbor, new baby, welcome home, bar/bat Mitzvah, homecoming, prom, and the list goes on..." said Storbeck.

The popular perpetual arrangement program serves a variety of needs from cemetery services to holiday, special date and regular floral orders on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or seasonal plan.

In January of this year, The Flower Loft attended the International Home and Gift

Show at the AmericasMart in Atlanta, GA.

The Flower Loft's Facebook page, with 2,000 followers, offers 'sneak peaks' at the buyer's market, and also keep followers first in the know of specials, sales and promotions.

The Flower Loft has followers on Instagram and Twitter too. Their seasonal newsletters provide details of current inventory, offers, flower and plant education, as well as the ongoing events in the shop and community.

The Flower Loft serves Wilmington, Braidwood, Channahon, Coal City, Diamond, Elwood, Gardner, Goose Lake, South Wilmington, and everywhere in between.

Deliveries are made to all hospitals in Joliet, New Lenox, Kankakee and Morris, and they take orders in shop, by phone and by the web at www.TFLoft.com.

Coming soon, The Flower Loft is excited to roll out a new website. Aside from having a fresh look that is easier to navigate, it will feature predominantly their own designs - and not the "cookie cutter" designs that you see on most florists' websites.

They will also be open-

ing the website up for additional retail and online offerings that were only found in the store.

The Flower Loft takes pride in re-commerce and loves it when their valued customers return to the shop with their own vases and containers. The floral designers on staff have designed countless arrangements not only with fresh flowers, but also with high quality silks.

"If you have a favorite container, bring it in, and we will refresh or replenish it," said floral designer Kim Wilcoxon. "We also have many reclaimed items throughout the shop that are used as display and prop pieces."

The philosophy at The Flower Loft is simple, "To provide high quality and unique floral creations, as well as all-occasion gifts." They have established a beautiful boutique style

shop that is constantly changing.

Fresh flowers and plants are available daily, new merchandise weekly and specials seasonally. All of the above, while interacting with an extremely friendly and knowledgeable staff.

The Flower Loft is a member of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, The Downtown Merchant Association and The Wilmington Rotary.

"We are humbled and most appreciative of the support and patronage that Wilmington and the surrounding communities continue to show us. Our shop has grown, as has our staff and offerings to meet the needs and desires of our customers" stated Facchina.

The Flower Loft is located at 204 N. Water St. heart of historic downtown Wilmington, and is open 7 days a week.

Braidwood Coalition gearing up for a busy 2018

The Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC) began the year in a new location inside "The Center" at Custer Park and is reaching out to the community in more ways than ever.

Its mission is to educate youth on healthy life choices and teach parents how to keep their children drug and alcohol free.

To do that, since 2008 the BAHCC has been providing activities and building partnerships to create and maintain an environment where substance abuse is no longer the norm.

Among its accomplishments are publishing the Braidwood Area Resource Directory, the Your Actions Matter campaign and Toward No Drug Abuse Youth Prevention Education programs, a Not My Kid Community Awareness Summit and a Safe Homes Parents Network.

Another ongoing project is the CHANGE Program. It provides a new policing alternative that empowers individuals suffering from a substance use disorder to get placed into a detox or treatment facility rather than continuing the cycle of incarceration.

BAHCC will launch three new campaigns this year:

- New Alcohol Communication Campaign - to change adult attitudes to set clear rules around underage alcohol use. The campaign focuses on creating a community norm that no adult will provide alcohol to underage youth.

- New Prescription Drug Safe Disposal Communication Campaign

- Opiate education - Lessons will be incorporated into the YPE curriculum at all levels.

There will be a grand opening at The Center, 35445 S. Washington St. in

Custer Park on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Saturday, April 28, there will be a Prescription Drug Take Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and free Naloxone training from 11 a.m. to noon, at Braidwood City Hall.

To register for Naloxone training email braidwoodcoalition@gmail.com or call 815-712-7767 with your name and phone number by Saturday, April 21.

Ongoing projects include Community Center and Local Treatment Services. The objective of this project is to bring substance abuse intervention and other behavioral health services to our under-served populations in southern Will County and to offer a variety of community programs and activities, all in under one roof.

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