



New business holds ribbon cutting

Future looks bright for Coalers

COALER SPORTS



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

Coalers second best in state



Photo by Eric Fisher

SECOND IN STATE—The Coal City wrestling team finished as runners-up in the IHSA State Dual team finals held Saturday at the Grossinger Auto Arena in Bloomington, IL. The Coalers were the 2023 defending state champions in 1A but came up short to Marian Catholic 34-27. Presenting the second place trophy are (from left, kneeling) Owen Petersen, Cooper Morris, Culan Lindemuth, Luke Munsterman, Brody Widlowski, Buddy Widlowski, Bobby Rodriguez, Noah Houston, Adain Kenney, Alex Carlson and Mason Garner. Standing are Zach Berman, Joe Widlowski, Jim Looper, Alec Waliczek, Cade Poyner, Landin Benson, Trace Wilson, Emmett Easton, Brock Finch, Jamie Keigher, John Keigher, Brody D'Orazio, Payton Vigna, Bob McGuinn, Greg Keigher, Nick O'Bert and head coach Mark Masters.

Coal City board gives student, lunch fees a slight increase

Coalers fans will have the option to purchase a one year pass to all athletic events under a new plan passed by the Coal City Community Unit 1 Board of Education.

The \$75 pass will allow admission to all regular season high school and middle school home contests. The District will also be offering annual passes for regular season middle school athletic contests for \$30.

Those are two new fees approved by the board while passing a schedule to raise student registration and cafeteria fees, as well as entry fees for school athletic events, over a three year period.

Registration fees for students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade will increase by \$5 for school years 2024-25 and 2025-26 and \$10 for high school students. Registration fees for the 2026-27 school year will remain at the previous year's rate.

The cost for a student enrolled in driver's education will increase from \$125 to \$150 next school year. It will remain at \$150 for 2025 and 2026.

The board agreed to leave the cafeteria fee for the 2024-2025 school year unchanged at \$3.10. In 2025-26 the cafe fee will increase 10 cents to \$3.20. There is no plan to increase it in 2026-27.

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Pre-kindergarten	\$55	\$60	\$60
Grades K-5	\$75	\$80	\$80
Grades 6-8	\$90	\$95	\$95
Grades 9-12	\$110	\$120	\$120
Adult lunch	\$4	\$4.10	\$4.10

Entry fees for single game attendance at high school athletic events will increase \$1 for students and adults beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Entry fee will be \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. The increase aligns with admission fees outlined in the Illinois Central Eight [ICE] Conference guidelines.

Season passes to high school athletic contests will increase \$5, from \$15 to \$20 per adult, for high school fall sporting events and for the winter seasons, from \$30 to \$40. Passes are only valid for regular season home games. Student passes will increase from \$12 to \$15 for fall, \$21 to \$25 for winter.



Coal City School District photo

AS PART OF its observance of National FFA Week, students enrolled in the Grundy Area Vocational Center's agriculture course held a week of activities at their attendance center and it included an assembly featuring a variety of games was highlighted by a penny wars contest that resulted in School Resource Officer Josh Nugent kissing a calf.

Coalers join in FFA Week celebration

The student body at Coal City High School joined the Grundy Area FFA organization in celebrating National FFA Week last week.

FFA is a youth-led career and technical education organization focused on the many aspects of agriculture.

The Grundy Area Chapter

is comprised of students enrolled in the Grundy Area Vocational Center's agriculture course taught by Brandy Biros. The course is taught at Coal City High School.

The celebration of National FFA Week consisted of a series of dress up days and activities that culminated with

an assembly Friday morning. High school staff and students participated in the various events including tug of war, pie eating, relay and three-legged race.

Several staff members participated in a fundraiser for the organization and as a result School Resource Officer

Josh Nugent had the pleasure of kissing a calf while Dean of Students Brad Borese went nose-to-nose with a rabbit. Assistant Principal Corey

SEE KISS A CALF PAGE 2



BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS
CORNED BEEF

AVAILABLE TODAY - CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD AT BERKOTFOODS.COM

Kiss the calf,

continued from page 1

Mikula took a pie to the face. FFA was founded in 1925 and formally established as a national organization in 1928. There are currently 372 agriculture programs in the state of Illinois with an enrollment that tops 39,000 and an FFA membership of more than 42,000.

Bradley Univ. dean's list

Nearly 1,850 students were named to Bradley's Dean's List for Fall 2023. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale. Local students include: Camella Barkley of Diamond.



GRUNDY AREA FFA, a career and technical organization, celebrated National FFA Week with an assembly at Coal City High School on Feb. 23. The members of the organization are enrolled in the Grundy Area Vocational Center's agriculture course instructed by Brandy Biros. The students in the course attend Coal City, Reed-Custer, Morris, Minooka and Gardner-South Wilmington High Schools.

Coal City School District photo



Coal City School District photo

COAL CITY DEAN of Students/Assistant Athletic Director Brad Borei was selected by the student body to kiss a mystery animal and it happened to be a big fluffy bunny.

Prom dreams will become reality at Melissa's Closet and Crystal's Jewelry Box

Godley Park District's gymnasium will transform into a prom boutique this weekend to prepare for the influx of hundreds of local high school girls and their parents searching for the perfect formal dress.

This Saturday, March 2, marks the 11th year of Melissa's Closet and Crystal's Jewelry Box, an annual event held to provide girls with prom dresses for just \$5, as well as jewelry, shoes and purses to complete their look.

Over the years the organization has helped dress 4,500 girls at an affordable cost for one of the biggest days of their high school careers.

While they're at the event

hunting for the perfect dress, the girls can also get their hair and makeup done.

"The total intent is to make them feel special for a day," said Laurie Becker, coordinator of Melissa's Closet and Crystal's Jewelry Box.

Last year, Becker said they sold 706 prom dresses. Dresses are available in all sizes, long and short, and the selection this year could be upward of 2,000 dresses.

Each year, some dresses are purged from the collection and donated to local charitable organizations.

The event doesn't just happen on its own. Becker said over 100 volunteers usually come out to help hang up and sort dresses in the days leading up to the event.

Staff at Whitmore Ace Hardware began Melissa's Closet and Crystal's Jewelry Box to honor Melissa Michalowski and her friend Crystal Carr. The two friends were both Reed-Custer High School seniors when they were killed in a car accident in 2008.

Michalowski worked at Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood, and she's remembered for her happy attitude and smile. The staff wanted to do something positive in honor of Michalowski, and knew that many students her age struggled to afford the high cost of prom.

The organization began selling 120 dresses for \$5 out of a classroom at Reed-Custer High School, and as the years went on the event grew into what it is today.

Becker recommends that prom shoppers get there early this Saturday.

"It's a fun atmosphere," said Becker.

Gently used prom dresses to new are accepted all year long in preparation for the big event each year in March. Donations can be dropped off at any Whitmore Ace Hardware location.

Melissa's Closet and Crystal's Jewelry Box will take place on Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee

St. For more information visit www.melissascloset.org.

Volunteers are needed Friday in Godley starting at 9 a.m. Many hands are needed to set up dressing rooms and tables for jewelry, shoes, purses and the stage area for the beauticians. Also all the dresses need to be displays on racks.

On Saturday volunteers start at 8 a.m. entering through Door C. They help with check-out, kitchen coffee and cookies, returning dresses from the dressing room, assisting students and more.

Take down begins at 1 p.m. Saturday when volunteers will condense and bag dresses, box up shoes, take down decorations and move racks into storage. The clean up is usually completed by 3:30 p.m.

Augustana College dean's list

Augustana College announced more than 1,100 students were named to the Dean's List for the 2023-2024 fall semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale for courses taken during the term.

Local recognized students include: Alexandra Bohac, of Braidwood and Braiden Young, of Coal City.

Attorney Wilson files Rosenthal estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY-IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Robin L. Rosenthal, Deceased;
No. 2024 PR 4

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Robin L. Rosenthal of Morris, IL. On February 2, 2024, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued to Brenda Sanders, of 730 East Jefferson Street, Morris, IL 60450 whose attorneys are Claire M. Wilson and Jonathan W. Grossi, P.O. Box 344, Channahon, IL 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Grundy County at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and her attorneys within 10 days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Claire M. Wilson
Jonathan W. Grossi
e-Mail: cwilsonlaw@gmail.com,
jwgwilsonlaw@gmail.com
PH: (815) 467-1184
Fax: (815) 467-1498

Published in the Coal City Court on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 28 and March 6, 2024.

Hearing planned for multi-family dwelling on East First Street

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals for necessary variances for the construction of a 3 Unit Multi-Family Dwelling at 833, 835, 837 E. First Street, Coal City.

Consideration shall be made for variances to the land use code requirements to include but shall not be limited to required setbacks, lot coverage as well as the Residential Design Guideline requirements to enable the construction of the 3 Unit Dwelling as designed.

Legal description of property: PIN 06-35-461-016, portion of 06-35-483-002 THAT PART OF LOT 1 OF ORLY ROUTE 113 RESUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE 3RD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 20, 2022 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 613880 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE MOST NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY 71.41 FEET ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 1423.62 FEET AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF SOUTH 56 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 46 SECONDS WEST 71.40 FEET, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1 TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREE 08 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST 123.38 FEET, ALONG SAID WESTERLY LINE OF LOT 1; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 42 SECONDS EAST 60.50 FEET, TO THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 1; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREE 08 MINUTES 07 SECONDS WEST 160.79 FEET, ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF LOT 1, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND CONTAINING 0.197 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

Request for the above change was applied for by: Craig VanDuyne. Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof. Persons may appear in person or by agent. Dated this 28th day of February, 2024. Published in the Coal City Court on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

Looks by Shania files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 7, A.D. 2024, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Looks by Shania, located at 100 W. Commercial Dr., Suite 11, Morris, IL 60450. Dated this 7th day of February, A.D. 2024. Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk. Published in the Coal City Court on Feb. 14, 21 and 28, 2024.

The Elite files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 2nd, A.D. 2024, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as The Elite, located at 3860 S. Gonnam Rd., Verona, IL. Dated this 2nd day of February, A.D. 2024. Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk. Published in the Coal City Court on Feb. 21 and 28, and March 6.

PUBLIC NOTICE EARLY VOTING SITES

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION - MARCH 19, 2024

Early Voting will begin on Thursday, February 8, 2024 and continue through Monday, March 18, 2024.

LOCATION - Grundy County Courthouse (Lobby)
111 East Washington Street, Room 12
Morris, IL 60450

Please note: Cell phones are not allowed in the Grundy County Courthouse.

TIME - Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (unless noted below)

Tuesday	February 13th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	February 15th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	February 17th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Monday	February 19th	CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY
Tuesday	February 20th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	February 22nd	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	February 24th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	February 27th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	February 29th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 2nd	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	March 5th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 7th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 9th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Sunday	March 10th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	March 12th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 14th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 16th	8:00 a.m. to Noon

LOCATION - Village of Minooka (Community Room A)
121 E. McEvilly Rd.
Minooka, IL 60447

Available only during dates/times listed below:

Tuesday	March 5th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 7th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 9th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Sunday	March 10th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	March 12th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 14th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 16th	8:00 a.m. to Noon

LOCATION - Coal City Library (Annex Building)
85 N. Garfield St.
Coal City, IL 60416

Available only during dates/times listed below:

Tuesday	March 5th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 7th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 9th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Sunday	March 10th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	March 12th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 14th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 16th	8:00 a.m. to Noon

Please call the Grundy County Clerk's Office at (815) 941-3222, if you have any questions.

KAY T. OLSON
GRUNDY COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

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815-634-0205

Connor A Skubic
Financial Advisor
12 East North Street
Coal City, IL 60416
815-634-0205

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 (815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courtant
 Display Advertising: Friday, noon
 News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
 Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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Students of the week



Courtesy photo

THE COAL CITY EARLY Childhood center named students of the week, they include (front, from left) Brexten Plata and Maverick Acred. Middle row: Dean Yokubonis, Aiden Wiegand, Hazel Zelinko and Julian Walters. Back row: Caleb Provance, Beckett Reszel, Jacob Thill, Allie Tworek, Bella Bretz and Raelynn Tidwell.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY EARLY Childhood students of the week were chosen, students include (front, from left) Ryker Lehman and Oakley O'Brien. Middle row: Evelyn Flahavin, Gemma Leman, Evie Thetard and Felicity Vaughn. Backrow: Amelia Olszewski, Mackenzie Sarff, Walker Riley and Avitt Winn.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School students of the week are (from left) Elliott Erhard, Chloe Ragland, Reese Watson, Collin Ness and Jack Connor.



Coal City School District photo

COAL CITY MIDDLE School has announced its Students of the Week for the week of Feb. 19. The honored students were selected by their teachers for the weekly recognition. Honored were [from left, front]: Bradley Street, nominated by Mrs. Roseland; Aidan Galus, nominated by Mr. Brimm; Marilah Kaplan, nominated by Ms. Fincher and Gabriel Hamilton, nominated by Mrs. Sandburg. Students of the Week for the week of Feb. 12 [not pictured] were Olivia Edmonds, nominated by Mrs. Clark; Lili Pfeifer, nominated by Ms. Horrie, and Tristan Brncich, nominated by Mrs. Siefken.

COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Check online event calendar at ccpld.org for a description of the events and to register.

Check out our digital services available 24/7 on our website at www.ccpld.org.

In-Person Adult Exercise, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. First half hour is cardio and the second half is weights, resistance band and strength training.

Thursday, Feb. 29- Terrific Tots - 10am

Jr. Artists - 3:30pm

Terrific Tots - 6pm

Every Bunny Welcome Door Sign - 6pm

Friday, March 1 -Mahjong - 1pm

Fun Fridays - 3pm

Monday, March 4- 2024 Oscar Predictions Contest Begins

Terrific Tots - 10am

Preschool Storytime - 11am

Flute Lessons for Vets - 1pm

Family Lapsit - 6pm

Preschool Storytime - 6pm

Tuesday, March 5- Adult Book Club - 1pm

Grundy County Early Voting in Annex - 3-7pm - Any qualified Grundy County voter may vote prior to Election Day at the Early Voting site established by the election authority. Any vote cast

during Early Voting is final and cannot be revoked. The voter is not eligible to cast a vote on Election Day. No ID is required to vote early. If you have any questions, please call the Grundy County Clerk's Office at (815) 941-3222, Option 1.

Barbie Door Sign - 6pm

Wednesday, March 6-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) - 9am-12pm

Paper & More - 9am-4pm

Family Lapsit - 10am

Preschool Storytime - 10am

Teen Anime - 4pm

Barbie Door Sign - 6pm

Utah Tech dean's list

Students at Utah Tech University demonstrated remarkable academic performance during the Fall 2023 semester, with nearly 12 percent earning dean's list recognition.

A total of 1,489 students were included on the dean's list, reflecting their strong commitment to academics.

To qualify, students had to achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 to 3.89 as well as complete at least 15 credits.

Joshua Ritchie, of Coal City, was among the 1,489 students honored on the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester.

Village of Diamond request for qualifications for consulting engineering services

PUBLIC NOTICE

Village of Diamond, IL
Request for Qualifications
Watermain Improvements - Various Locations and Will Road Alley & Division St. Watermain Improvements Consulting Engineering Services Phase 3 - Construction Engineering

Purpose
The Village of Diamond, IL (hereinafter referred to as "The Village"), is issuing a request for statements of interest and qualifications for consulting engineering services for phase 3 construction engineering for various watermain improvements as defined by the Village. The Village desires to enter into a contract with a responsible firm for such services, and accordingly is seeking certain information whereby such service capabilities shall be evaluated to determine which firm shall be awarded the contract.

Scope of Work
The consultant will provide Phase 3 Construction Engineering services for Watermain Improvements - Various Locations and Will Road Alley to Division St. Watermain Improvements. This project includes 75% Federal funding and 25% Local ARPA funding as part of a Congressional grant. The scope of work to be included in the contract will be as follows:

The consultant will be called upon to provide the necessary expertise and technical advice for which the services of a consultant are required. These services relate to existing plans prepared for bid.

The consultant will provide the necessary construction phase services of the project, but not limited to, those detailed below:

- Project Documentation - including daily diary, inspector daily reports, quantity books, field books, and weekly reports as required.

- Agreements to quantities with the contractor and preparation of pay applications
- Verify and maintain project pay roll reports for all contractors
- Lead progress meetings
- Manage force account or change order requests to minimize project cost overruns
- Collect GPS data in compliance with current Village GIS database requirements
- Maintain records of all material certifications
- Compile punch list items for project close-out
- Responsible for project close-out, including all final lien waivers
- Provide detailed as-built plans to the Village
- Provide or manage Quality Assurance Material Testing requirements
- Maintain open line of communication with the Village's Grant Administrator (NCICG)
- The resulting contract will be for four years. The Village of Diamond may amend or extend this contract beyond the initial four years to accommodate the terms and conditions of the FY2024 Community Grants award or future EPA grants awarded to the Village within this four-year period provided a market survey conducted by The Village of Diamond indicates that the prices the contractor proposes are reasonable.

Criteria for Evaluation
The following criteria and scoring for evaluating and ranking consulting firms includes:

- 1.) Capability to perform all or most aspects of the project as it relates to Construction Engineering (observation). 20 pts
- 2.) Key personnel's professional qualifications and experience and availability for the proposed project; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of IDOT, IEPA documentation requirements, policies, and procedures. 10 pts
- 3.) Current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules or deadlines. 10 pts
- 4.) Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns. 10 pts
- 5.) Qualifications and experience of outside consultants (material testing) regularly engaged by the consultant under consideration. 10 pts
- 6.) Demonstrated understanding of the project's potential problems and the Village's special concerns. 20 pts.
- 7.) Degree of interest shown in the undertaking of the project and familiarity with the project plan and proximity to the geographic location of the project. 20 pts

Submittal Requirements
The Village of Diamond reserves the right to select the most qualified firm for the proposed projects. Interested firms are requested to provide a minimum of the following information:

- 1.) Name, size, and description of the firm.
- 2.) Location of the main office and office where work will be accomplished.
- 3.) Qualifications and previous experience in Construction Engineering (observation) with dates on similar assignments.
- 4.) Resumes of key personnel who would be assigned for the proposed assignment.
- 5.) Names, addresses, and phone numbers of references associated with previous work experience.
- 6.) List of outside consultants (material testing) regularly engaged, if any.
- 7.) Provide any additional comments, which you may believe to be relevant.
- 8.) Please limit submittals to no more than five (5) pages.

Four (4) copies of this information shall be submitted to the Village of Diamond, attention Mayor Terry Kernc no later than 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 28th, 2024.

Thank you for your interest.
Sincerely, Terry Kernc Mayor

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICES
Because it's your right to know

Village of Coal City seeks bids to demolish two homes

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
VILLAGE OF COAL CITY
The Village of Coal City will receive requests for qualifications from qualified demolition companies to demo two homes: 425 & 435 S. Broadway, Coal City, Illinois

Proposals to complete this work will be received by Linda Sula, Village of Coal City, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 until 12:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 20, 2024, prevailing time. RFP Responses may be e-mailed to Ms. Sula at lsula@coalcity-il.gov; those emails with the subject "2024 Village Home Demolition RFP Bid" shall not be opened until that time.

A full description of the RFP is on file for inspection and may be downloaded from the Village's website www.coalcity.il.gov or picked up at the Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, Illinois 60416, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. Monday through Friday.

The Village of Coal City reserves the right to reject any or all interested parties and to waive any informalities in bidding and to award the project to the party that proves it can fulfill the needs of the Board of Trustees in the most advantageous manner.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Feb. 28, 2024.

Geo's Pizza Fresh Hot Delivery

The Coal City Courant

Benson Insurance Agency, Inc.

ALLEGRA Printing

Coal City Coalers Team Pride
#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

Julie Hutchings
Winner of a large 2-item Pizza, carry-out only

Must redeem by March 4, 2024

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 38 years!"

We will have a new Internet winner each week throughout the school year, so watch the Courant each week for the lucky Coaler Fan Winner.

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

Geo's PIZZA

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 38 years!"

38TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$28.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 03/31/24.

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Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-

lish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

A courageous Russian

ELWOOD—Alexie Navalny, the courageous Russian who was killed by Putin and his tyrannical regime, will now go down in history with the likes of Mahsa Amini, Mohandas Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln, and many others. These heroes believed that all people should be free, be equal, and be governed by understanding, honest and supportive leaders. Leaders, with a vision for a better world, welcome diverse ideas and build people up rather than tear them down or put them in prison if they disagree with them. They passionately fought for these values, often with a religious fervor. They constantly put the welfare of others before their own self-interests and in the end paid the ultimate price with their lives. It was Winston Churchill who said: You see these dictators on their pedestals, surrounded by the bayonets of their soldiers and the truncheons of their polices in their hearts there is unspoken fear. They are afraid of words and thoughts: Words spoken abroad, thoughts stirring at home "all the more powerful because forbidden "terrify them. How sad it is to see our Republican party, current leading presidential candidate, and his House of Representatives minions no longer having the courage to value freedom and democracy in supporting our allies. They embolden Putin and other dictators in the world, who in turn are a primary reason that global immigration exceeds 3.5% of the worlds population, at over 281 million in 2020. Walls will always be short-term fixes! Terry Paquet

5,000 a day

WILMINGTON— Facts about the border, not feelings. On Biden's first day he stopped the wall and the flood of migrants began. For over three years he said the border is not open and after 12 million illegals later the voters are angry. He says it is Trump's fault. No Joe, it's your fault and the bill you are pushing allows 5,000 a day to come across, that is the population of Wilmington every day. Democrats had the majority in the House and Senate for two years and could have passed any border control bill but they did not because it would have made Trump look right.

Can do better

BRAIDWOOD—I've been reading the dialogue regarding the qualifications, or lack thereof, of the Braidwood city administrator. All things considered, I would always pick the job candidate that has the education and qualifications for any job available, which Mr. Altiery lacks. Along with this usually comes a certain degree of professionalism, which is also lacking. I had to laugh when last week's writer said a neighboring community lost Ultimate Rides to Braidwood. In September, 2020, our administrator led an embarrassing and extremely unprofessional city council meeting. It was turned into a circus that created a lynch mob toward two of our councilmen because they asked for just a few extra days to check the finances and credentials of the applicant. But they insisted that the approval had to be given that particular night because the applicant would lose his million dollar loan that he had already secured, the building was being delivered and it needed to be completed by the end of fall. As I recall, Altiery and the council also rolled the dice with hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars that was loaned to Ultimate Rides. Four years later and guess what, it's still not completed. It was also mentioned that a neighboring administrator couldn't make a deal to keep Arnie Bauer and D'Orazio Ford. That is because the City of Wilmington officials weren't willing to give, not a loan, give millions of taxpayer dollars to the car dealers, which is exactly what Braidwood did at the direction of Mr. Altiery. It was fiscally irresponsible to do so. Give me a couple million and I'll open a dealership too. Educated professionals, such as the administrators throughout the area and the state, don't fall for such irresponsible financial conduct. Our current city leaders simply like to play fast and loose with our tax dollars. And what do we have to show for it? Well, there are liquor stores, tobacco shops, truck repairs, truck stops and gambling. Not what I would call family-oriented businesses.

Widen the street

BRAIDWOOD—If they are going to park on the school side of south Walker Street the city should widen the street.

Strong leadership needed

COAL CITY—Winning fame and fortune. We remember the winners and forget the losers. What winning gets is most important. Custer did poorly at West Point but Civil War was on and every man was needed so his reckless regard for orders won him rank, fame and decoration in the war. Had he not road, against orders, to battle General Stewart at the center rear of the union army. Pickets charge may have worked and Lee might have won the battles at Gettysburg and only God knows what else! Custer died early but he is remembered as a winner. Other such people come to mind. Theodore Roosevelt and his charge up San Juan Hill and those lucky guys, lost and living, who won the battle at Midway. We must not forget Patton and his part in the defeat of Hitler. Remember JFK and what he got for his bravery in the Cuban Crisis. His death will haunt the USA forever. None of these people were following orders or their advisors' input but they were all great Americans who served the USA well.

No one is perfect but doing the right thing at the right time is never wrong. May we always have these outlaws to orders who throw the book away when needed and may God help us through the present troubled times to a better place than politics now offers us. We need Strong leadership badly. Doing the right thing at the right time wins every time. USA all the way!

A wonderful store

BRAIDWOOD—In regard to competition letter in this week's newspaper. They are referring to Jewel. They referred to Berkot's being the only grocery store for this large rural area. Perhaps someone should let them know that Berkot's is not the only store. We have a wonderful store called Valles Produce Market and it is a wonderful store.

Detests Trump

WILMINGTON—As Trump recently praised Putin once more, we see the butcher of Russia reflected in our own country. The angry orange man who demands to be our next president shrieks in our courtrooms and behaves as the very crook that he has been his entire adult life. Putin throws an entire generation of Russian young men into the woodchipper of the deadly Ukraine War and Trump applauds him. Putin poisons and punishes to death his political opponent, Navalny, a man beloved by the Russian people and Trump says nothing just as Trump allowed the dismemberment of American journalist, Kashoggi, without accountability while Trump was president. America detests Putin and thereby detests Trump.

Top secret papers

COAL CITY—This is to 'twisting the law.' There were three people that had classified documents that they should not have had. They are Biden- Democrat, Pence-Republican, Trump-Republican. Biden and Pence turned all documents over, called the FBI to come and check all residence. This is why they were not indicted. Trump was indicted, he has, and still says, he has a right to keep them. No he doesn't. When a search warrant was given they found them in a storage area at Mar-a-Lago, a bathroom, a public room and his private desk. Later they found them in a storage room somewhere. This is the reason he was indicted. The law worked the way it was suppose to.

Flimflam Man

This is to 'only vengeance.' Even if it was all Democrats that convicted him. He deserved it, that is why they convicted him. Since he is looking for a nasty name for everybody maybe we should give him one. How about the flimflam man. That sounds like a real good one for him. Donald The Flimflam Man Trump.

Least productive Congress

WILMINGTON—This current Congress has been the least productive group in decades and possibly in history. They passed only 34 bills in 2023. Pretty good job to have at a salary of \$174,000 plus perks for working 133 days a year. The Senate seems to be more productive of the two houses. At least the two parties try to cooperate to get things done. But the House seems only interested in revenge, vindictiveness, getting personal attention, and groveling at the feet of one man. Speaker Johnson gets \$223,500 a year to do what Donald Trump orders him to do. How about this? Try working for the American people and do something productive in 2024. After all, that is why you were elected!

Just plain wrong

COAL CITY—No one is saying anything about the students who are allowed to attend school dressed like a cat. Everyone is so worried about spending money on sports but no one is saying anything about the kids who do this. I think they should stay home. School is not the place for this. Mom can clean it up for them and they can homeschool them also. This is my opinion and I'm a Coal City parent. What is yours? I'd like to hear it. I think they are called Furbies.

Let voters decide

COAL CITY—Put it to a vote. \$5 million? I agree with the others about the new turf. Why are we spending this money? How much will my taxes go up? I understand that this may allow more events at the school, but how long will it take to get back our return on this investment. What is the maintenance cost for this new astro turf? Life expectancy? You can buy a lot of grass seed for \$5 million. Why not put it to a district vote if you feel this is something that is needed?

A broken man

BRAIDWOOD—Trump's presidency was the worst thing for our nation and for Trump himself because it put him and his criminality under the microscope. Day after day, courtroom scenes reveal ad nauseam a broken man bellowing and blustering, a fraudster who cheated us all thereby making victims of all Americans. It's becoming downright tiresome but the American people finally feel a sense of relief that justice matters. And Trump's dishonesty goes beyond extreme swindling. He refused to serve his country in time of war when others took his place by making the ultimate sacrifice of being sent home in a body bag. In fact, three generations of the Trump family refused to participate in the most honorable and patriotic duty of showing love of country. Of course, Trump loves himself above all else which is why he has been rated the worst of all our presidents.

Veterans get benefits

SHADOW LAKES—I am so tired of people always saying that the United States doesn't take care of their veterans. For example, the com-



ment in last week's paper saying that the migrants are better cared for than our veterans. You can just Google US veterans benefits and you can even find a book with all the benefits that US veterans are entitled to. Besides the fact that most of them qualify for free medical insurance, and there are all kinds of government assistance for housing for their families, there are benefits besides all of the government the private sector also takes care of our veterans. The banks have special programs for veterans. They can buy a house with little or no down payment low interest rates veterans get discounts under property taxes. I can go on and on. People that say that the United States doesn't take care of the veterans don't know what they're talking about. Everybody likes to complain about the migrants...easy target they can't defend themselves. Most of the comments people make about migrants are false. Now I'm not saying that there's not a problem because of course there is. When Trump was elected, he threatened to build the wall. Migrants found another way to get in this country, and that is asking for political asylum. So because these people are coming into this country and asking for political asylum, even though people call them migrants, they're actually refugees protected under international law, and that is the reason why they cannot be deported. Once they asked for political asylum, they have to be processed to the courts to see if they qualify for political asylum which most of them don't. The problem is that there is so many of them that there aren't enough courts and judges to process them and because of their status in this country. It's in limbo. They cannot legally work unless special permission is granted. So people are complaining why are they given a place to stay and food? What's the alternative? We let them live on the streets and let them starve to death? I mean I don't know. But I will suggest the people remember that we are talking about human beings and maybe somebody might have an idea on how this problem could be resolved instead of just complaining about it. Complaining about it's not gonna solve anything.

Here we go again

WILMINGTON—A few people with kayaks want a handy place to launch them and let everyone else pay for it. Has anyone ever thought of how much trouble this will cause? Years ago a law was formed stopping boats from being launched for just that reason. People never follow the rules. There will be canoes rubber rafts, swimming, little kids drowning, etc. all because you put it in and said "all come." Most of these people won't be from here and will not be paying for it, \$300,000 for something we'll have to pay for in taxes because we'll have \$80,000 plus we pay for the forest preserve. You said we can't afford a leaf vac that everyone could use and now you come up with this dumb idea. Who's going to police this thing 24 hrs.? People with kayaks upstream will be paddling down to port here with two dams in their way. There's a brand new kayak launch in Channahon and we don't have to pay for it or try to find someone to pull this one out of the water every time it rains too much. This is a lawyer's dream waiting to happen.

A requirement

BRAIDWOOD—A writer in the Feb. 7 soundoff tried to defend the Braidwood Administrator's lack of education and experience by saying that university degrees are no more valuable than the card stock they are printed on, any requirement for job qualifications is invalid, and just because you have those are the writer's exact words. So let's think about that for a moment. There are many extremely intelligent people out there, some with college and post graduate degrees and some without. But if you need heart surgery aren't you going to seek the help of the one with the card stock hanging on the wall that says medical school? If you find yourself headed for a courtroom aren't you going to hire the guy with the card stock that says juris doctorate? And if you are flying coast to coast, don't you hope that those persons who designed the plane had card stock that referenced degrees from engineering schools? Or would you be satisfied with their "street smarts" as the writer put it? Get the point? Municipal administrators are educated in specific areas for reasons no different than doctors, lawyers, accountants, etc. When an individual is handling literally millions of taxpayer dollars and dealing with lawyers, accountants, engineers, etc. a minimum level of advanced education is necessary to properly perform the job. That is why municipal administrators from surrounding towns and across the state have bachelor and master degrees. It is an employment requirement. But not in Braidwood. But yet there he is lacking proper education while making over six figures, lacking any experience but demanding more money. Why? Why does the city council condone and reward such lack of qualifications and experience? Those of you who have some

card stock in English literature hanging on the wall may recall a possible answer in Act I Scene IV of Shakespeare's Hamlet, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

Stop the nonsense

WILMINGTON—This is to the person who said they are a lifetime member of the Historical Society and claims they do not receive any information. Since I joined the museum I receive an email every month of when the meetings were going to be. As a lifetime member you know what days, times and where the meetings are. So why you are saying we are having clandestine meetings I have no clue. We are not holding clandestine meetings. I don't know why you are going around town spreading these lies and rumors about the museum. If you no longer want to be a part of the museum that is your choice, but please stop talking about the museum in such a negative way. People have a right to find out what an organization is like, what a business is like, what church is like, etc. so please stop your negativity. If you want an e-mail so bad write you e-mail address down and bring it to the museum and put it in the mail slot. If you still don't get any notices then you have the right to complain and until then please stop the nonsense.

They won't stop

WILMINGTON—Did you see that Alabama ruled that frozen embryos are children? I don't know if that's for the tax deduction or to increase their population for the census. I do know that this is another step towards white Christian Nationalism and they won't stop because they believe they're on a mission from God. God help us all.

Remember next April

BRAIDWOOD—So reading in the Braidwood Journal this past week I have read that the city wants to charge its citizens a \$75 charge for after hour water shutoffs. With this being said, the money the city spends is taxpayer money so now again we want to charge the citizens of Braidwood for this service as shutting off water in an emergency? Just remember folks, next year in April there will be an election. It will be time to make your voice heard and remove these people from office that are not spending our money wisely and we have one very over paid person in this administration. It's time for change. Please remember this folks when you come out. They want to charge you \$75 to come and turn your water off in a case of an emergency when you already pay enough in taxes.

More to come...

DIAMOND—Fact number one, Biden administration has spent billions of taxpayers' dollars on wind and solar energy, electric vehicles, telling us to eat bugs instead of beef. Patrick Moore the chief scientist of Ecosense environmental and co-founder of Green Peace states that climate change warnings aren't based on fact. Moore stated "the whole thing is a total scam, there is actually no scientific evidence that CO2 is responsible for climate change over the ions." More to come. . . Fact number two. First it was global cooling then global warming then climate change and now it's disastrous weather- tornados, hurricanes, floods, heat waves all caused by CO2. That's a lie. We are part of the cycle. More to come. . . Fact number three, we don't need CO2 for us, it's a waste product. We exhale it, we fart it- we need oxygen! But all plants great make oxygen for us, and we make the CO2 for them. The burning of fossil fuels- which omits CO2- is a good thing for plant life. Fact number four. Burning fossil fuels replenishes the atmosphere with CO2 up to a level that is much more conducive to life and growth of plants in particular. More to come. . . Fact number five. John Christy, climatologist- professor of atmospheric science- director of the earth system science center, said, "in 1925, there was an average 484,880 climate-related deaths world wide. Since then it has steadily decreased. In 2020 there was an average of 14,893 climate deaths world wide. More to come. . . Sharon

Doing Biden's job

WILMINGTON—If our president has a medical condition and he has had this condition before he became president then maybe someone can explain who has really been making all the decisions? If someone else has been doing our president's job then every legal order or bill that Biden has signed should be revoked immediately. And whoever has pushed the president to sign these bills into law, those people should be put behind bars. The president's job is to protect the lives of every American. His oath has been broken since the first day he entered the oval office. Has there been any kind of back door deals made with foreign governments?

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Lawmakers should include Black, Hispanic input

Two press conferences held after Gov. JB Pritzker's budget address last week didn't receive much news media attention. As the saying goes, coverage follows conflict, and the two pressers were far more subtle and polite in their criticisms of the governor's plan than those held by Republicans, so they were mostly overlooked.

But clear undercurrents were visible during both events, one held by the Legislative Black Caucus and the other by the Legislative Latino Caucus.

And, unlike the Republicans, those two caucuses actually have considerable sway over the state's law-making process.

While mostly couched in supportive language of the governor and the majority party leaders, the messages were distinct: Even after years of Democratic control, not nearly enough is still being done to help people in Black and Latino communities on every level. Poverty, violence,

childcare, healthcare, education, economic development, trade union membership, homelessness. You name it, the services and opportunities are lacking.

So, the two caucuses did a bit of flexing.

"This year, we will be negotiating from a position of strength," declared Black Caucus Chair Rep. Carol Ammons. "Our community and our members are the value-add in the General Assembly and nothing can be passed without our members."

Not counting the House Speaker, there are 19 Black members in the House and 13 in the Senate, according to the caucus' website. That's enough to block a majority vote in both chambers, if they can stick together.

Rep. Ammons (D-Urbana) revealed during the press conference that the caucus plans to release a document in the coming weeks entitled "Leveling the playing field," which will focus on how to spend state dollars to

"invest in building an equitable state and eliminating structural racism."

Dollar figures will be attached to each proposal, Ammons said. If it's done well, the report could have a significant impact, not only this year, but in years to come.

The Legislative Latino Caucus does not yet have nearly the same numerical strength as the Black Caucus. But the joint caucus now has 16 members, which is higher than ever before. And Sen. Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) firmly declared, "Latino families must benefit equitably from the investments that the state is making."

Sen. Villanueva claimed that the Latino population was undercounted in the 2020 US Census, but, she said, "I want everyone to know as they're hearing this, our community is only growing and our community is young. We aren't going anywhere. We will be here." She's definitely right about that.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning noted a few years ago that while the Black population declined in Northeastern Illinois by a few percentage points over 30 years, the Northeastern Illinois Hispanic population had grown to 24.2 percent of the region's population, up from 11.5 percent in 1990.

A study last year by the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute found that the average age of Illinois Latinos was 28, compared to 38 for Illinoisans overall. Indeed, a significant number of legislative districts were

drawn in 2021 with the anticipation that large numbers of young Latinos would eventually reach an age where they could elect one of their own before the next Census.

On the policy side, Rep. Lilian Jiménez (D-Chicago) echoed criticisms of the budget by groups like the Illinois Partners for Human Service, which decried the lack of adequate funding for community care workers.

SEIU Healthcare has a strong presence in the Latino community and some former union staffers are serving in the General Assembly. The union sharply criticized the budget for its lack of funding "to address the cause of the state's care crisis—the fact is that the crucial jobs that provide home care and childcare services are not good and stable jobs."

What I laid out above is not a complete picture by any means whatsoever.

But I've been saying for years and years that the news media here, myself included, needs to focus much more on the internal debates within the super-majority party and its allies because that is where almost all policymaking decisions actually happen in the Illinois General Assembly.

The Republicans (which have their own internal divisions and debates) shouldn't be cut out of the coverage by any means, but the stark reality on the ground is not being conveyed and valid perspectives are too often ignored.

Rich Miller also publishes *Capitol Fax*, a daily political newsletter, and *CapitolFax.com*.



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WHS hosts blood drive on Feb. 29

Wilmington High School's student council is hosting a blood drive on Feb. 29 from 1 to 6 p.m. at WHS in the small gym. Red Cross will be accepting blood donations.

"Last year we had around 20 donors but would like to see more this year," said WHS student council sponsor Angie Antos.

Donors have the option of a blood or power red donation. And all donors need a valid photo ID in order to donate.

If students under 18 years of age would like to donate they need a signed parent consent form. All those 18 or older do not need that form.

In order to donate you

must be in good health, maintain a healthy iron level, weigh at least 110 pounds, and have not donated blood in the last 56 days.

There are few appointments remaining! Anyone interested can email Antos at aantos@209u.net, or you can sign up by searching <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.

If you are signed up to donate keep this preparation tips in mind! Get at least eight hours of sleep the night before you donate, eat a healthy lunch and breakfast, avoid fatty foods, drink lots of water, wear short sleeves, and know your medical history.

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A soup full of vegetables and kid approved

ELAINE FISHER-OHLUND
FOOD FOR THE SOUL

I read a post on Facebook from Coal City mom Kristi Meents stating she can't wait for summer because her son just came down with a bad case of Influenza B.

I swear it wasn't 30 seconds later I heard a deep-chested cough coming from the back bedroom. It was one of those coughs that gets a mom's attention and sure enough son Zach was feeling miserable. Not even five weeks ago Influenza A went through our home.

Flu season seems to be sticking around with local reports that strep, influenza, RSV and covid are making a second round. Everyone is tired of it.

At least in our household, I relate it to not enough sleep, always being on the go and horrible eating patterns.

My husband didn't catch it once this winter and he eats the cleanest out of all of us. His diet consists of grass-fed meats, shrimp, free-range eggs, avocado, and I swear he eats half a watermelon a day.

The amount of money I spend on watermelons when they aren't in season is ridiculous. But at this point I don't care how much I spend on my health. Health is wealth, right?

So back to the barking cough. Yes, I took him to the doctor and he tested positive for Influenza B. There is nothing you can really do, the doctor said.

"Nothing you can really do" wasn't going to cut it for me. So I reverted to what I know best and that is food. I decided to make a soup.

I wanted to use something with garlic, basil and onion for sure because of their antibacterial and antiviral properties. Basil can also help stimulate an immune system response



Photo by Elaine Fisher-Ohlund
TOMATO BASIL soup that is full of vegetables and your kids will enjoy.

and fight respiratory infections.

It has been used for thousands of years for its medicinal properties. There are even references in the Bible and Hindu teachings of the use of basil. A roasted tomato and basil soup recipe got my attention.

The tomatoes are great because they are filled with potassium, vitamin A and C. It was the perfect concoction for Influenza B and was kid approved in taste.

It tasted even better the next day when it thickened up. We also added some baked shredded chicken to make sure the boys got their dose of protein. Making sure you get your daily protein will help energy levels and build muscle of course.

If there is one thing I want you to take away from this article it's the importance of eating nutritional food. Through my journey on trying to raise a healthier family I realized through experimenting and research that it makes such a difference.

We must eat food from Mother Nature or what I refer

to as living foods to my kids. Everyday I ask my kids did you eat more live foods or dead foods (foods full of preservatives and chemicals) today? I want them to understand the difference and that it's about the balance.

I laugh when I hear, "I ate it all the time as a kid and I am fine." Understand that the way they make food now has drastically changed over the last 20 years. Changes like stripping nutrients and chemical additives is a big concern.

There is new state legislation that is targeting titanium dioxide and four other synthetic ingredients, brominated vegetable oil, potassium bromate, propylparaben and red dye No. 3. All have been linked to hyperactivity, nervous system damage, reproductive issues, hormonal impairment and even cancer.

Salad dressings, some chocolates and Skittles are just some of the foods that contain these additives. My guess is if you look in your pantry you'll have something in your house with these ingredients.

I struggle with the fact that the Food and Drug Administrations work so close together and yet we have more chemicals in our food now and prescriptions dispensed in the United States has nearly doubled since 2009 according to statisticians.

But the truth is these big corporations only make money when we are sick. I know this is frustrating and overwhelming but I think now more than ever we must do research on everything we are putting into our bodies.

Start small, did you eat more live foods or dead foods today? And when you grocery shop, try to stay on the outside aisles. Fruit, veggies, dairy and meat are your friends. Let me know if you feel a difference just starting there.

Ingredients

- 8 ounces Feta cheese
- 8 Roma tomatoes (seeded and chopped)
- 2 red peppers chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced fresh basil
- 5 tablespoons olive oil, divided, plus more for finish
- kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 small yellow onion, finely diced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried chili flakes
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 2/3 heavy cream

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place Feta cheese in the middle with tomatoes, garlic, red peppers, basil in a 9" square baking dish. Drizzle with 4 tablespoons olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Bake for 40 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside.

2. In a large pot, heat remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 5 minutes. Add chili flakes and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.

3. Add vegetable broth and heavy cream bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 15 minutes.

4. Add the concoction of baked basil, feta, tomatoes and peppers, and purée until smooth with a high speed hand blender. If you don't have a hand one you can just add it to a regular blender. Season with salt and pepper to taste and simmer until heated through, about 5 minutes.

This also was a request recipe from some women who saw me cooking it on my snapchat. My handle is laney.fisher if you would like to check it out. I love getting feedback.

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CC United Methodist to host blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Tuesday, March 5, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone willing to donate blood can contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808

to schedule a preferred time or you may register online at www.versiti.org.

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended. Please bring a photo ID and eat a good meal before donating. Please consider giving blood - one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.

Annual spaghetti dinner to be held March 2

The Men's Club of the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington will be hosting its 36th annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 2, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the church located at 401 E. Kahler Road, Wilmington.

Come for the spaghetti, stay for the desserts! Carry-outs will be available.

Invite your neighbors and better yet, pick them up! Free will offering, no set price.

Proceeds from this event

are used to support local missions such as Kuzma Care Cottage, Our Caring Closet, Lamb's Fold and the Christian Help Association.

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OBITUARIES

Clyde Case

BRAIDWOOD—Clyde "Bud" Case, 89, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 at his home.

Born May 23, 1934 in Johnstown, CO, Clyde Junior, who later became affectionately known as "Bud," was a son of Clyde William and Pauline Virginia (Sterkel) Case. He was raised and educated in Colorado, before joining the United States Air Force in 1951. During his tenure with the Armed Services, Bud was stationed in Iceland as a Metal Processing Technician before being transferred to Great Falls, Montana in 1953 as a Supervisor of the Allied Trades Section; going abroad to Turkey in 1961 to supervise a Welding Shop and finally returning to the homeland in 1963, where he was stationed in Wichita, KS as an NDT Inspection Team Supervisor. He was honorably relieved from active duty and retirement as a Technical Sergeant on Feb. 1, 1972.

During his time in Great Falls, Bud met Blanche Marie Wilson, who he went on to marry July 2, 1954. Together they made a home and began a family together, eventually settling in Braidwood in 1971.

Following his retirement from active duty with the United States Air Force, Bud embarked on his career with Mobil at the Joliet Refinery as a Q/A Field Inspector. For the following 22 years, he was promoted to Shop Planner; T/A Construction Foreman; Area Maintenance Foreman and Maintenance Zone Superintendent. Bud also held various assignments as In-House Construction Superintendent and Coker/Transportation Superintendent. He retired at the age of 59 in November of 1993.

As a proud Veteran, Bud belonged to the Gardner American Legion and the Wilmington VFW. His other memberships included the Wilmington Moose Lodge and the Professional Bowlers Association. Bud enjoyed bowling and aside from bowling on a Senior National Tour, he was active in youth bowling and served as a coach and mentor to many up and coming bowlers. In addition, Bud enjoyed the outdoors; took pleasure in camping and fishing, and golfed on a Mobil golf league. He and Blanche created many memories with family traveling in

their Recreational Vehicles throughout the years, and he was a skilled woodworker.

Most remembered for his love of family and the devotion he dedicated to caring for Blanche, Bud leaves behind a treasured legacy of being a true life coach. He will forever be remembered as a patient mentor who imparted wisdom and skills to all those fortunate enough to be touched by his presence.

Survivors include three children: Randy Case (Kimberly Crawford) and Terri Marshall Case, both of Braidwood and Sean (Johnita) Case, of Diamond; six grandchildren: Michael Quigley, Tina (Rayme) Calhoun, Jason Case, Derek (Tiffany) Case, Ashley Case (Gino Cottini) and Bobby Hoef; five great-grandchildren: Cody Ehrsam (Abigail Crady), Kaileigh Calhoun, Patience (Joseph) Dougherty, Riley Case, and Gino Cottini Jr.; five great-grandchildren: Abby, Rose, Emmie B., Maximus, and Arjem Dougherty; one sister, Shirley Shields, of Pennsylvania, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Blanche on Jan. 27, 2022; daughter, Debbie Quigley-McKeown; great-great-grandson, Joseph Dougherty Jr. and seven siblings.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 1 p.m. until time of funeral service at 4 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded at the conclusion of the services, and Bud will be laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood with his late wife, Blanche, on what would have been his 90th birthday, May 24, 2024. Full military honors will be rendered.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bud's memory to a Veteran's Charity of the donor's choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Bud's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Judith Friddle

WILMINGTON—Judith Friddle, 79, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024 at The Citadelle in Kankakee.

Born March 4, 1944 in Joliet, Judith Helen was a daughter of Thomas and Helen (Piersing) Long. She was raised in Wilmington, graduated from Wilmington High School, and on July 29, 1967, she married Dale Frank Friddle.

Judy worked for the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in Joliet until she went to work for her brother's business, Braun Sales, in Wilmington where she was a bookkeeper for many years. She also worked for Long Concrete and as an assistant manager at the Dollar General in Braidwood.

Judy took great pleasure in solving her puzzle books, jigsaw puzzles, and crocheting. But her happiest times were spent with her family. Judy was a devoted mother to her children and she especially loved being grandma to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her children: Julie (Scott) Wenstrom, of Durand, IL; John (Glenda) Schmalz, of Town Creek, AL; Dana (Jeff) Dunkin, of Coal City and Jaymie (Dan) Rickmon, of Wilmington; ten grandchildren: Trevor (Sara) Deppe, Hunter Wenstrom, John Schmalz, Joshua Schmalz, Cory (Brittany) Dunkin, Lucas Dunkin, Miranda Rickmon, Morgan (Luis) Baeza, Tyler Rickmon, and Nolan

Rickmon; eight great-grandchildren: Riley, Aubrey, Parker, Dale, Paisley, Ellyana, Aria, and Baby Girl Baeza; four sisters-in-law: Melva "Sis" (the late Duane) McCarville, Mary (the late Bob) Hairald, Karen Friddle, and Kathleen Friddle; two brothers-in-law: Charlie Friddle and Don (the late JoAnn) Friddle; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas "Barney" and Helen Long; her husband, Dale Friddle in 2007; her brother, John (Karen) Long; one nephew, Tim Long; special aunt, Elsie Baldacci; and one sister-in-law, Faye Hansen.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington with Reverend Harriette Cross officiating.

Interment followed the services at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood where Judy was laid to rest with her husband, Dale.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, or share Judy's memorial page via social media at www.ReevesFuneral.com.

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Ronald Mayfield

MORRIS—Ronald Jack Mayfield, 77, of Morris, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024 at his home.

Ron was born to Emma and Jack Mayfield on Jan. 19, 1947 in Wilmington. He was active in sports throughout his childhood years, and graduated from Wilmington High School. Professionally, Ron worked as an engineer at Loder Crokalan USA for most of his adult life. He was an expert woodworking craftsman and an enthusiastic motorcyclist.

Ron is survived by his wife of 51 years, Gloria Mayfield; two sons, Buck and Brett Mayfield and six grandchildren, two sisters, Linda (Patrick) Nolan and LouAnn Himes.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents; his younger brother, Terry Mayfield and his brother-in-law, Bobbie Himes.

Timothy Rodeghero

MORRIS—Timothy Christopher Rodeghero, 64, of Morris, passed away peacefully on Feb. 21, 2024 surrounded by his loving family at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Born April 25, 1959 and raised in Kankakee, IL, he relocated to Morris after graduating high school. He was the adored son of the late George Rodeghero and Betty Lou Rodeghero. On March 1, 1980, he exchanged vows with his beloved Paula in Morris.

Timothy's professional journey started as an electrician with the IBEW following his high school graduation. Later, he transitioned to become a small business owner alongside his father, specializing in selling and servicing landscape supplies and equipment for over 25 years. After dedicating years to his career, Timothy retired, enjoying eight years of well-deserved leisure while finding solace in his faith as a member of the Immaculate Conception Church.

Timothy's joys were simple yet profound. He found immense pleasure in bird watching, grilling out, and passionately followed Chicago sports (except for the Cubs). He cherished his Saturday evenings watching Svengoolie at 7 p.m. religiously. He had a fondness for Nascar and took pride in cruising around in his beloved white Dodge Charger, affectionately named "Knuckles."

Per Ron's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway St., one block north of IL Route 113, in Coal City on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024 from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 11 a.m., officiated by Pastor Caleb Counterman of Faith Baptist Church in Morris.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com, upload photographs and share Ron's memorial page via social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

Family was paramount to Timothy. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Paula Rodeghero. He leaves behind a legacy through his four children: Joseph Rodeghero, Anthony (Jenni) Rodeghero, Sarah Lynn (Jeff) Weisman, and George (Kirsten) Rodeghero. His heart swelled with pride for his eight grandchildren: Aiden, Hunter, Braelyn, Tanner, Elena, Evan, Nora, and Dylan. Timothy is also survived by his brother, Steven Rodeghero and stepbrother, Dan Sperry. His brothers-in-law, George Knott (Scott Guldge) and Terry (Lynn) Knott, were also dear to him.

Timothy was preceded in death by his father, mother, and uncle, Joseph Rodeghero.

In honoring Timothy's wishes, his family has chosen to hold a small private ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, they kindly request donations be made to the Bird Conservation Network, reflecting Timothy's passion for bird watching and love of the outdoors.

Timothy Christopher Rodeghero will forever be remembered for his unwavering love for his family, gentle spirit, and ability to find happiness in life's simplest moments. "Everyday is Saturday." May he rest in eternal peace.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Morris.

Jeanette E. Jones

BRACEVILLE—Jeanette E. Jones, 81, of Braceville, passed away Monday, Feb. 19, 2024 at Morris Hospital.

Born March 10, 1942 in Custer Township, IL, Jeanette Eva was a daughter of Earl and Marie (Downy) Sours. She was raised in Custer Park and attended Braidwood Schools. As a young woman, Jeanette worked for Grinchuck Pants Factory in Braidwood, and on June 25, 1966 she married Raymond Jones in Wilmington.

Jeanette was a homemaker first, but she worked hand in hand with her husband at the Church of God in Wilmington where her husband was the pastor for 35 years. She was instrumental in children's programs at the church such as Sunday School and Children's Church. Jeanette also worked for Braceville Grade School for several years as a cafeteria server, and was also a devoted caretaker to people in need.

She was currently attending Christian Faith Center in Wilmington and was a long time member of the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. Jeanette loved to cook and share a meal with family and friends, and took great pleasure in reading, puzzling and crocheting. She had a knack with children, whether it was at the church, babysitting, or with her own family. Jeanette loved being a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother and always strived to put her family's needs before her own.

Survivors include her children: Richard (Susan) Jones and Pastor Ken (Jo Ann) Jones, both of North Carolina; Calvin (Lori) Jones, of Fairbury, IL; Patrick (Carey) Jones, of Morris; Valerie Jones, of Dwight and David (Jessica) Jones, of Aurora; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

one brother and two sisters: Lois (the late Kenneth) Richmond, of Wilmington; Carol (Nelson) Stephens, of Brunswick, GA and Gerald (Glemma) Sours, of Vandalia, IL; one brother-in-law, Rev. Bill Stephens, of Ramsey, IL; many nieces and nephews, and her neighbors and family friends: John and Theresa Cookingham, of Braceville.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her parents and husband; one daughter, Sandra Jones and three grandchildren: Samantha Jones, Jesse Lee Jones and Mary Margaret Jones and her siblings: Maynard Sours, Lester Sours, Raymond Sours, Eloise (Elmer "Sparky") Sanor, Gary Sours, Dolores (Robert) Sjostrom, Vernon (Nancy) Warriner, Wanda Stephens and Edward Sours.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 at Christian Faith Center in Wilmington. Pastor Jeff Urban officiated, and burial followed at Wesley Cemetery in rural Wilmington, where Jeanette was laid to rest with her husband.

The service was live-streamed and available to view on-demand through her memorial page.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jeanette's memory to the Braceville Fire Department.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com, upload photographs, and share Jeanette's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Jerry Wilson

WILMINGTON—Jerry Wilson, 81, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Feb. 23, 2024 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet with his loving family at his side.

Born Oct. 30, 1942 in Joliet, Jerry Raymond was a son of Harold and Betty (Carroll) Wilson. Jerry's passion for music blossomed early in his life. His journey with music commenced during his formative years as a drummer in both the grade school band and later in the high school band at Joliet Township High School, where he proudly graduated with the class of 1960.

After completing his education, Jerry answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Navy. His dedication led him to California before transitioning into becoming a Marine Corpsman. Throughout his military career, Jerry was deployed to Okinawa and served outside Ho Chi Minh prior to the Vietnam Conflict and subsequent honorable discharge.

On Feb. 29, 1964, Jerry exchanged vows with Pearl Yeager in Joliet. Together, they built a loving home and raised their daughter in Wilmington. For over five decades, Jerry devoted himself to a career at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet, culminating in his retirement as an Engineer. Beyond his professional pursuits, Jerry was a licensed pilot and imparted his knowledge as a flight instructor at both Morris and Joliet Airports. Additionally, his everlasting love for music led him to entertain audiences for many years and he was proud to have cut records and record music with The

Silver Tones. In pursuit of adventure and embracing life to the fullest, Jerry found joy in scuba diving, snorkeling, parachuting, hiking, and motorcycling over the years. Though characterized by quiet wisdom, he will be fondly remembered as a masterful storyteller and above all else – a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Survivors include his loving wife, whom he would have been married to 60 years, Pearl; one daughter, Simone (Michael) Kommer of Mokena, Illinois; three grandchildren: Valerie Kommer and Erik Kommer, both of Chicago and Patrick (Mekenna) Kommer of Clinton, Iowa; one great grandson, Dane; one sister, Cheryl Wilson of Joliet and one niece, Heather Dropsky.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents. Green flameless cremation rites have been accorded.

A private family graveside with military honors will be held in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wilmington at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jerry's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main Street, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Jerry's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Catherine Baudino

COAL CITY—Catherine Baudino, 99, of Coal City, passed away Monday, Feb. 26, 2024 at the Arc of Dwight Healthcare Center.

Born Dec. 30, 1924 in Wilmington, Catherine was a daughter of Herbert and Mae (Begler) Holoffe. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1942. On Feb. 28, 1943, Catherine married Anthony "Buddy" Baudino at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City.

She was a devoted member of Assumption Catholic Church, and took great pleasure in playing in card clubs, especially Euchre. Catherine was an excellent bowler and played in tournaments regularly, bowling all the way until she was 90 years old. A devoted wife and mother, she loved spending time with her children and was grateful to see her family grow into five generations. Catherine was a kind woman who was loved by all who knew her.

Survivors include her three children: Jim Baudino, of Elwood; Lynn Clark, of Morris and Dan Baudino, of Coal City; six grandchildren: Jamie (Adam) Shivery, of Minnesota; Katie (John) Morrehead, of Pennsylvania; Rachael (Steve) Bochus and Jeff Martis, both of Florida and Trisha (Eric) Pelton and Brooke (Matt) Anderson, both of Morris; nine great-grandchildren: Charlotte, Frankie, Marabelle, Gene (Kristina), Kaitlyn, Riley, Haley, Tayah and

Sawyer; one great-great-grandchild, Link and numerous nieces and nephews.

Catherine was preceded in death by her parents and husband; two sisters and one brother: Virginia Mae (Frank) Ruda, Mary Louise (Russell) Finley and Herbert (Janis) Holoffe Jr.; and her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: John Baudino, Anna Marie Trotter, Elizabeth Whorter, Lillian Siron, Geraldine Davis, Laverne Naretto, and Grace Mulhall.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee St., in Coal City on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 10 a.m. until the funeral service at 11 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Joshua Miller, and burial will follow at Braceville Gardner Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made as gifts in Catherine's memory to the family for distribution to charities of their choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com, upload photographs, and share Catherine's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

Scott A. Findlay

LISLE, IL—Scott A. Findlay, 47, of Lisle, IL, formerly of Wilmington, passed away on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024 at Edwards Hospital in Naperville.

He was born in Joliet on June 1, 1976 to Richard and Nancy (nee Frizzell) Findlay. He grew up in the Wilmington area, graduating with Wilmington High School's class of 1994. Scott married Melissa Buell on Oct. 14, 2016. He was employed as a warehouse manager for Wesco Electric. Scott was an avid fan of football with his favorite teams being the Michigan Wolverines and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hunting. Scott was a natural joker who liked to lighten up any room he was in.

He is survived by his wife of 8 years, Melissa Findlay; his mother, Nancy Findlay; his brother, Adam (fiancée Lindsey) Findlay; his aunts, Judi Howell and Mary Norris; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Donna and Don Buell; his sister-

in-law, Chris (Wayne) Fritts; his brother-in-law, Brian Buell; and his nieces and nephews: Samantha, Kevin, Lindsay and Jake Fritts and Devin, Kyal, Shyanna and Denaya.

He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Findlay and his grandparents.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. until the time of the Funeral Service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City. Pastor Caleb Counterman will officiate. Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral service.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com.

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Ribbon cutting held for Silver Lily Tattoos



GRAND OPENING! Members of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce participated in the ribbon cutting for the downtown's newest business Silver Lily Tattoos at 213 N. Water St. From left are chamber ambassador Wendy Hill who joined Scott Schulz, Joy Schulz, Braden Bankes, Nicole Klann, Marisa Dreger, Zach Dreger, Jakob Schulz and ambassador Ike Widner and Chamber president Steve Evans in cutting the ribbon. Nicole and Marisa are the artists for Silver Lily Tattoos, the rest are family celebrating the grand opening.

Mobile food pantry coming to Kuzma

Catholic Charities of Joliet will be hosting a mobile food pantry at Kuzma Care Cottage on Friday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Kuzma is located at 635 S. Main St., Wilmington. When you arrive, please line up in the St. Rose Church parking lot by entering on the Main Street side. (Please do not arrive before 9 a.m.) Mobile food pantries use

a "drive thru" method to distribute food. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Everyone is welcome. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

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Knights to hold breakfast on March 17

The Wilmington Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Boiler Breakfast on Sunday, March 17, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be held at St. Rose

Parish gym at 626 S. Kankakee St. with proceeds to be used to upgrade the boiler for St. Rose church. Breakfast will serve pork

sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, French toast casserole, hash brown casserole and scrambled eggs. Cost will be by freewill donation.

Trust in Illinois local media remains high

In an age where America's political divide is increasingly mirrored in the media consumption habits of its citizens, the local media landscape offers a glimpse of hope.

A survey conducted by PRFire.com, a leading press release distribution service, reveals local journalism retains a significant degree of public trust. According to the survey, a substantial 66% of respondents express confidence in local media, markedly higher than the 47% who trust national outlets. This suggests that local media continues to play a crucial role in informing communities, a testament to its relevance and resilience.

Outreach in Gardner to assist with veteran benefits

The Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission will host an outreach event for veterans on Monday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 pm in Gardner at the Community Foundation of Grundy County South Resource Center, 229 Liberty St.

"We get calls every week inquiring about benefits and services available for veterans and their dependents. We are happy to answer those questions and educate veterans about the benefits they might be eligible for," said Ken Buck, Superintendent of the Grundy County VAC.

This event is open to all veterans and no registration is required.

This event will have a representative from Hines VA Hospital to answer questions regarding eligibility and enrollment.

You may be eligible for VA health care benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, you must have served 24 continuous

months or the full period for which you were called to active duty.

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional counseling to eligible Veterans, service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families.

Counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military to include military sexual trauma (MST). Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services.

Bring a copy of your DD214 and a photo ID. If you do not have a copy of your DD 214, the Grundy County VAC can assist you with getting a copy.

Veterans are welcome to contact the VAC at vac@grundycountyil.gov or 815-941-3152 to ask general questions or to schedule an office appointment.

Thursday, March 14th
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Fr. White Hall
110 S. School St., Braidwood

4 - 7 p.m.
 Corned beef, cabbage, carrots & potatoes

Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m. in the church

Free will donations for dinner to benefit Immaculate Conception Braidwood & Council Functions.

State Police squad hit on I-80

On February 23, 2024, at approximately 11:15 p.m.,

Illinois State Police (ISP) officials are investigated a three-vehicle traffic crash involving an ISP trooper's squad car that was hit by a motorist who failed to move over on Interstate 80 westbound, east of LaGrange Road in Will County.

On Friday at approximately 11:15 p.m., a trooper was handling a crash on I-80

westbound, east of LaGrange Road in Will County.

The squad car was stationary with the emergency lights activated. The trooper was inside the vehicle with seatbelt on when it was struck on the rear bumper by a Toyota Camry.

A third vehicle was unable to slow down and struck the Toyota. This caused the Toyota to strike squad car a second time. The trooper was trans-

ported to an area hospital for the treatment of injuries and was released.

The driver of the Toyota, 22-year-old Kenny A. Cornejo of Chicago, was charged with the Move Over Law - Failure to Yield to Stationary Emergency Vehicle, Driving Too Fast for Conditions, and Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

In 2022, ISP had 23 Move Over Law-related crashes where eight troopers sustained injuries. In 2023, ISP had 21 Move Over Law-related crashes; 2024 has suffered 9 to date. ISP reminds the public that the Move Over Law requires all drivers to move over when approaching an emergency vehicle, or any vehicle with their emergency or hazard lights activated.

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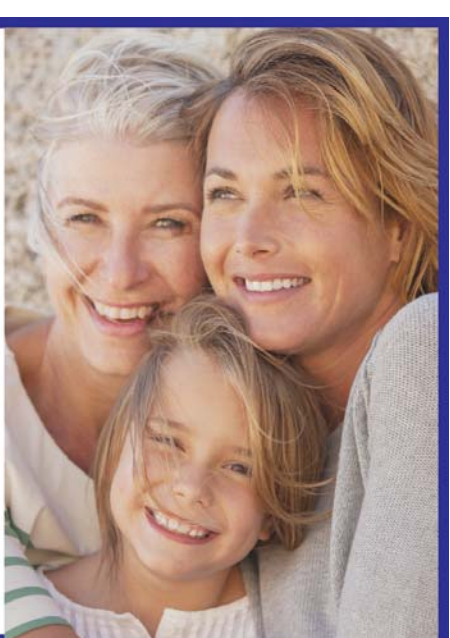
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Learn about native wildlife on March 3

The Forest Preserve will be hosting World Wildlife Day on Sunday, March 3, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Celebrate World Wildlife Day with this drop-in program. Learn about the native wildlife of Will County and how they are connected to animals around the world.

Explore hands-on materials and create a memento to remind you of your favorite native animal. Free, all ages.

Turning around commitments to cut greenhouse gases

Dear EarthTalk: Why are some companies backing off their previously stated commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions? How can we get them to turn it back around?

-- K.V., Detroit, MI

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

In February 2024, three major investment companies stepped back from efforts to limit climate-damaging emissions. JPMorgan Chase's and State Street's investment arms have both quit a global investor alliance encouraging companies to avoid emissions, and BlackRock has largely limited its involvement.

These companies aren't the only ones backing out on climate agreements. In 2023, Amazon dropped an effort to zero out emissions of half its shipments by 2030, BP scaled back on its plan to reduce emissions by 35 percent by the end of 2030 and Shell Oil dropped an initiative to build a pipeline of carbon credits and other carbon-absorbing projects.

There are hundreds of companies across the world backtracking on commitments toward green policies, despite growing concerns that the planet is reaching a crisis point.

The lack of government policy surrounding corporate emissions makes it easy for

companies to abandon their promises.

Net Zero Tracker, a group that monitors progress on corporate and government climate pledges, examined more than 1,000 companies that have made pledges to zero out their emissions by 2050. The group found that less than 4 percent of the 1,000 companies were doing the bare minimum to be considered in line with the goals of the 2015 Paris agreement.

The rest of the companies were not even meeting the so-called "starting line criteria" laid out by the United Nations. The "starting line" calls for companies to track their carbon footprint across supply chains, cut emissions, create a plan for using carbon offsets, and have annual reports on meeting climate targets.

It's obvious that letting companies make their own policies regarding greenhouse gas emissions is not effective. More government issued policies are crucial to making a real dent in carbon emissions. One recently-passed law in the U.S. is the Inflation Reduction Act, provides hundreds of billions of dollars in tax subsidies to companies using wind and solar power, electric vehicles, or other carbon capture technologies.

The idea is that by making it cheaper to go green, companies will find polluting a less attractive option.

Another method of corporate accountability is carbon pricing, which is putting a blanket tax on each ton of greenhouse gasses emitted by a company. Then there's the oldest, most reliable method of accountability, mass protest.



HUNDREDS OF COMPANIES across the world are backtracking on commitments toward green policies, despite growing concerns that the planet is reaching a crisis point.

There are many climate action groups like Mission Possible Partnership or First Movers Coalition, that are looking to force companies to cut emissions. Most companies originally claimed to implement green policies to appeal to public interest. If the public continues to thoroughly and unrelentingly push the matter, companies will be forced to truly administer green policies.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

Ooooooeeee Trucking files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on February 13, A.D. 2024, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Ooooooeeee Trucking, located at 4660 S. Gorman Rd., Gardner, IL 60424. Dated this 13th day of February, A.D. 2024.
Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courier on Feb. 21, 28 and March 6, 2024.

Coal City School District seeking bids for CCMS concessions & storage building and CCHS & CCIS maintenance building remodel projects

PUBLIC NOTICE

Coal City Community Unit School District #1 will be accepting bids for 2024 Coal City Middle School Concessions Building & Storage Building, Coal City High School & Coal City Intermediate School Maintenance Building Remodel Projects. Plans and Specifications are available on February 29, 2024, from Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc. plan room www.cordoganclarkplanroom.com. Sealed Bids, conspicuously marked, shall be received until 2:00 pm CST on March 21st, 2024, at the District Office, 550 S. Carbon Hill Road, Coal City, IL 60416, at which time they shall be opened and read aloud. A virtual mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm, March 5, 2024, via Microsoft Teams. Information to access the pre-bid meeting is in Specification Section 002513 Prebid Meetings. Prevailing wage rates shall apply to this Project. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent bidding and contract documents including Contractor qualifications as specified in said documents.
Published in the Coal City Courier on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Sheriff's sale of 406 S. Circle Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
STATE OF ILLINOIS))
COUNTY OF WILL)) SS.
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
DANIEL L. HOMYAK, III AKA DANIEL HOMYAK; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant.
No. 23 FC 0786

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 19th day of January, 2024, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 21st day of March, 2024, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate: **LOT 136, EXCEPT THE WESTERLY 8 FEET THEREOF, IN NORTHWEST BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 18, 1948, AS DOCUMENT NO. 646750, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE SOURCE MATERIAL BENEATH THE SURFACE, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**
Commonly known as: 406 S CIRCLE DR., WILMINGTON, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: Not Applicable
P.I.N.: 03-17-25-106-012-0000
Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.
In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.
Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.
FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
ANSELMO LINDBERG OLIVER LLC.
1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120
NAPEERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563
P: 630-453-6960
F: 630-428-4620
Plaintiff's Attorney
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 28, March 6 and 13, 2024.

Sheriff's sale of 31563 E. Frontage Rd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
STATE OF ILLINOIS))
COUNTY OF WILL)) SS.
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., Plaintiff,
vs.
BEVERLY S ROACH A/K/A BEVERLY ROACH; UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS. Defendant.
No. 23 FC 0513

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 7th day of September, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 14th day of March, 2024, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate: **THE SOUTH 245.89 FEET OF THE NORTH QUARTER OF THE WEST HALF OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PART THEREOF USED AS A STATE HIGHWAY AS DEDICATED BY INSTRUMENTS RECORDED JUNE 26, 1935 AS DOCUMENT NO. 481568, NOVEMBER 8 1935 AS DOCUMENT NO. 484633, RECORDED JANUARY 28, 1955 AS DOCUMENT NO. 766648, AND RECORDED OCTOBER 19, 1955 AS DOCUMENT NO. 783984, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**
Commonly known as: 31563 E Frontage Rd, Wilmington, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: Single Family Home
P.I.N.: 03-17-27-300-014-0000
Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.
In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.
Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.
FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
KLUEVER AND PLATT, LLC.
200 N. LASALLE ST. STE 1880
Chicago, Illinois 60601
P: 312-201-6765
F: 312-236-0514
Plaintiff's Attorney
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, February 21, 28 and March 6, 2024.

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- CLUES ACROSS
- Home of Iowa State University
 - fi (slang)
 - Mottled green and yellow fruit
 - Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
 - Sports broadcaster Eagle
 - Middy
 - Kinsmen
 - Cable network
 - Simpleton
 - Brunch beverage
 - Fed
 - European capital
 - Native inhabitants
 - Mechanical device
 - Rare geese native to Hawaii
 - Bedroom furnishing
 - The products of human creativity
 - Mass transit option
 - Made a mistake
 - Sacred sound symbol
 - Large N. American reindeer
 - Dull and flat
 - Partner to huffing
 - Written works
 - Monetary unit of Serbia
 - Midway between east and southeast
 - Peninsula of southwestern Asia
 - Widely used multiuser OS
 - Aggressive dog
 - Varnished
 - Hindu queen
 - Time units, abbr.
 - Farm animals
 - Capital of Latvia
 - Where golfers begin
 - Takes to civil court

- CLUES DOWN
- One who graduated
 - An inspired holy person
 - Electronic counter-counter-measures
 - A place to store things
 - Indian instrument
 - Spanish saloon
 - Whole number
 - Not fastened
 - Gives a boost
 - Lounges about
 - Interested in
 - Remove salt
 - Type of sword
 - Naturally occurring solid material
 - Gets involved without being invited
 - Feline
 - Bobby, NHL champ
 - "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
 - Hawaiian dish
 - Moroccan coastal region
 - Baseball statistic
 - Long period of time
 - Moved earth
 - Central Netherlands city
 - Take stock of
 - Central processing unit
 - Distinctive qualities one generates
 - Getting stuck
 - Loss of bodily movements
 - Veranda
 - Abrupt
 - What cats do
 - Expresses pleasure
 - Type of cheese
 - Professional STEM organization
 - Automatic data processing systems

Attorney Wharrie files Gossen estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF GRUNDY) SS:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DONALD E. GOSSEN, Deceased
Case No. 2024PR8
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION WILL AND CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of DONALD E. GOSSEN, Letters of office were issued on February 14, 2024, to DENNIS HUDSON, P.O. Box 1157, Kincaid, IL 62540, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Larry G. Wharrie, 105 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416.

Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs that the estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5 28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by E-filing or delivering a Petition to Terminate to the Circuit Clerk.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To E-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble E-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk to your local circuit clerk's office.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Probate Division, at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington St., Morris, IL 60450 or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of issuance of letters of office. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it had been filed.
Dated: Feb. 15, 2024.
DENNIS HUDSON, Independent Executor
Larry G. Wharrie
The Wharrie Law Firm, P.C.
105 S. Broadway,
Coal City, IL 60416
Phone: 815-634-8990
ARDC #2996146
Published in the Coal City Courier on Feb. 21, 28 and March 6, 2024.

Attorney Wharrie files Hyde estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF GRUNDY) SS:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EDDIE JAMES HYDE, Deceased
Case No. 2024PR2
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION WILL AND CLAIMS
Notice is given of the death of EDDIE JAMES HYDE, Letters of office were issued on February 8, 2024, to JESSICA TOMASIC, 5048 Mary Louise Court, Morrow, OH 45152, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Larry G. Wharrie, 105 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416.

Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs that the estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5 28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by E-filing or delivering a Petition to Terminate to the Circuit Clerk.
E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To E-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble E-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk to your local circuit clerk's office.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Probate Division, at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington St., Morris, IL 60450 or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of issuance of letters of office. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it had been filed.
Dated: Feb. 9, 2024.
JESSICA TOMASIC, Independent Executor
Larry G. Wharrie
The Wharrie Law Firm, P.C.
105 S. Broadway,
Coal City, IL 60416
Phone: 815-634-8990
ARDC #2996146
Published in the Coal City Courier on Feb. 14, 21 and 28, 2024.

All students welcome

March 2nd
9am-1pm

Godley Park District
500 S. Kankakee St
Godley, IL 60407

"Every student should be able to afford prom"

All Dresses are \$5.00 at Event

Dresses may be dropped off at any Whitmore Ace location until March 1st

Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box has dressed over 4,500 students for prom

www.facebook.com/melissacrystalprom

In memory of Melissa Michalowski & Crystal Carr

Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box

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Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines Classified Display Fridays - 5 p.m. Classified Word Ads Mondays - noon

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion.

Cost Line Ads are up to 30 words (20c for each word over 30) 1 wk. - \$17; 2 wks. - \$21; 3 wks. - \$25; 4 wks. - \$29*

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GARAGE SALE

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SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 552 N Center St, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family Home). On the 21st day of March, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Plaintiff v. Jake Madding; et al. Defendant. Case No. 23 FC 0717 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: Colillis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., February 28, March 6 and 13, 2024.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 547 N English St, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family Home). On the 14th day of March, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. 2005-WMC1, ASSET - BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-WMC1 Plaintiff v. JEFF URBAN A/K/A JEFF A URBAN, AMANDA C URBAN, MICHAEL ZWIEZEN, TONI PICCIOLA, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL WILKEY; UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1272 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: KLUEVER AND PLATT, L.L.C. 200 N. LASALLE ST. STE 1880 Chicago, Illinois 60601 P: 312-201-6765 F: 312-236-0514 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., February 21, 28 and March 6, 2024.

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

21 CENTURY 21 Coleman-Hornsby

MORRIS \$675,000 4 BR, 3.5 BA home. 4000+ sq. ft. finished basement, in-ground swimming pool, & 3 car garage. Shawn 815-474-6670. MPE50

VERONA \$457,000 Beautiful 4 BR home with 1st floor primary suite & heated outbuilding on 5+ acres with a stream. Shawn 815-474-6670.

MORRIS \$449,900 Beautiful 2 story home on 1 acre in Southmor Estates subdivision, 4 BR, 3.5BA, Joan Workman 815-341-8053. PW385

MORRIS \$314,900 Commercial building w/2 commercial units on 1st floor, 2nd floor is a 2 BR apartment with a deck. Shawn 815-474-6670. MS513

MORRIS \$199,900 Remodeled 3BR, 1.5BA, 1350 of townhome. HOA covers in-ground pool, lawn care and exterior maintenance. LP2406

MORRIS \$169,000 Beautiful 2 BR, 1 BA bungalow with a 25 car garage, close to a playground and baseball field. Shawn 815-474-6670. BP1208

VERONA \$125,000 4 BR, 2 BA home. First floor primary bedroom, 25 car garage. Located in Seneca School Dist. Shawn 815-474-6670. ED310

MORRIS \$124,900 UPDATED open concept liv, kit, dining w/2BR, 2BA on 1/3 acre with fenced yard. Call/Text Tom 815-368-5330. AM5350

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 406 S CIRCLE DR., WILMINGTON, IL 60481 (Not Applicable). On the 21st day of March, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff v. DANIEL L. HOMYAK, III AKA DANIEL HOMYAK; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant. Case No. 23 FC 0786 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: ANSELMO LINDBERG OLIVER L.L.C. 1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563 P: 630-453-6960 F: 630-428-4620 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., February 28, March 6, 13, 2024.

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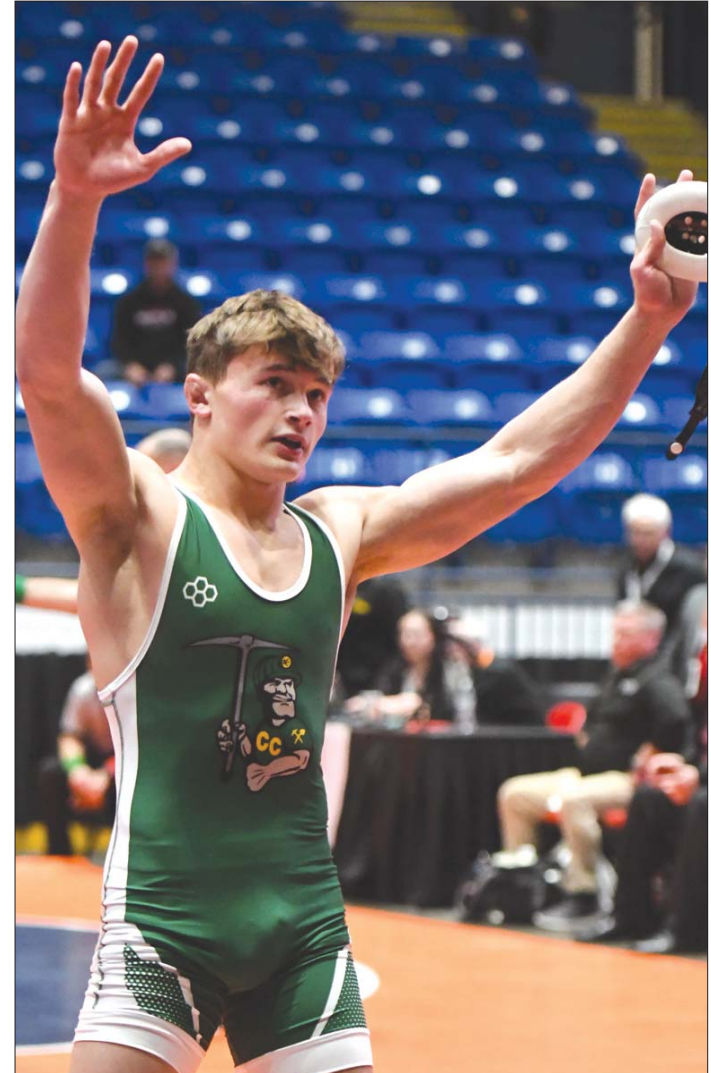
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BENCH SUPPORT—Coal City coaches and wrestlers give Owen Petersen (106) some direction during the opening match of the State Dual team championship in Bloomington on Saturday. Petersen tried his darnest to score in the third period but came up shy 7-6.



FINAL EXIT—Brant "Buddy" Widlowski waves to the crowd after pinning his 150-pound opponent during the state dual team championships on Saturday.

Coaler wrestlers bring home 2nd

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

The Coal City wrestling team needed a couple of pins Saturday while trying to defend its 2023 Class 1A state championship but it just didn't happen against Marian Catholic as they ended up in second place, losing 34-27.

The Coalers powered their way through the quarter-final 54-13 over Riverdale on Friday before upending Vandalia 42-22 in the semi-final early Saturday to make it to the championship bout. It was the first time in Coal City history they reached the state finals in back-to-back years.

"We thought we could win it again. Things just didn't go our way today," said Coal City coach Mark Masters. "I'm not sure we could have done anything differently that would have changed the outcome other than simply winning the matches we were hoping to win."

The battle for the title featured just one pin for each title. That's how evenly matched the Coalers and Hurricanes were.

Marian took the lead from the getgo, starting at 106, where Austin Hagevold beat

Coaler freshman Owen Peterson 7-6, followed by Anthony Alanis outscoring freshman Cooper Morris 10-3, at 113.

Junior Culan Lindemuth charged the Coalers with an 8-1 win over Josiah Perez at 120, making it a 6-3 deficit after three matches.

That would be as close as the Coalers would get as Marian won the next three matches that included bonus points in each.

Brayden Teunissen, Marian's 126 state individual champion, won a 22-7 tech. fall over Luke Munsterman. Then Andrew Alvarado surprised Coaler Brody Widlowski with a pin in 4:38 at 132. Twice Widlowski had nearfalls against Alvarado but just couldn't get the tap.

"Brody's one of the best finishers I've ever had," Masters noted. "That kid gets a near side cradle, he studs it up. Other guys don't get him on his back very often. Alvarado got off of his back and not only that, he came back and took us down and pinned us."

Then at 138, Marian's Vance Williams scored a 14-6 major decision over Mason Garner to extend the

Hurricanes' lead to 21-3.

"At that point we were in an awkward position and just couldn't make it up. You just never know...the best guys can get beat and that's the reason why you go out there and wrestle. Our guys never gave up but Marian gained the momentum which made it tough on us," Master said.

Sophomore Brock Finch gave the Coalers some hope with a 5-1 win over Joshua Gawronski at 144. That set the stage for Coal City senior Brant "Buddy" Widlowski who pinned Connor Cassels in 2:51, extending his 40-pin record for the season.

When the referee gave Brant the victory handshake, the senior team captain waved his other hand too towards the crowd as his final gesture of thanks to Coaler fans.

"We're going to miss Brant," commented Masters. "He had right around 40 pins this year, which you don't just replace. He was a great leader, also."

At 157, Marian's Jimmy Mastny won by forfeit to put the Hurricanes ahead 27-12 before 165-pound state champion Landin Benson edged Nicolas Astacio, 3-2.

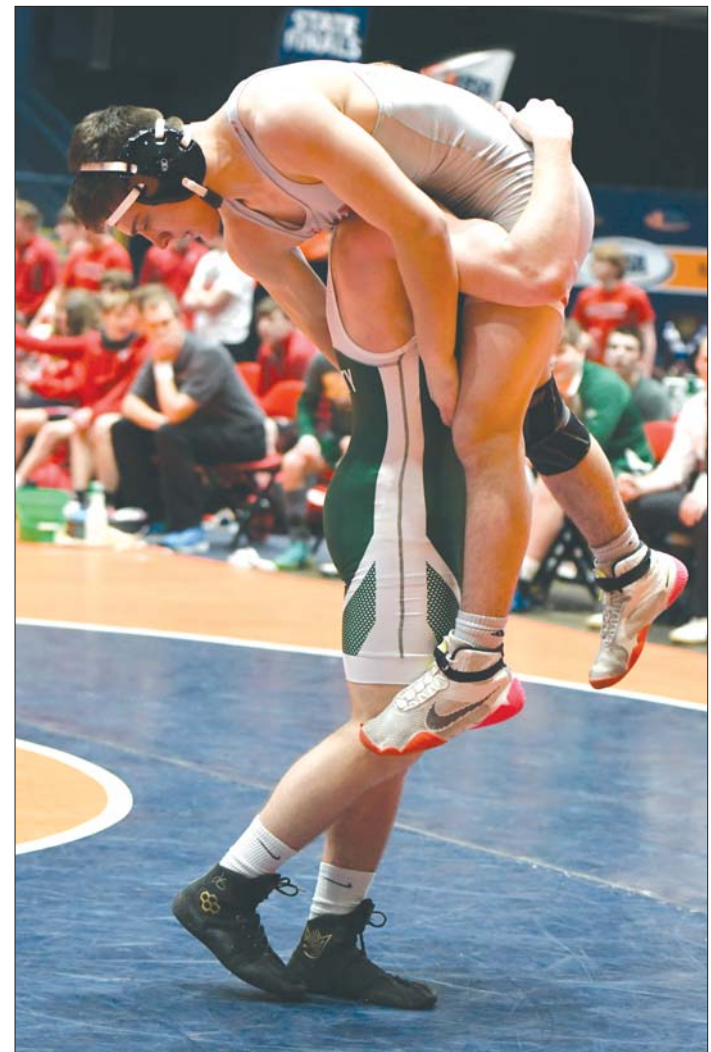
Marian's Max Astacio

shutout John Keigher at 175, 4-0 which pretty much locked in the victory. They let Cade Poyner win by forfeit at 190 before Daniel French beat Alec Waliczek 11-0. The Coalers' Emmett Easton won by forfeit to end it.

"We've got a good core group of guys coming back. We lose only two seniors in our lineup for next year. So we've got 12 guys coming back who were place winners and nine state qualifiers. That bodes well for us," Masters said.

The Coalers finish the season with a 38-6 record. Departing seniors are Buddy Widlowski and Jamie Keigher. They will have four juniors back as seniors, nine sophomores as juniors and six freshmen as experienced sophomores.

"We'll have a lot of experienced wrestlers back next year. In fact expectations are high for the next few years with skilled middle school wrestlers who are coming up through the program. They've wrestled on some big stages throughout the state and in tournaments. So we intend to be back next year."



COAL CITY JUNIOR Landin Benson lifts Marian's Nicolas Astacio off his feet during the 165 dual team final on Saturday. Benson won the match 3-2.

Softball Spring Training at Coal City High School



Skills and Drills Camp

Dates: February 28th (6:00 - 7:00 pm)
March 6th (6:00 - 7:00 pm)
March 13th (7:00 - 8:00 pm)

Location: Coal City High School Competition Gym

Ages: All 1st - 8th Grade Female Coal City Students

Cost: 5 dollars per session

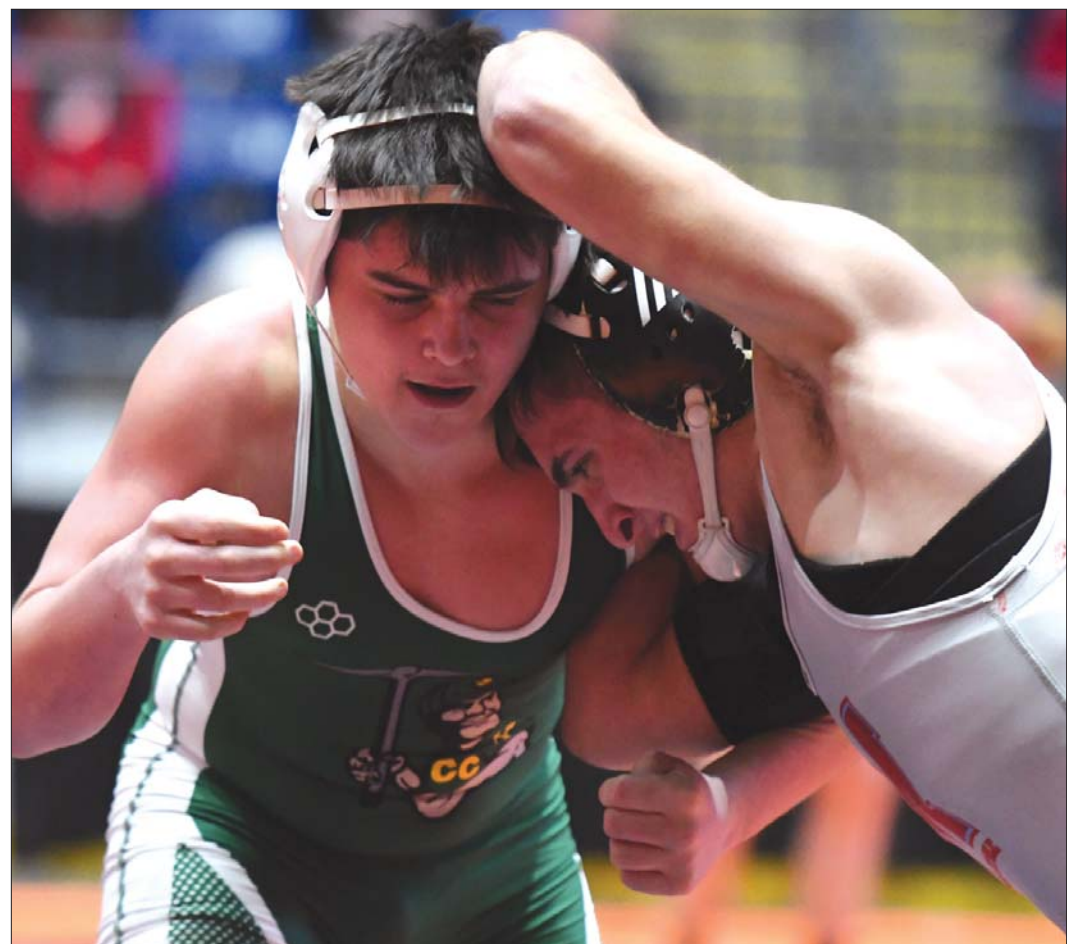
Come out and join the back to back Regional Champions for our first annual Spring Training event. All proceeds will go directly back to the softball program at CCHS. Participants will work on the following skills and softball concepts:

Pitching, Fielding, Baserunning, Hitting, Softball IQ, and Teamwork.

Contact information: Head Coach Rodney Monbrum

Work number: 815 634 5039 / Email: rmonbrum@coalcityschools.org

Hustle. Effort. Have Fun. Repeat



LOOKING TO SCORE at 175 pounds during the IHSA State dual team finals is Coal City junior John Keigher.

CCMS wrestlers win regional, advance 22

The Coaler Middle School wrestlers traveled to Marseilles to compete in regionals this past weekend. Coal City took 1st place overall winning by over 150 points. The Coalers had 22 wrestlers advance to the sectional tournament.

1st place went to Kamden Gabehart, Brantley Brooks, Ryder Gill, Phoenix Senodenos, Roman Taylor, Carter Wix, Max Christensen, Gaberial Hamilton and Michael Herrera

2nd Place: Grady Jensen, Gavin Roudis, Ryker Long, Carter Teague and Casey Stanford

3rd Place: Camden Schott, Jason Piatak, Banien Durkee, Eathyn Rivera, Dominic Zuccarello, Levi Marshall, Wyatt Ricke and Thomas Poole

The Coalers will compete in East Peoria this Saturday for a chance to wrestle at the State tournament.