

COAL CITY COURANT.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315



THE FRIDAY GAME was the start of a busy spring break week for the Varsity Lady Coalers as they will be on the road at Bradley-Bourbonnais on Tuesday for an 11 a.m. game, they will host Kankakee on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m., then LaSalle Peru at 4 p.m. on Thursday, and travel to Plainfield Central for an 11 a.m. game on Saturday.



THE HOME OPENER for the Coal City Coalers Softball Team—its first game on the newly renovated field—was held Friday, March 21. The team hosted Prairie Central and came out victorious, 9-3. The two teams started the game by meeting at home plate with umpires Frank “Butch” Skubic, Ken W. Miller, and Jeff Emerson, all of Coal City. Miller and Skubic are Illinois Coaches Association Softball Umpire Hall of Famers—inducted in 2019 and 2023, respectively.

Unit 1 schools already ahead of proposed cell phone ban

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Legislation that would prohibit public school students from using cell phones and other wireless communication devices during class time cleared a Senate committee last week and could soon be considered by the full Senate.

It’s a policy change that Gov. JB Pritzker called for in his State of the State address in February and

one that has been gaining popularity in recent years throughout the United States.

According to the health policy website KFE.org, at least nine other states have adopted statewide policies limiting or banning the use of cell phones in schools. Even in the absence of a statewide policy, individual districts like District 1 in Coal City are ahead of what may become law.

“We have had the policy of no cell phones in

class for around 7 years. They are to be off and out of sight during class,” said Coal City Superintendent Chris Spencer.

Spencer said that if a student chooses to bring a cell phone with them to class, the phone is placed in a phone caddy with a space assigned to that student. Teachers will instruct the students when a classroom activity allows for an electronic device to be removed from the caddy

SEE CELL PHONE PAGE 2

\$40 million data center coming to Reed Road

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

It’s early in the process but Braidwood may some day land a \$40 million data center built on the city’s west side.

“After they get approval from the city, probably sometime in May or a little later, they’ll start breaking ground,” said city administrator Tony Altiery. “Bear in mind, the project is likely to take anywhere from three to five years from start to finish.”

According to Altiery, the data center will be constructed by Western Hospitality Partners, LLC, and will consist of eight buildings and two substations. The bulk of the center will be located on North Kankakee Street near East Reed Road, just off the Reed Road exit of Interstate 55.

The location is near high tension power lines where a switching station and electrical substation

can be built. A data center is a physical source that stores computing machines and related hardware. Centers contain computing infrastructure that IT system require, such as servers, data storage drives and network equipment.

There are over 10 data centers of various sizes being proposed in the Chicagoland region. Each will demand electricity by the 100s of megawatts, in some cases enough to power the city of Chicago. They are power hungry in order to run all their servers and cooling systems.

“The project is going to create two- to three-hundred construction jobs,” Altiery said. “Later, when the data center is finished, you’re looking at probably 200 technical jobs, but also other jobs like janitorial and support. The best part of the data center is there will be no semi truck traffic.”



PROPOSED DATA CENTER—A conception plan details a data center proposed by Found Digital on farmland near Kennedy (Reed) Road and Interstate 55 in Braidwood. The site would include up to eight buildings and a ComEd electrical substation.

Felons lead police on wild ride through two counties

A pair was arrested May 13 after leading law enforcement officers on a wild ride through two counties following an attempted traffic stop. Grundy County Sheriff

Deputies arrested Christina M Moreno, 43, and Jesus G Martinez, 42, both of El Paso, IL, but not without a flight.

Grundy County Sheriff attempted to stop the vehi-

cle driven by Moreno near Gardner, after Woodford County attempted a stop earlier in the day, but the vehicle fled.

SEE ARREST PAGE 2

 \$1.00
Vol. 124,
Issue 13
1 section •
12 pages
Not over 75% advertising
www.coalcitycourant.com



BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

SALE VALID
3/27/25-4/2/25

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD
AT BERKOTFOODS.COM

fill it fresh!

LOOK FOR FILL IT FRESH SIGNS
ON SELECT PRODUCE ITEMS &
FILL OUR BAG FOR ONLY
\$20

NO LIMIT - FILL AS MANY
BAGS AS YOU WANT!

SEE OUR
FULL AD @
BERKOTFOODS.
COM

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272 | COAL CITY 815-634-4224 | BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

BERKOT'S BROWN BAG SALE

20% OFF

on all the fresh beef, pork, chicken, lamb & seafood that
you can fit in our bag.

Limit 4 bags per customer. Must use designated bag for savings. Savings will be discounted at the register. While supplies last, No rainchecks.

Cell phones, continued from page 1

for usage.

The alternative is to leave their phones in their locker.

"Shortly after this policy was put into place, we bought pouches for the classrooms so students could put their phones away," said Spencer.

At one time the district did allow the use of cell phones before adopting the no cell phones during the class period.

"At that time, the district, especially the high school wanted the students to be able to use the cell phones as a tool to enhance their education, but it quickly became more of a distraction for the teachers, students and administration," Spencer noted in an email.

"Once the District went one-to-one with Chromebooks, there was no need for students to be using cell phones," he added. "Cell phones continue to be a distraction but that distraction has become less frequent. I give our faculty, staff, and administration a lot of credit because policing the use of cell phones is something that takes a lot of time, patience, and consistency."

Cell phone or electronic devices may be used at Coal City High School before or after school, during passing periods, during lunch and if there is an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff or other individuals.

Senate Bill 2427, if passed, would allow exceptions if the devices are needed as part of an individual educational plan for a student with disabilities, or if they are needed for medical care.

The new policy would have to be in place in time for the 2026-27 academic year.

Arrest, continued from page 1

Grundy Deputies successfully deployed stop sticks, flattening at least one tire. However, Moreno failed to stop. A Grundy County Deputy conducted a (PIT) pursuit intervention technique, however Moreno continued fleeing.

Grundy Deputies positioned their squad cars around Moreno's vehicle and blocked it in.

That still didn't completely stop Moreno, who rammed into the rear end of an unmarked pick up truck and then backed into another marked squad car, damaging both vehicles.

Finally, Moreno and Martinez were taken into custody without further incident.

Martinez possessed warrants from McLean County for Failure to Appear on contempt and larceny charges, Woodford County for Failure to Appear for Driving Under the Influence, Driving on a Revoked or Suspended License, and a Kendall County warrant for violation of Pre-Trial Release Conditions, and Possession of Meth.

"Martinez has been arrested 19 times and we made it an even 20," a Grundy County Sheriff's Department spokesperson said.

Moreno was arrested for Aggravated Fleeing to Elude, and Criminal



JESUS MARTINEZ



CHRISTINA MORENO

Damage to State Supported Property. This was Moreno's 27th arrest. Moreno was booked into the Grundy County Jail, cited with a future court date and turned over to Woodford County for her 28th arrest.

Martinez was booked into the Grundy County Jail where he is currently being held on multiple warrants.

Coaler assistant wrestling coach, athletic director to be honored

The Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association [IWCOA] annually recognizes outstanding individuals in the sport of wrestling, and those who work behind the scenes to support the athletes and coaches.

It was recently announced by the IWCOA that Coal City High School athletic director Brad Boresi was selected as the 2025 1A Administrator of the Year. The organization's membership selected Boresi for the honor based on a nomination submitted by Coalers head coach Mark Masters.

"Brad has been fantastic for our program. He is creative and makes wrestling a priority," Masters said, adding, "Brad does a lot with recognizing the success of our individual accomplishments, as well as our team."

The Coalers had an outstanding individual and team season advancing 13 wrestlers to the individual state finals—seven of them earning medals—and claiming the state dual team 1A championship.

The success of the Coalers is based on several factors, one of them being the instruction and support provided by the coaching



Courtesy photo

ZACH BERMAN, a three-year assistant wrestling coach for the Coalers, has been selected by the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association as the 2025 1A Assistant Coach of the Year.

staff and this year, three year assistant coach Zach Berman is being honored by the IWCOA as the 1A Assistant Coach of the Year.

"Zach has been a terrific addition to our staff. He has great rapport with our student athletes. Zach runs out day-to-day practice and has our guys well prepared to be successful at the highest level," Masters said.

Berman and Boresi will be recognized by the



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY HIGH School athletic director Brad Boresi has been selected by the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association as the 2025 1A Administrator of the Year.

IWCOA at its annual Hall of Fame Banquet next month. At that time, the wrestling organization will honor the 2025 Hall of Fame class that includes Bob McGuinn, a long-time volunteer coach with the Coalers. McGuinn's contributions and success in the sport of wrestling are vast and include his time at Eastern Illinois University where he was a three-time All-American.

The IWCOA has recognized several individuals involved in the Coal City wrestling program over the past several years. Hall of Fame members include Masters, former Coalers coaches George Dare and Brett Porter, and wrestler Todd Combes.

Previously honored as Assistant Coaches of the Year were Nick O'Bert, Jim Looper, Joe Widlowski and Kevin Carrino. Administrators who have been recognized by the organization are Coal City High School principal A. Stafford and former athletic directors Dan Hutchings and John Cullick.

Masters is also a three-time recipient of the IWCOA's Head Coach of the Year Award—2023, 2019 and 2015.

The organization also presents honors for Outstanding Wrestler of the Year and Scholastic Wrestler of the Year. Past recipients in those categories include Coalers Daniel Jezk, 2020 and Todd Combes, 1997, for Outstanding Wrestler, and the Scholastic Wrestler award has gone to Braider Young, 2023; Riley Kauzlaric, 2016, and Noah Roseland, 2008.

Breaking in the new turf field with style



Photo by Amy Walker

HOME RUN—Coal City coach Greg Wills congratulates Lance Cuddy as he heads for home after hitting one out of the park. Cuddy went 3-for-5 with four RBIs in the season opener.

Coal City Fire Dept. files intent to issue bonds to improve fire departments

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS AND RIGHT TO FILE PETITION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an ordinance (the "Ordinance"), adopted by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois (the "District"), on the 18th day of March, 2025, the District intends to issue general obligation alternate bonds (the "Bonds"), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$6,500,000, to build and equip a new fire station, renovate an existing fire station and alter, repair, improve and equip existing facilities of the District. The revenue source that will be pledged to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds will be corporate purpose taxes of the District. If such revenue source shall be insufficient to pay the Bonds, then the Bonds shall be payable from ad valorem property taxes levied upon all taxable property in the District without limitation as to rate or amount. A complete copy of the Ordinance follows this notice.

Notice is hereby further given that if a petition signed by 614 or more electors of the District (being equal to the greater of (i) 7.5% of the registered voters in the District or (ii) 200 of those registered voters or 15% of those registered voters, whichever is less), asking that the issuance of the Bonds be submitted to referendum, is submitted to the Secretary of the Board within thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice and the Ordinance, an election on said proposition shall be held on the 17th day of March, 2026. The Circuit Court may declare that an emergency referendum should be held prior to said election date pursuant to the provisions of Section 2A-1.4 of the Election Code of the State of Illinois, as amended. If no such petition is filed with the Secretary within said 30-day period, the Bonds shall be authorized to be issued.

By order of the Board of Trustees of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois, this 18th day of March, 2025.

Mitchell Bailey, Secretary, Board of Trustees,
Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois

ORDINANCE NUMBER 3-18-2025

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 to build and equip a new fire station, renovate an existing fire station and alter, repair, improve and equip existing facilities of the District

WHEREAS, the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois (the "District"), is a duly organized and existing fire protection district created under the provisions of the Fire Protection District Act of the State of Illinois, as supplemented and amended; and

WHEREAS, in order to raise funds to build and equip a new fire station, renovate an existing fire station and alter, repair, improve and equip existing facilities of the District (the "Project"), the Board of Trustees of the District (the "Board") has determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the best interests of the District that the District borrow an amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 and, in evidence thereof, to issue alternate bonds in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$6,500,000, all in accordance with the Local Government Debt Reform Act of the State of Illinois, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the revenue source that will be pledged to the payment of the principal of and interest on the alternate bonds will be corporate purpose taxes of the District; and

WHEREAS, if such revenue source is insufficient to pay the alternate bonds, ad valorem property taxes upon all taxable property in the District without limitation as to rate or amount are authorized to be extended to pay the principal of and interest on the alternate bonds;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Preambles. The Board hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preambles to this Ordinance are full, true and correct and does incorporate them into this Ordinance by this reference.

Section 2. Determination to Issue the Bonds. In order to raise funds for the purpose of paying costs of the Project, it is advisable, necessary and in the best interests of the District that the District borrow an amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 and, in evidence thereof, and issue general obligation alternate bonds of the District in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 (the "Bonds").

Section 3. Publication. This Ordinance, together with a notice in the statutory form, shall be published in the Coal City Courant, the same being a newspaper of general circulation in the District, and if no petition, signed by 614 or more electors of the District (being equal to the greater of (i) 7.5% of the registered voters in the District or (ii) 200 of those registered voters or 15% of those registered voters, whichever is less), asking that the question of the issuance of the Bonds be submitted to referendum, is filed with the Secretary of the Board within thirty (30) days after the date of the publication of this Ordinance and said notice, then the Bonds shall be authorized to be issued.

Section 4. Additional Ordinances. If no petition meeting the requirements of applicable law is filed during the petition period hereinabove referred to, then the Board may adopt additional ordinances or proceedings supplementing or amending this Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of the Bonds and prescribing all the details of the Bonds, so long as the maximum amount of the Bonds as set forth in this Ordinance is not exceeded and there is no material change in the Project described herein. Such additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective immediately without publication or posting or any further act or requirement. This Ordinance, together with such additional ordinances or proceedings, shall constitute complete authority for the issuance of the Bonds under applicable law.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 6. Repealer. All ordinances, resolutions or orders, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed.

Adopted March 18, 2025.

Randy Alderson, President, Board of Trustees,
Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois

Attest:
Mitchell Bailey, Secretary, Board of Trustees,
Coal City Fire Protection District,
Grundy County, Illinois
Published in the Coal City Courant on March 26, 2025.

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

We understand commitment

We take the time to truly get to know you, since how we help turn your vision into reality is unique to you. Then we'll partner together over time to help keep you on track.



Tammy Johnson
AAMS™
Financial Advisor
12 East North Street
Coal City, IL 60416
815-634-0205



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



The Coal City Courant

USPS No. 120-060
Published weekly, 52 times a year, on
Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
271 S. Broadway St.
Coal City, IL 60416
Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

Postmaster:

Send address changes to:
Free Press Newspapers;
111 S. Water St.; Wilmington, IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$46 Grundy & Will
counties; \$53 other Illinois counties and \$60
out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes
the weekly subscription newspapers named
The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood
Journal and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:

• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-0315

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising:
Monday, noon

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

Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2024 All news, photographs and
advertising material used in this publication
are the property of G-W Communications,
Inc. Use of the material without the consent
of G-W Communications, Inc. is strictly pro-
hibited. Violators of this property right are
subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher



PHOTOS COURTESY COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL
COAL CITY JUNIOR Brody Widlowski earned his 100th career varsity win during the 1A State Dual team semi-final match.

CCHS wrestlers join the 100 club

Coal City wrestlers Brody Widlowski and Aidan Kenney earned their 100th career varsity wins at the 2025 IHSA 1A Dual Team State Tournament on March 1. Widlowski recorded his 100th varsity victory with a semifinal-clinching pin against Marian Catholic.

He was the 138-pound runner-up this year at the individual state tournament and placed fourth in 2023 and second in 2024.

Kenney picked up his 100th varsity win in

the final match of the state championship dual against Vandalia. His 9-4 decision won the Coalers their second IHSA 1A Dual Team State Championship in the last three years.

Kenney finished in fourth place this year at the 144 pound weight class and was a state qualifier in 2023.

Widlowski and Kenney are the 43rd and 44th members to join the 100-win club in the Coalers wrestling program history.



THE FINAL MATCH of the 2024-25 season for junior Aidan Kenney was a 9-4 decision during the state dual team championship, giving him his 100th career varsity win.

Students of the week at CCMS



COAL CITY MIDDLE School has recognized eight students as the school's most recent Students of the Week. The honored students are [from left, row one]: Peyton Boyd, nominated by Mrs. Wankowski; Jillian Erhard, nominated by Mrs. Larson, and Abi Donnelly, nominated by Mrs. Sweeney. In row two are: Olivia Edmonds, nominated by Mrs. Sobieck; Mollee Offdenkamp, nominated by Mr. Larson; Ryder Myer, nominated by Ms. Swink, and John Viano, nominated by Coach Masters. Not pictured is Adelia Gonzalez, nominated by Mrs. Aldridge.

Webinar on what to plant this Spring

The Forest Preserve will be hosting a Lunch and Learn - Planting Natives in the Spring on Friday, April 4, at noon to 1 p.m. as a Zoom webinar.

Learn which native plants to plant in spring and early summer for year-round color. Discover how to incorporate them into your yard on any budget. Free, all ages. Register by April 4.

Coal City Kindergarten registration

Kindergarten Registration includes the students attending our preschool Wednesday, April 9th at the Early Childhood Center for the 25/26 school year. Visit the Coal City School District Early Childhood website for further information or visit our website: www.coalcityschools.org

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, March 27- Jr. Artists - 1pm
Grundy County Early Voting in Annex - 3-6pm
Teen Artists - 3:30pm
Welcome Porch Sign - 6pm
Friday, March 28-

Inside Walking at CCPLD - 8-9am

Family Caregivers Support Group - 10am
Movie of the Month - 1pm - "Priscilla."
Fun Fridays - 3pm
Gamer's Guild - 4pm
Saturday, March 29- Grundy County Early Voting in Annex - 8am-12pm

Teen Pancakes and PJs - 9:30am - 6th-12th grades can join us for some Saturday morning cartoons while they eat pancakes. Feel free to come in your pajamas.

Monday, March 31- Last Day for Inside Walking at CCPLD - 8-9am
Terrific Tots - 10am

Preschool Storytime - 11am

Eager Readers - 4pm
Lapsit - 6pm
Preschool Storytime - 6pm

Tuesday, April 1- Adult Book Club - 1pm
Wacky Fun at the Library - 6pm

Wednesday, April 2- Inside Walking at CCPLD - 8-9am

LIHEAP Meetings - 9am-12pm - by appointment only
SHIP - 9am-12pm - by appointment only
Paper & More - 9am-4pm

Lapsit - 10am
Preschool Storytime - 10am

Diamond Art Club - 6pm - Adults can discover the art of diamond painting or bring your own project to our class, suitable for all skill levels! Join us for a cozy and fulfilling session where you can relax, unwind, express yourself and connect with others while working on your diamond art. If you are new to diamond art think color by numbers with gems. We will have a project for you to work on if you choose or you can bring your own to continue to work on. Registration required.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.
Tenant: Mike Landry, 6469 Benelli Dr., Milton, FL 32570. If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid in full by March 31, 2025, the property within Unit #G-45 will be sold to satisfy the lien.
Published in the Coal City Courant on March 12 and 26, 2025.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.
Tenant: Antwon Manning, 58E 164th St., South Holland, IL 60473. Unit #330
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid in full by March 31, 2025, the property within unit #330 will be sold to satisfy the lien.
Published in the Coal City Courant on March 19 and 26, 2025.

Diamond announces consolidated election

PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION
Notice is hereby given by the Office of the Clerk of the Village of Diamond, 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL of the Consolidated Election to be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 for the offices: One (1) Mayor and Four (4) Village Commissioner positions. All Polling facilities are open for voters from 6:00am to 7:00 p.m.
Published in the Coal City Courant on March 26, 2025.

Attorney Meents files Hutton estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROSE DARLA HUTTON, Deceased; No. 2025 PR 15
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Rose Darla Hutton, Letters Testamentary as Independent Administrator with Will Annexed were issued on March 6, 2025, to Ronette Elizabeth Ksiazak, whose address is 140 North First Avenue, Coal City, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 22, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory 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/get-help.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Ronette Elizabeth Ksiazak
Independent Administrator
with Will Annexed
of the Estate of Rose Darla Hutton, Deceased

Fire Department to host public hearing on bond purchase

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COAL CITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS TO SELL \$6,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE)
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois (the "District"), will hold a public hearing on the 15th day of April, 2025, at 10:30 o'clock A.M. The hearing will be held at Coal City Fire Station No. 2, 1455 South Berta Road, Coal City, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds of the District in the amount of \$6,500,000 to build and equip a new fire station, renovate an existing fire station and alter, repair, improve and equip existing facilities of the District.
By order of the President of the Board of Trustees of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois.
DATED the 18th day of March, 2025.
Mitchell Bailey, Secretary
Board of Trustees,
Coal City Fire Protection District,
Grundy County, Illinois
Published in the Coal City Courant on March 26, 2025.

Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Mar. 12, 19 and 26, 2025.

Vote April 1st
DENISE BACH
Braceville Township Clerk

Paid for by friends to elect Denise Bach



PUBLIC NOTICE

EARLY VOTING SITES

CONSOLIDATED ELECTION - APRIL 1, 2025

Early Voting will begin on Thursday, March 13th, and continue through Monday, March 31, 2025.

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.

Open for Early Voting: Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Extended Early Voting hours:

Saturday	March 15th	8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	March 18th	8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 22nd	8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	March 25th	8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 27th	8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 29th	8:00 a.m. - Noon
Sunday	March 30th	8:00 a.m. - Noon

Early Voting will be offered at the below locations for the following hours only:

LOCATION	LOCATION
Village of Minooka (Community Room A)	Coal City Library (Annex Building)
121 E. McEvilly Rd. Minooka, IL 60447	85 N. Garfield St. Coal City, IL 60416

Available only during dates/times listed below:

Saturday	March 15th	8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	March 18th	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 22nd	8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	March 25th	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 27th	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	March 29th	8:00 a.m. - Noon
Sunday	March 30th	8:00 a.m. - Noon

Please call the Grundy County Clerk's Office at (815) 941-3222, Option #1 if you have any questions.

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

KAY T. OLSON

GRUNDY COUNTY ELECTION AUTHORITY

Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

Diana Davis

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

Must redeem by March 31, 2025

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 40 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"

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

Voice of America

WILMINGTON—When our young men were spilling their blood to defeat the Nazis, the Voice of America was started in 1942 and in three short years it was broadcasting in 40 languages. It's safe to say that it saved countless lives of American and Allied troops. But now Trump has muffled the good words from Voice of America radio and what Trump has done works to the benefit of dictatorships throughout the world including Russia, China and Iran who are cheering loudly about the empty airwaves they can fill with their messages. Why would Trump do this? Is it Trump's adulation for Russia that would cause Trump to deliberately do Russia a favor? In other words, is Trump really for 'America First'? I don't think so.

Professional CPA

BRAIDWOOD—It's obvious that the person running the Braidwood truth seeker page doesn't understand standard government accounting practices at all. Based off of their Google AI accounting and law degree, they seem to believe that fund balance transfers are illegal, which is absolutely not the case. A highly regarded and professional CPA from the city's outside accounting firm has contradicted everything that the truth seekers want you to believe. The truth seekers say that they want former Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot to come down and do an investigation of Braidwood just like she did with the Village of Dalton. They apparently don't seem to realize that the individual the city uses from the outside accounting firm is the same exact individual that the Village of Dalton has been using for years, and was held in high regard by Ms. Lightfoot throughout the revealing of her investigation for his ethical conduct while trying to ensure that the Village of Dalton trustees and residents had the truth, information and facts they needed. Just watch the video from Ms. Lightfoot's presentation and listen to the details on how the CPA was trying to ensure that the truth in Dalton's finances were shared, only for Mayor Tiffany Henyard to make attempts to suppress his efforts. This same CPA in Braidwood has put out a document which shows a factual and true picture of Braidwood finances, but like Mayor Henyard, Braidwood truth seekers don't want the residents to believe it because it doesn't fit their agenda.

Repeat cycle

BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood has never had a mayoral election where the opponent has not had an ax to grind with someone in the incumbent's administration. This election is absolutely no difference. The vicious cycle in Braidwood will continue to repeat itself. A new Mayor gets elected and spends their first 2 years undoing everything that their predecessor had completed before them. Their 3rd year is then spent trying to figure out which direction they'd like to go and their 4th year is spent getting it done. And just like that, they're voted out and someone else comes in to repeat the cycle.

They weren't told

WILMINGTON—This is in response to last week's sound off "Class action suit." A suit is needed but should be against the builders and realtors that didn't tell the residents of Water's Edge that there are plans to make Peotone Road four lanes from 57 to 53. This was in planning before Water's Edge was conceived. The builders and realtors should point this out. I'm not a betting man but I would take the bet that not one resident of Water's Edge was told before they bought property. I try to make city council meetings when I'm not traveling. It was explained that if Wilmington didn't annex them in (truck stop) the

county would approve them. At least Wilmington kept the size down or the county would have approved one twice the size for the tax money. Now Wilmington will get fuel tax and not all of it to the county. I see that there is new construction out there, will the builders inform prospective buyers the four lane Peotone road and the new third airport. I bet not.

Shouting & pounding

BRAIDWOOD—What does it take to keep Social Security going? How do we keep the phones ringing and the offices open and available to Americans who paid into the system? Democratic Congressman John Larson from Connecticut of the House Ways and Means Committee shouted his objections at Republicans who were shielding Elon Musk from testifying to the committee. Finally Congressman Larson banged his shoe on the table which did the trick by keeping Social Security available to the people. At least for the time being, but for how long? As long as we have people in government who are willing to confront Republicans. As long as we have people in government who are willing to butt heads with Trump. Why and how was Trump elected in the first place? Lies, lies, never ending lies.

How did we get here?

BRAIDWOOD—The answer is obvious. We made the mistake of electing Trump. After all, the reduction of government has already been done before successfully by the Clinton-Gore administration which balanced the budget with surpluses and paid off some of the national debt from 1998-2001. The public library offers the book written by Vice President Gore documenting the process and describing the American people as intelligent and reasonable and then paints the process of carefully and painlessly negotiating changes to government bureaucracy rather than harshly dictating those changes with the cruelty used by Trump. The result was slimming down the government in a smart way that saved billions and improved government services and no hostile slashing and burning was ever necessary by Clinton-Gore.

Once, twice, sold

ESSEX— Sold! Donald Trump just sold America to migrant ELON MUSK! Musk: Donald, I will give you \$200 million to win the presidency. Trump: I like money! Musk: After you win, I will do everything. All you will have to do is sign all the executive orders that I will need to take over the country. Trump: I like signing my name in, in big letters. Musk: I will even make you King of America! Trump: I would like to be King!! But Elon what about Congress? Won't they try to stop the sale of America? Musk: Donny my boy, Republicans have control of the House and Senate. All I have to do is give each Republican a 100 million dollars, and they will do whatever I tell them to do. Trump: SOLD.... I'm going to be king...I'm going to be king.... Ha America, I'm King... Elon said so. Sign Dipstick

Where's Joe?

SHADOW LAKES— Almost 100 days have gone by... and where is China Joe Biden? Obediently yours, Margot Lane

My math

WILMINGTON— An article last week said water bills don't "differ significantly" between area towns. I'm curious what you consider significant? Based on your numbers, 1,500 gallon usage would cost \$201.06 in Wilmington for two months, and \$99 in Coal City. I don't have an advanced math degree but that looks to be over a 100% difference. That feels significant to me.

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. 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 visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, 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. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.



Important to vote

WILMINGTON—Comments that were in the newspaper on Wednesday the 19th are very misleading. Just because a person has a yard sign in their yard for a candidate does not necessarily mean they are endorsing that candidate and voting for them. I have signs in my yard for two candidates for mayor because I believe in free speech. I might be voting for one of them, I might not be voting for either one of them. But I truly believe in free speech. And anyone that wants to put a sign in my yard can. So don't imply that because people have yard signs in their yard for certain candidates they are voting for that person. They are being nice and allowing to put signs in their yard. I wish everyone luck in the election. The important thing is that people vote. It doesn't matter if they have yard signs in their yard or not. The important thing is that everybody votes because every vote does matter.

Where it starts

WILMINGTON—If they really want to find fraud and waste why doesn't DOGE start at the Pentagon.

Bizarre world

WILMINGTON—More proof we are living in a bizarre world, people vandalizing Tesla dealerships are now designated as terrorists but the people who vandalized our Capitol on Jan. 6th are designated as patriots.

Thank you Biden

WILMINGTON— This is for the person that wrote in "Accomplished nothing." First I think you watch too much Fox propaganda station. Did you know that Biden passed the infrastructure for roads and bridges and all repairs leading up to in 2024 alone that infrastructure act and jobs act provided 28,000 jobs and \$3 billion for bridges, highways and road repairs. Have you ever crossed a bridge where men were working and things were fine on the bridge. Thank you Biden. That means things got done thanks to Biden. Next, have you ever heard that the infrastructure and jobs act was also rescinded by Trump. Now after providing this Social Security fairness act, Biden was the first president in over 20 years to expand Social Security benefits. Now have you ever heard of the hearing of the Inflation Reduction Act? Heard enough or should I go on? And gas prices are up all over in Bourbonnais and in fact in New Lenox is \$3.60. And as far as Biden pardoning people, what did King Trump do for all of his criminal, crime family that insurrectionists that were all found guilty yet he pardoned 1,500 of them and now those peo-

ple want retribution. Isn't that enough to make you sick. Oh, one more thing I have to tell you how much I enjoy reading Penny Lane and Irene mostly because I think they are two very important women who write in and they know what the hell they are talking about, so I applaud them. JoAnn

Running the show

WILMINGTON—So you have a problem with George Thourows giving money to people who share is values. What is your opinion of Leonard Leo, the Koch brothers or even the richest man in the world, Elon Musk acting as an unelected CO-President. You still haven't said what evidence of crimes was discovered by Jim Jordan and James Comer after their multiple hearings. Where are the prosecutions? Remember the burden of proof is on you as one can't prove a negative. As to who is a criminal president, Trump is now ignoring court orders which would be considered criminal behavior in a different time. Plus there are his felony convictions and being guilty of sexual assault. He doesn't know anything about the constitution or the separation of powers nor does he care about either. He is a crude fascist bully who wants to be like his buddy Putin. It's sad because the Republicans were once the party of law and order. But the Republican party we once knew died when they cheered as Trump ridiculed John McCain's military service even though Trump was a draft dodger. Finally you have to prove Obama was in charge instead of these baseless allegations that your side likes to promote. Eating cats and dogs come to mind. So tell us, who is running the show now, Trump, Musk or Putin? Just asking, Penny Lane.

Don't be afraid

ITCHIE—There's no point in shying away from that blunderbuss Trump who can't possibly do more damage than he's already done. That's why Steve Liesman, a journalist, stated that he didn't care if he would lose his job. He felt compelled to say boldly and emphatically that Trump is "insane" to impose 50% tariffs on Canada if Canada refuses to become our 51st state. And he did say it loud and clear and he's still alive. Nobody should bow down before the small man Trump who is obviously insecure. Remember how Mike Pence groveled and where did it get him? Almost dangling from the end of a rope. Our Treasury Secretary and our Commerce Secretary know everything there is to know about tariffs but they cower like schoolgirls. Grow a spine, MAGA Republicans. It's your fault we are in this mess.

The Ugly America

WILMINGTON— When USAID was illegally dismantled by Trump, ugly Americans cheered. What reason did they give? They gave the old seesaw grumble that America gives away too much to the outside world. On the contrary, the cost of each overseas child receiving food from USAID is merely 12 pennies per day to keep each child alive. And how many taxpayer dollars are we giving to Musk? Furthermore, Musk treats his own employees with contempt and disdain as a racist and misogynist of the highest order. In fact, Musk and Trump have concocted the idea to invite white South Africans to the United States to allow them to practice their racist ideology here which has been forbidden in South Africa. Where are our leaders who espouse integrity, virtue, honesty? We look forward to the day when we can expel these obnoxious, unprincipled men from our presence and can restore such things as the Department of Education so that a million American toddlers can once again benefit from Headstart. Irene

Our Caring Closet
a 'not for profit' community asset
45-4420867

Our Couture Closet Fashion Show Charity Fundraiser
Sunday April 13th
2pm-5pm
doors open at 1:30pm
located at the Wilmington High School
209 Wildcat Ct, Wilmington, IL

Free Will Donation for Admission

FEATURING

Hors d'oeuvres
Purses & Prizes Live Auction
Table Scapes Silent Auction
50/50 Split the Pot Raffle
Shop the Racks (free will donation)

Proudly Sponsored by:
Chic, GEEK & ANTIQUE
Morris, IL
LIONSMARK AUCTION COMPANY
ROTARY CLUB
Wilmington
ILLINOIS • U.S.A.
FIRST FCC CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Love God • Follow Jesus • Love People

THE FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS

Sheriff's sale of 920 North Kankakee St.

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 } SS.
COUNTY OF WILL }
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NUMARK CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,
vs.
ADAM POULOS; ELIZABETH A. POULOS A/K/A ELIZABETH POULOS, Defendant.
No. 24 FC 0703

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the **29th day of October, 2024, MIKE KELLEY**, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the **3rd day of April, 2025**, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

LOT 3 IN UNIT NO. 1, OF THE STEWART HOUSE SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 920 North Kankakee Street, Wilmington, IL 60481

Description of Improvements: Single
P.I.N.: 03-17-25-102-016-0000

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:
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
2121 Waukegan Rd, Suite 301
Bannockburn, Illinois 60015
P: 847-770-4348
F: 847-291-3434

Plaintiff's Attorney
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 12, 19 and 26, 2025.

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County

Plant people are of a special kind

ELAINE FISHER-OHLUND
FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Training for my race has been an uphill battle but running lap after lap around town, you can't help but get to know the townspeople a little better.

Like the house with three dogs right before the park bridge. They don't want to bite my head off, they bark at every passerby.

Or the old man who crosses the street on his walk to high-five me as we pass each other with an encouraging "you go girl."

And the cute old couple that holds hands on their walk. When I see you I always think to myself "couple goals".

With every house I pass I gain details of who lives in what house, including Wildcat athletes and what sport they play.

I even understand people's political views and know who is voting for what mayor by the signs posted in their yards.

I know Billie Van Dyne must love the desert by the giant cactus statue in

her yard. It's quite impressive. Whoever made that is a true artist.

But the houses with an abundance of plants in the front window, those are my people.

I personally think people with lots of plants have big hearts, seem to be on the creative side, usually have been through a thing or two and have found joy in the simple things. I will never forget the first time I found joy in a simple seed.

I was slicing a lemon to squeeze in my water. Adding three ounces of lemon juice daily to your diet is an easy way to help ward off kidney stones, particularly calcium oxalate stones, which are the most common. Three ounces of lemon juice can be had from two medium-sized lemons.

As I squeezed my lemon a seed popped out and Layla picked it up with big eyes, "Mom can this seed grow a lemon tree?"

"I don't know Layla, maybe?" Later that night as I was tucking her in I noticed the seed on her bed

stand. She was determined she could grow a tree

"Layla I don't know if it's possible honey."

"But mom let's just try," said the second grader, "you eat a lot of lemons."

I couldn't argue with that, she was right. So we did some research and the first thing we had to do was peel the casing off the seed.

Layla watched over my shoulder as if I was doing surgery. Then we soaked the seed in a glass of water for one hour. We then took the seed and folded it into a wet paper towel. We placed the wrapped seed in a plastic bag and stored it away in a dark cabinet.

Layla checked it nearly every day, while I reminded her it needed at least one week. Finally seven days had passed and it was time.

Layla opened the cabinet and excitement flooded her aura, "Mom look it's alive!" I was filled with joy, we just sprouted precious life and she was thrilled.

So we planted the seed in a pot, kept the soil moist and then covered the top with a plastic bag (securing the bottom with a rubber band) creating a green house effect.

About 3 months later we had a sturdy 5-inch lemon plant. And now, three years later, it stands almost three feet tall but has yet to produce a lemon. But it is our beloved lemon tree that Layla waters, brings in for the colder months and talks to on occasion. Lemons or not, we love that plant and its name is Lulu.

It made me realize true power lies within the nurturer. For they are the ones who have patience, protection, knowledge and have the power to produce life from a seed, a miracle of Mother Nature. Here is to raising powerful souls!



Photo by Elaine Fisher-Ohlund

THREE YEARS after sprouting a lemon seed, Layla Ohlund shows off her plant "Lulu".



ELECT JAMES MIKEL

"MOOSE"

BRAIDWOOD PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMISSIONER

I'm 60 years old and a lifelong resident of Braidwood. I have been blessed with an incredible family. My beautiful wife, Samantha, and I have one son, four daughters, and three wonderful grandchildren. My parents, James Sr. and Doris, live next door, and my three sisters and one brother all reside within five minutes of Braidwood. I graduated from RCHS in 1983. In 1988, I started working at Kinder Morgan Liquid Terminals in Bedford Park as a Terminal Operator. June will be my 37th year and I plan to retire in December 2026. In my retirement, I look forward to spending more time with my family and increasing my involvement in this amazing community. I began as an RCHS football coach in 1990 and have been a part of that program on-and-off since then.

It's really simple—Braidwood is my home. I'm excited for my grandchildren to grow up here, attend our excellent school district, and have my family remain active members of our community. I love Braidwood and its residents. I look forward to collaborating with the Chief of Police and all other commissioners to ensure smooth operations. I will be fiscally responsible to stay within the budget and make the right decisions for the citizens of our wonderful community. It's the taxpayers' money, and everyone should have a voice in the decisions we make.



Paid for by James "Moose" Mikel

TODD

LYONS

Let's Build a
Better Braidwood
TOGETHER

for Mayor of Braidwood

My family has lived as active members of the Braidwood Community for 30+ years. I live in Comet Estates with my wife Cheryl and our four canine "kids." We've raised five children together, who have each attended Reed-Custer High School. I enjoy going to the gym, sports, coaching, playing golf, hanging out with our dogs, and activities with our children and grandchildren.

EXPERIENCE

After graduating from the Police Training Institute located at the University of Illinois, I worked at the Wilmington Police Department for approximately 27 years. I served on the Reed-Custer Board of Education and the Braidwood Police & Fire Board. After retiring in 2019, I was sworn in as Chief of Police for the City of Braidwood, where I served for four years. While Chief, I managed a \$2.2 million budget and reduced the police department's operation costs by 400k.

I currently work as a part-time officer in Essex and work event security at the United Center (Bulls, Blackhawks, and concerts) as well as at Rate Field (White Sox). Being retired, I love that I have flexibility to choose which events I want to work.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Co-founder & President of the Board and Coach for Jr Comets Football and Cheerleading for seven years
- Five years as coach of Reed-Custer Youth Wrestling
- Coached T-Ball for Braidwood Baseball and Softball Association (BBS)
- Current Coach of Reed-Custer High School Football entering in my 16th year



**I am proud to announce
that I have been
endorsed by the
Will & Grundy
Counties Building
Trades Council.**

**Thank you for
your support!**

**My character and integrity has never been
questioned until I pulled a petition to run for
mayor for the city of Braidwood.**

- ✓ **FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE**
- ✓ **TRANSPARENT**
- ✓ **ENGAGED IN OUR COMMUNITY**
- ✓ **FORWARD-THINKING**

VOTE ON


APRIL 1ST

Early Voting: March 17th-28th, 9:30am-4:30pm

You may register to vote at City Hall during early voting or at your polling on election day.

Paid for by Friends to elect Todd Lyons

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry
 - New patients
 - Emergency visits welcome
 All forms of insurance accepted



267 S. Broadway, Coal City
Call (815) 634-8844

warrenscollisioncenteril.com



✓ **Finest quality warranted collision repair**
 ✓ **Rentals available**
 ✓ **Certified technicians**
 ✓ **All insurance accepted**
 ✓ **Completed in a timely fashion**

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
 860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
 815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

MARCH 2025
Sat., March 29, 8pm-12am
REV DOG
 Blues & Rock N Roll • No Cover • Drink Specials



TUFFY'S WILMINGTON, IL
 Like us on! Check out our website
 A Class Act
 Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment
 1099 S. Water St. (Rt. 102), Wilmington • (815) 476-2700

QUEEN of HEARTS
 Every **TUESDAY** at 553 W. Kennedy Rd. Braidwood
 You **must** play **BINGO** to participate.
 Doors open at 4pm. Drawing is held at intermission. **Pot is \$30,375.00.**

For BINGO players only on Tuesday nites and see the QUEEN rules at the BINGO hall for rules and regulations.

Braidwood Post 039
BINGO
 Tuesday Night Flash Max Bingo

Pull Tabs 6:30pm Hot Food, Snacks & Beverages
Bingo 6:30pm 553 Kennedy Road
Doors Open 4:00pm Braidwood, IL 60408

Home of the "Big Guy"
 Commander Bill Kiley
 815-216-2570

House committee doesn't budge on Pritzker's plan to dissolve some townships

Two major proposals backed by Gov. JB Pritzker did not advance out of legislative committees before last week's passage deadline.

Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton confirmed that she won't be advancing her legislation supported by the governor that would dissolve townships with populations below 5,000 (SB2217), and eventually abolish townships with populations below 50,000 and lower the petition threshold to 5 percent from 10 percent to put a township abolition on the ballot.

"We're still having conversations," the Western Springs Democrat said. Gov. Pritzker did not highlight the proposals during his State of the State address, but they were included in his budget book.

Township officials throughout the state have bombarded legislators with their negative opinions of the legislation. But Gov. Pritzker took a much bigger hit last week.

The governor has trumpeted his plan to allow community colleges to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees during his State of the State address, on numerous national TV programs, big-time podcasts and a tour of the state.



CAPITOL FACTS
 Rich Miller

Well, that proposal (HB3717) was not called for a vote in the House Higher Education Committee last week after fierce opposition from four-year universities, as one top Pritzker administration official and some Pritzker allies hovered outside the hearing room for hours.

The chair of that committee, Rep. Katie Stuart (D-Edwardsville) did her best to downplay the significance of the committee's refusal to take up the bill, saying, "I think that there's a way that we can make sure that this is very narrowly tailored to meet what's not being met with the four-year institutions."

Rep. Stuart, a member of House Democratic leadership, also said the legislation as written could "collapse" the student base of minority serving institutions like Chicago State and Northeastern Illinois University.

It's routine during committee passage deadline week to advance bills to the floor that need more work, with the promise to not move the bills until all issues are worked out. That committee courtesy is routinely given to even the lowliest of legislators.

The indignity of denying that routine courtesy was heaped upon unpopu-

lar, ineffectual governors in previous years. But JB Pritzker is a popular billionaire governor with perceived national ambitions. Yes, he's trying to accomplish a very difficult task of passing bills that have failed in years past, but not getting his legislation to the floor during crunch week is quite the rebuke.

So, what the heck is going on? On a basic level, several sitting legislators previously served in township government. Many others are strong political allies of township officials. And others believe that townships deliver services at lower costs than counties. The townships have successfully fended off efforts to get rid of them for decades, so they have a tried and true oppositional playbook.

As far as the community colleges are concerned, the universities years ago successfully fended off an attempt by then-Sen. Andy Manar to allow community colleges to offer four-year degrees in nursing. Manar is now Pritzker's deputy governor.

The Higher Education Committee is filled with members who have universities in their districts, which is mainly why they serve on that committee. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is in Chairperson Stuart's district, after all.

But these Pritzker defeats seem like much more than that, and they come just a couple of months after House Speaker Chris Welch

refused to advance a Pritzker-supported bill to regulate the wide-open intoxicating hemp industry.

The governor's office downplayed the significance of the setbacks, saying there was still plenty of time to pass something before adjournment. But they clearly made a strong late push to get the community college bill to the House floor. They insisted they had enough votes to pass the bill, but those alleged proponents didn't lift a finger to pressure the committee chair to advance the legislation.

The hearing finally ended shortly after what I'm told was a tense meeting between the governor's chief of staff and the House Speaker's chief of staff, during which the speaker's chief urged the governor's chief to convince her boss to lay out his priorities to Speaker Welch, which, of course, the governor already did during his State of the State and budget address.

Welch's chief was told that this move was not helpful, to say the least.

What the universities did was pure gangsta. They clearly out-muscled the governor. Gov. Pritzker may not like it, but the universities showed that the negotiations would be on their terms, at least in the House, unless the governor can convince them to back down.

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

I-80 lane changes, ramp closures marks the next major phase

The ongoing efforts to rebuild Interstate 80 from Ridge Road in Minooka to U.S. 30 in New Lenox, enters the next phase this week with stage changes and ramp closures that will last until fall.

Overnight lane closures were scheduled Monday and Wednesday reducing eastbound I-80 to one lane from River Road to east of Interstate 55.

At the same time, the southbound I-55 ramp to eastbound I-80 and the northbound I-55 ramp to westbound I-80 were closed overnight to create a new traffic pattern including shifting slightly to the right and the shoulders

will be closed.

The southbound I-55 ramp to eastbound I-80 will remain closed, anticipated to reopen in fall 2026.

A posted detour will direct traffic to continue southbound I-55 to U.S. 6, exit U.S. 6 east, reenter I-55 (northbound) to exit eastbound I-80.

The northbound I-55 ramp to westbound I-80 also will remain closed, anticipated to reopen later this fall.

A posted detour will direct traffic to continue northbound I-55, exit northbound Illinois 59 and reenter I-55 (southbound) to westbound I-80.

Westbound I-80 from I-55 to River Road will be reduced to one lane with traffic shifted slightly to the right and the shoulders will be closed.

The new configuration will allow work to continue on the mainline lanes and is estimated to remain in place through the fall.

The public should continue to expect lane shifts, overnight lane closures and significant delays and to allow extra time for trips through this area.

Find traffic and road conditions at www.gettingaroundillinois.com

Forest Preserve to host Wellness workshop

The Forest Preserve will be hosting a Wellness Workshop - Our Place in Nature, on Tuesday, April 1, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Sugar Creek Administration Center, Joliet.

The final session of this monthly workshop session will feature a presentation from the Will County Land Use Department's Resource Recovery and Energy Division on the role we play in nature and how we can help shape our local ecosystems. Free, all ages. Register by April 1 online or call 815-727-8700.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

SHORKEY PAINTING
 Est. 1989 **(815) 546-1321**
 Interior/Exterior

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE
 Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
 Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
 Ed Bonnavier
 Coal City • 634-4691

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS
 from the Free Press Newspapers
 Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

LIFTED
 SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
 CONCRETE RAISING

Spray Foam Insulation
 • garages
 • pole buildings
 • attics
 • basements
 • commercial
 • industrial
 Wilmington • 815-200-6880

Concrete Raising
 • driveways
 • sidewalks
 • patios
 • stairs
 • and more!

FULL COLOR
 - Banners -
 - Yard Signs -
 - Post Cards -
 - Brochures -

Customized to your liking.
 Competitive prices.

THE FREE PRESS
 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL

SHOP LOCAL!



WILMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 EST. 1958

616 Davy Lane, Wilmington

Mini Storage
CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

Affordable Clean, Secure Monthly Rentals

No Deposit Required
815-530-0200

VIKING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CORP.
 Now Offering IL Public Adjuster Services

FREE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

- Shingle/Flat Roofs
- Gutters
- Siding
- Fascia/Soffit
- Insurance Claims

Licensed Insured Bonded

IL State License # 104-002993
(815) 476-6010
WWW.VICC.US

HENDRON CABINETS.COM
 Jason Hendron Construction, LLC.
CABINETRY, GRANITE & QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS
DESIGN & SALES

JSI CABINETRY **QUARTZ QUARTZ** **SKYLINE CABINETRY**

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM: 450 DAVY LANE - WILMINGTON
 Monday - Friday 9-5 & Saturday 9-12

(815) 790-1235

FARMERS INSURANCE

MELODIE J. LUCKETT

326 E. Baltimore St.
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 Office 815-476-5242
 Cell 815-671-1356
mluckett@farmersagent.com



Agent, Notary

Auto • Home
 Life • Commercial

SISTEK RENTALS
 We **SELL, REPAIR, and RENT**
 Outdoor Power Equipment

CubCadet **GRASS HOPPER**
YOUR NEXT MOWER®

815-237-8298
 740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

Concerns about recycling or trashing out dated technology

Dear EarthTalk: Can we do a better job repurposing outdated technology instead of recycling or trashing it?

-- R.T Smith, via e-mail



The annual production of "e-waste"—electronic products that have reached the end of their useful life and tossed—is rising by 2.6 million tons globally, on track to reach 82 million tons by 2030.

While recycling is often viewed as the best solution for managing e-waste, it is a complex and costly requiring substantial resources, specialized equipment, and energy to process hazardous materials.

A more sensible alternative is repurposing the technology through practices like IT Asset Disposition. By refurbishing devices, we can conserve resources and achieve financial savings—all while extending the lifespan of technology.

Repurposing technology



REPURPOSING YOUR E-WASTE is often the greenest way to deal with your outdated hardware.

gy preserves critical materials like minerals and metals, otherwise often extracted at a significant environmental cost. Redistributing components within a company instead of making new ones saves time and resources—and extends hardware life. "The more metals we recycle, the fewer have to be mined," says Kees Baldé, senior scientific specialist at the UN Institute for Training and Research.

Dell, HP, Microsoft, Apple, Lenovo, Cisco, Google, Amazon and Sony all have programs to take back and find new homes for outdated tech hardware. Also, TechSoup, Good360 and Computers with Causes are non-profits which specialize in redistributing refurbished tech to charitable organizations.

E-waste is one of the fastest-growing waste streams, yet less than a quarter is properly recycled. E-waste contains substances like lead, mercury and cadmium, which can leach into soil and water supplies and are linked to neurological, respiratory and developmental disorders, particularly in vulnerable populations.

Beyond environmental advantages, repurposing technology saves money by selling or trading in old devices through eBay or manufacturer trade-in programs. Leasing arrangements also provide access to updated technology sans frequent disposal. With creativity, you can DIY old devices into something completely new, like a tablet into a digital recipe book or an old laptop into a

home media server.

The EU's "Right-to-Repair" laws highlight this trend: "We expect Council to adopt their position soon, so we can begin negotiations to transform these measures into law and pave the way for a truly circular European economy," European Parliament member Rene Repasi shares. With less than a quarter of e-waste recycled properly globally, adopting a thrifty mindset can drive real change.

As a consumer, choose to donate or repurpose outdated devices can conserve resources, save money, and reduce environmental impact. In our technology-dependent world, this shift isn't simply beneficial—it's essential.

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

Knights to hold breakfast on April 6

The Wilmington Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Boiler Breakfast on Sunday, April 6, 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.

Lisa Marie's
HAIR SALON

- Men
- Women
- Children

CUTS ★ COLOR

450 Davy Ln., Wilmington
(708) 465-3198

Gas prices take a big jump

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 17.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.39/g Sunday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 16.7 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 49.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 0.9 cents in the last week and stand at \$3.54 per gallon.

This is true locally. Even Mohsen in Wilmington, after offering gas under \$3/g for months, has risen to \$3.09/g. On the high end, Mobile is at

\$3.34/g.

Braidwood gas is higher, with Casey's at \$3.49/g and Marathon at \$3.50/g.

Coal City is a tad lower, with gas at Shell for \$3.12/g and Gas N Wash for \$3.39/g.

Further afield, expect to pay \$3.19/g at Amoco in Morris, up to \$3.28/g at Circle K. Bourbonnais won't save you much, with gas at \$3.24/g at Gulf all the way up to \$3.37/g at Circle K.

"For the first time in over a month, the national average price of gasoline has risen, driven by the final step in the transition to summer gasoline across

wide portions of the country," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"This increase has nothing to do with politics or tariffs—which remain paused for now—but is instead the result of seasonality, and is something that happens almost every year. Concerns over refinery maintenance have been muted so far this year, largely due to broader concerns about the U.S. economy, and demand remains soft."

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.75/g while the highest was \$4.49/g.



KAREN HART FOR MAYOR

Unanimously supported by Map #190 Sergeants and
Unanimously supported by Police Benevolent Labor Committee



The Police Benevolent Labor Committee (PBLC)
Karen Hart for Braidwood Mayor

Braidwood, Illinois – February 26, 2025 – The Police Benevolent Labor Committee (PBLC) the Union representing the Patrol Officers of the Braidwood Police Department, unanimously voted to endorse Karen Hart for Mayor in the up-coming April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election.

The overwhelming support Karen has bestowed on Braidwood's Patrol Officers is no surprise. Karen listened closely to the challenges that fell at the footsteps of Braidwood Police Departments leadership. Difficult economic challenges are always at the forefront of all aspects of government, those challenges are not a stranger to the citizens of Braidwood either. Karen understands these challenges and with great enthusiasm supported the needs of Braidwood Patrol Officers, their families, all while keeping the safety of the community in mind.

Braidwood Patrol Officers have been blessed with an unmeasurable amount of community support. This type of support delivers a sense of cohesion and balance amongst all. The citizens of Braidwood in an unprecedented fashion have supported patrol officers with the highest regards in mind, just as Karen has.

Every shift a patrol officer will find themselves engaging with citizens. These engagements are genuine and are an essential quality for the community's future. Providing a safe environment for Braidwood's citizens is a responsibility patrol officers honorably do. Patrol officer's recognize community policing also means, to bridge the gap between law enforcement and citizens. Karen has participated in numerous engagements to show support for the community and the efforts of Braidwood's Patrol Officers.

The question often rises, how does any community find balance amongst citizens, patrol officers, and administrators. The answer begins with sound leadership making difficult decisions and open communication. A focus driven leader comprehends the vast roles before them and makes decisions that are progressive in nature. Karen with great admiration for the citizens of Braidwood excepted the responsibility to lead. Karen Hart entrusted the leadership of the Braidwood Police Department to provided new essential gear, patrol vehicles, and countless other needs for officers.

Karen's support for the Patrol Officers for Braidwood cannot be summed up in a single letter of endorsement. The moral of the Braidwood Patrol Officers is at an all-time high. It goes without saying a healthy work environment coupled with progressive leadership is a recipe for success. Karen supported Braidwood Police Department leadership when the call came to hire new patrol officers. Braidwood Patrol Officers extend a genuine pause of gratitude and appreciation to Karen for stepping up for the citizens of Braidwood. Karen has established an environment that is welcoming for the men and woman that dress in the uniform and leave their families to provide excellent service to the citizens of Braidwood.

It's with great honor the Police Benevolent Labor Committee (PBLC) the Union representing the Patrol Officers of the Braidwood Police Department recognizes and endorse

Union Strong!

By: PBPA Executive Board



For Immediate Release
February 26, 2025

MAP #190 SERGEANT UNION ENDORSES
KAREN HART FOR BRAIDWOOD MAYOR

Braidwood, Illinois – February 26, 2025 – The Metropolitan Alliance of Police ("MAP") Chapter #190, the Union representing the supervisors of the Braidwood Police Department, in an unprecedented shift, unanimously voted to endorse Karen Hart for Mayor in the upcoming April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election.

Braidwood's law enforcement professionals daily don their uniforms, proudly answer their call to service, and willingly place their lives on the line for the welfare of our fellow citizens.

Now, the quiet professionals stand in unity behind the leadership and professionalism of Karen Hart. Furthermore, they stand to defend against a change in leadership that would be a detriment to morale and be a step backward for a department which has made long strides in progressing forward. MAP Chapter #190 believes in strong leadership, independence, civility, and transparency in candidates.

Karen Hart has steadfastly and boldly demonstrated these attributes. Furthermore, with a vigilant eye for Braidwood's future, Karen Hart has embraced progressive policing strategies, community engagement, and has consistently been a listening and responsive ear for the law enforcement professionals working to preserve Braidwood's progress forward. Karen Hart's proven devotion to service and fair-mindedness are cornerstones for a more prosperous community for everyone.

In a time when communities across Illinois strain to recruit and retain highly skilled and dedicated law enforcement professionals, Karen Hart has addressed this crucial necessity. Karen's philosophy that places service above self, and the value she places on listening to the men and women in the field daily reflect the best of the City of Braidwood and its citizens. We are proud to back the candidate that, likewise, has the backs of her law enforcement professionals.

In difficult times, proven governance is vital. With a proven record of self service, lack of responsibility, and deflected accountability, the election of another candidate would imperil the progress and quality of the service that the citizens of Braidwood have come to rely upon and deserves from its law enforcement professionals.

The Metropolitan Alliance of Police, Chapter #190, is the exclusive bargaining representative and represents the supervising professionals of the Braidwood Police Department. On April 1, 2025, we ask the citizens of Braidwood to take politics out of policing and continue Braidwood's progress forward by electing Karen Hart as your Mayor.

UNION STRONG!

By: MAP Chapter #190 Executive Board

UNION STRONG

OBITUARIES

Fred Davidson



MORRIS—Fred Davidson, 84 of Morris, and formerly of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Tuesday evening, March 18, 2025, at Serenity Estates of Morris.

Born Nov. 5, 1940, in Dongola, IL, Fred was the son of Carl and Elsie (Davis) Davidson. He was raised in Cairo, IL, and graduated from Cairo High School with the Class of 1958. Shortly after, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he proudly served in Germany from July 1958 until his honorable discharge in April 1961.

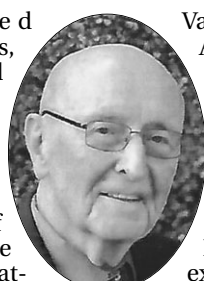
Following his military service, Fred began his career at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant before moving on to Amoco. He later dedicated 29 years to Quantum, retiring in Dec. 1997.

An avid cyclist, Fred cherished the many memorable bike trips from Coal City to Galena with his dear friend Bill Spivey. He attended Coal City United Methodist Church, and was an enthusiastic golfer and a passionate sports fan, with a deep loyalty to the St. Louis Cardinals. Staying active was a priority for Fred, and he found joy in exercising, working in the yard, and tackling projects as a skilled handyman.

Fred had a sharp wit, a knack for a good debate, always parting as friends, and a humor that was both wicked and endearing. He was a man of simple pleasures who was always there for those he loved. He stayed closely connected with his family, never missing his cherished Saturday calls. Above all, his greatest pride and joy was being a devoted husband, father, papa, brother, and brother-in-law.

Fred's presence, humor, and unwavering support will be deeply missed but forever remembered by those who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Kris, whom he married on Jan. 9, 1982; four daughters:



Valarie (Tom) Berger of Peoria, AZ, Amy Fowler of Romeoville, IL, Ann (David) Droge of Russellville, KY and Patty Seats of Potomac, IL; grandchildren: Lauryn (Brendan), Kayla, Rebecca (Hunter), Austin, Ryan, Carter (Emily), Abigail, Marsh and Jacob; two great grandchildren, Lorraine and Myles with another expected; his siblings: Carlene (the late Jim) Green, Janet (the late Charlie) Williams, Donald (Mary) Davidson and Richard (Gena) Davidson; his sister-in-law, Karen (Emily Gage) McMillin and several nieces and nephews.

Fred was preceded in death by his grandparents; parents, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mack and Bertha McMillin.

Per Fred's wishes green flameless cremation rites have been accorded.

He will be laid to rest with full military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date and memorialized in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery in the McMillin Family lot.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Fred's memory to a Veteran's Organization of the donor's choosing, Lightways Hospice or to Coal City United Methodist Church.

The family would like to thank the staffs at Serenity Estates, Morris Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital for taking such good care of Fred. They would also like to thank all of Fred's doctors for their care, most recently Dr. Daniel Jurak.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Fred's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves, Fruland and Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

James Harvey



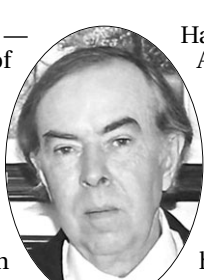
BRACEVILLE—James G. Harvey, 75, of Braceville, passed away on Friday, March 14, 2025 at home.

Born March 21, 1949, in Joliet, James Glenn, known as Jim, was the third son of George and Mary (Poppleton) Harvey. Jim was raised and educated in Braceville. He graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington High School in 1967 and was drafted into the United States military, serving as a Military Policeman with the Army.

A hard-working man, Jim dedicated himself to his work as a welder and a pipefitter, retiring from Durkee Foods following 30 years of service.

A fan of classic western films and television shows, Jim also had a deep love for NASCAR and his many collections. He enjoyed fishing and spending time outdoors. Jim's greatest joy came from spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his two children: Jim (Courtney) Harvey and Daniel (Jenny)



Harvey; five grandchildren: Ashton, Addison, James, Caroline, and Benjamin; three brothers George (Nellie) Harvey, Jack (Denise) Harvey and Mike Harvey; four nieces: Melissa, Michelle, Mindy, and Denise; two nephews: Johnny and Joey; and cousins: Maureen and Kay Ann; as well as his close friend Phil Bayta.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; his longtime partner Sharon Breen; one brother and sister-in-law: Donny and Jackie Harvey; and two nephews: Donald Harvey and Billy Harvey.

Per his wishes, cremations rights have been accorded.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 North Broadway Street, Coal City, IL on Thursday, March 27, 2025 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. A celebration of life will follow at the funeral home on Friday, March 28, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Private interment with full military honors will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

Delores "Dee" Provance

DIAMOND—Delores "Dee" Provance, 95, of Diamond, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at Morris Hospital.

Born on Jan. 27, 1930, in Detroit, MI, Dee was the daughter of Dominic Joseph "Duke" and Bertha (Facinelli) Rossi. At an early age, her family moved to Coal City, where she attended Catholic grade school before completing her education at Northside School and graduating from Coal City High School with the Class of 1947.

While working at the Morris Paper Mill, Dee met the love of her life, Ivan Provance. The two were married on Oct. 31, 1948, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Coal City. They began their life together in Morris before settling in Coal City, where they raised their family and built a home filled with love and laughter.

Over the years, Dee dedicated herself to her career, holding positions at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant before spending 25 years with UniRoyal. She was also deeply involved in her community, devoting her time and talents to causes close to her heart. A devoted member of Coal City United Methodist Church, Dee actively participated in Bible studies, the food pantry, and the Evening Star Circle. She had a gift for making others feel welcome, always extending a warm greeting to new members and visitors.

Her social nature and generous spirit led her to become a charter member of the Coal City Junior Women's Club and a proud participant in the UniRoyal Club outings. She also gave back through Meals on Wheels, ensuring those in need received not just food, but kindness and companionship.

Dee's creativity and passion for craftsmanship shone through her love of sewing, quilting, and decorating. She had a knack for making beautiful holiday décor and table runners, and she found joy in gardening, tending to her cherished plants with care. She was always up for a game—whether it was solitaire at home or mahjong with friends and neighbors at the Country Meadows gatherings.

In earlier years, she and Ivan found great joy in camping, first at the Coal City Area Club and later on adventures across the country, making countless memories along the way. Family was the heart of Dee's world, and nothing brought her greater joy than watching her family grow. She never missed an opportunity to sup-



port her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, proudly cheering them on at every milestone and event.

Always eager to stay connected, Dee embraced technology and kept up with family and friends on Facebook, ensuring she never missed a moment.

Dee will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her boundless love for family, and the kindness she extended to everyone she met. Her legacy of warmth, generosity, and devotion will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Survivors include her two sons: Steven (Jane) Provance and Gerald (Patricia) Provance, both of Coal City; grandchildren: Sheri (David) Fiala of Glen Ellyn, IL, Michael (Katie) Provance of Coal City, Stephanie (Adam) Orr of Kansas City, MO and Matthew (Jessica) Provance of Coal City; great grandchildren: Anna McLaughlin, Henry Fiala, Emery Provance, Michael "Duke" Provance, Everett Orr, Evelyn "Evie" Orr, Allister Orr, Caleb Provance and Callie Provance; two sisters-in-law, Doryce Scharman and Betty Watson and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dee was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ivan, grandson, Jeremy Provance and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Robert (Joan) Blaine, Bill Provance, Doris (Carl) Burkett and William Scharman.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 East McArdle Road in Coal City on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until time of funeral service, 1:00 p.m. Rev. Jay Regennitter will officiate. Burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Dee will be laid to rest with her late husband, Ivan. Dee's grandchildren and great grandchildren will act as pallbearers.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Dee's memory to Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, IL 60416.

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

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

Kathleen Esgar

COAL CITY—Kathleen R. Esgar, 71 of Coal City, and a long time resident of Mazon, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at the Lightways Hospice and Palliative Home in Joliet.

Born April 17, 1953 in Morris, Kathleen Regina was a daughter of Walter and Marjorie (Blake) Glenn. She was raised and educated in Mazon where she attended MVK High School and graduated with the Class of 1971. On Feb. 19, 1972, Kathleen married Mark Esgar and together they made their home and raised their family in Mazon.

She was a hard worker, holding several positions over the years including as a letter carrier with the United States Postal Service. Kathleen later gained employment as a receptionist with Dr. Smyk's medical practice in Coal City, often the warm, kind face seeing countless patients over the years until her retirement. She was a past member of the Coal City Area Club and was very active in her children's PTO while they were in school. Kathleen had quite the artistic side, utilizing her gifts to make wonderful paintings and making hand-made wreaths.

Family was at the core of most everything she did. Kathleen was a matriarch to her siblings as the oldest of eight children, and her natural caregiving skills were evident not only in the way she cared for and raised her family, but in the kindness and graciousness she could show to anyone in need. Her selflessness was often on display with the attention she would show to others, rarely keeping the spotlight for herself. Kathleen was a truly devoted mother and proud grandmother, relishing every sporting event or school activity she attended. Her courage and strength carried her through almost any obstacle she needed to overcome, never letting any negativity wear her down. Kathleen set an unmatched example for her family and friends with her braveness and kindness towards others that will be her lasting lega-



cy for generations to come. Survivors include two children: Chad (Amanda) Esgar of Morris and Cara Esgar (fiancé: George Reader) of Coal City; five grandchildren: Maci and Cade Baldauf, and Ellie, Chris and Camden Esgar; seven brothers and sisters: Kevin (Bobbi) Glenn of Ohio; Susan Glenn of Odell, IL; Gail (Zeke) Lopez of Morris; Jane Ryder of Forest, IL; Dean Glenn of Morris; David (Patsy) Glenn of California; and Amy (Todd) Enger of Morris; four sisters-in-law: Paula Walker of Rolla, MO; Lauri (David) Roe of Verona, IL; Jan (Bob) Murray of Mazon; and Julie (Randy) Roe of Verona; as well as many cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Mark; father-in-law and mother-in-law: Paul Esgar and Ardella Esgar Harris; two sons: Seth and Chris Esgar; and brothers-in-law: Rick Walker, Todd Esgar and Tom Ryder.

Per her wishes, cremation rites are being accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 North Broadway Street, in Coal City on April 3, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 7:00 p.m.

Graveside services will be at Evergreen Cemetery in Morris on April 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. where Kathleen will be laid to rest with her husband and two sons.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Kathleen's memory to the family for their distribution.

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

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

Donald C. Kaufman



MORRIS—Donald C. Kaufman, 89, of Morris, passed away peacefully at his home in Morris on March 19, 2025.

Born on May 2, 1935, in Crescent City, IL, Donald was the son of Herman and Florence Marie (Prault) Kaufman. At an early age, his family moved to a farm in rural Watseka, where he developed a deep appreciation for agriculture and the values of hard work and perseverance. That same farm, which he later co-owned with his brother, was recognized as a Centennial Farm by the Illinois Department of Agriculture in 2019.

Don attended a one-room schoolhouse for elementary school and graduated from Crescent City High School with the Class of 1953. Maintaining lifelong friendships, he continued to meet with his classmates annually until the summer of 2024. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1957, where he was also a member of the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Furthering his education, he later obtained a Master of Education in 1965 and a Certificate of Advanced Studies from Northern Illinois University in 1975.

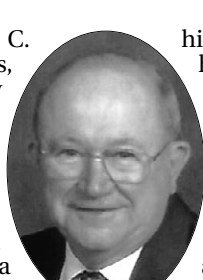
During his time at the University of Illinois, Don met the love of his life, Audrey Marie Faletti, through the Newman Club. They were married on June 13, 1959, in Spring Valley, IL and together they shared 61 years of love and devotion, raising seven children and creating a legacy of faith and family.

Don began his career as an educator, teaching Vocational Agriculture in Granville, IL, from 1957 to 1958. He then answered the call to serve his country, enlisting in the United States Air Force, where he served on active duty from 1958 to 1961. He remained in the Air Force Reserve until 1969, attaining the rank of Captain before his honorable discharge. His passion for teaching led him back to the classroom, first in Milledgeville, IL, and later in Morris, where he taught Vocational Agriculture, Science, and Cooperative Education at Morris High School.

In 1970, Don was appointed as the first Director of the Grundy Area Vocational Center, a role he held until his retirement in 1992. His leadership helped shape the future of career and technical education in the region, impacting countless students and preparing them for successful careers. Even after retirement, his service to the community continued. From 1992 to 2002, he served as Chairman of the Grundy County Board, advocating for economic growth and job creation. He later worked as the Project Coordinator for the School to Apprenticeship Program under Three Rivers Education for Employment System, ensuring that young people had the resources and opportunities to thrive.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Don was an active member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Morris, the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce, and the Grundy Economic Development Council, among many other civic and professional organizations. He worked tirelessly to improve career education, support local businesses, and implement policies that benefited the people of Grundy County. His unwavering dedication to service left a lasting impact on the community he loved.

While Don was deeply committed to



his work, his greatest joy came from his family. He was a devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who cherished the time spent with his loved ones. Annual family vacations in Chetek, WI, became a treasured tradition, where he found happiness in fishing, enjoying nature, and creating lifelong memories with his children and grandchildren. He took pride in teaching each grandchild how to fish and ensuring they all had the opportunity to hunt with him in the woods.

Don will be remembered as a man of wisdom, kindness, and unwavering faith. He led by example, teaching those around him the importance of hard work, compassion, and dedication to family and community. His influence will be felt for generations to come, not only in the institutions he helped build but in the lives he touched. Though he is no longer physically with us, his legacy will endure through the lessons he taught, the love he gave, and the impact he made on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Don is survived by his children, Michelle (Rickie) Stewart of Morris, Karen (John Jr.) Zelko of Morris, Ann (Greg) Adkins of Roanoke, IL, Janet (Stephen) Severson of East Peoria, IL, Barbara (Gordon Tompkinson, Jr.) of Bolingbrook, IL, Phillip (Jennifer Gillett) Kaufman of College Station, TX, and Douglas (Elizabeth) Kaufman of Channahon, IL; 15 grandchildren, Paul, Brandon and Nathan Stewart, Jennifer, John III and Trent Zelko, Amber Brown, Alyssa Alt, Tyler, Alexander and Mitchell Severson, Gordon III and Caleb Tompkinson, Madison and Grant Kaufman; 13 great grandchildren and 5 bonus great grandchildren; one brother, Gail (Marie) Kaufman of Watseka; sisters-in-law: Rose Kaufman of Crescent City, IL, Sharon Faletti of Richland, WA, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Don was preceded in death by his wife Audrey in 2021; his parents Herman and Florence Marie (Prault) Kaufman; brother, Carl Kaufman; in-laws Vincent, Mary (Caveglia), Mathew, Fleurette, Vincent R., Betty, and Duane Faletti, and Delores Kaufman.

The family will receive friends for a visitation in the auditorium at First Christian Church, 455 W. Southmor Road in Morris on Thursday, March 27, 2025 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and again on Friday morning, March 28, 2025 in Don's home parish, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 600 East Jackson Street in Morris from 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral service 10:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Jason Stone presiding.

Burial will follow in Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery Morris, where Don will be laid to rest with his late wife, Audrey.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Donald's memory to Immaculate Conception Community Outreach, the Grundy Area Vocational Center for a scholarship to be established in Donald's name, or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Carolyn Bright Kurth

WILMINGTON— Carolyn Bright Kurth, 78, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, March 17, 2025, at her home. Born Feb. 24, 1947, in Paris, IL, Carolyn Ann was the daughter of Archie and Margaret Ann (Hensen) Vestal. She was raised in Paris and graduated from Paris High School with the Class of 1965. The following year, she married Richard Bright on March 11, 1966, and together they relocated to Wilmington, where they built a home and raised their family. Richard preceded her in death in 1999.

Carolyn made her career in secretarial work, holding positions at FiberTech and the Godley Park District before ultimately dedicating herself to what she loved most, being a full-time grandmother.

A member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington, Carolyn found joy in life's simple pleasures. She had a passion for ceramics, which she enjoyed for over three decades, participated in weekly tai chi, and was always on the lookout for treasures at local garage sales. Carolyn took immense pride in her home and garden, meticulously tending to her yard and finding peace in the beauty she created. She was a proud supporter of the Wilmington Wildcats and, in recent years, became an enthusiastic fan of the Chicago White Sox.

Fiercely independent and full of spirit, Carolyn was known for her feisty nature, yet she had a generous heart and was always willing to lend a helping hand. Above all, she will be remembered for her unwavering love and devotion to her family, especially her grandchildren, who were the light of her life.

Carolyn's memory will forever be cherished by those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her husband, Tom Kurth, who she married March 3, 2004; children: Doug Bright of Bourbonnais; David (Katherine) Bright of Emington, IL; daughter-in-law, Julie Bright-Allott of Gillespie, IL and step-daughter, Michelle (Dan) Wandless of Wilmington; grandchil-

dren: Kelsey (Austin) Wabi of Tinley Park; Sydney Bright (Isaac Casas) of Mokena, IL; Mariah Bright (Josh) Smith of Marseilles, IL; William Bright of Braceville; Emily Bright of Norway, IL; Jaclyn Allott of Geneva, IL; Jason Bright of Edwardsville, IL; Jacob Allott of Quantico, VA; Jessica Allott of Wilmington; Ashley Weis of Nashville, TN; and Colin Weis, J.T. Mandac and Abby Mandac, all of Wilmington; one great granddaughter, Beatrice; one brother, Steven (Julie) Vestal; two sisters: Mary (Joe) Kubicek and Linda Mullenix, and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Nathan Blye, Debbie (Max) Glass and Pat (Bill) Farner, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Richard Bright; son Derek Bright; daughter-in-law, Pam Bright; sister, Patty Blye; step-son, Eric Kurth and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Barbara (Robert) Dawson, Betty (Joe) Mansfield and William Bright.

The family will receive friends for a celebration of Carolyn's life, which will be held at the Wilmington V.F.W., 557 W. Baltimore Street in Wilmington on April 5, 2025 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Carolyn will be laid to rest in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington, IL with her late husband Richard and son, Derek.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Carolyn's memory to the Riverside Healthcare Foundation and directed toward their Cancer Institute.

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

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

seamstress, skills learned from her mother. She enjoyed upholstery, traveling with her family, and horseback riding. Following Jim's retirement, they moved to Waddy, KY. Carolyn worked as a Senior Accountant for the State of Kentucky for many years. After her retirement, she embarked on a business venture of buying and selling antiques. Recently she moved back to Mahomet with her cat "Kitty" to be near her son Kent and his family.

A Celebration of Life service will be on Saturday, March 29th, 2025, at Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center's Mahomet Chapel 1102 Churchill Rd., Mahomet, IL 61853. Officiating will be Rev. Lutz Braunig. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Mahomet.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Champaign Co. Humane Society.

Please join Carolyn's family in sharing memories, pictures, or videos on her tribute wall at www.sunsetfuneralhome.com.

younger generations, she was the "extra grandma" who brought warmth, laughter, and love into their lives.

Ann will be deeply missed but fondly remembered for her generosity, joy, and unwavering love for her family and friends.

Survivors include special cousins: Mary Ann Collins of Minooka; Beth (Terry) McDonald of Minooka, and their daughters: Michelle (Kellen) Walker and Megan (John) Goolsby; William (Mindy) Collins of Minooka, and their daughters: Liz (Zach) Robinson, Emily Collins and Maddie Collins; and Patrick Macauley and Douglas Horton, both of Sarasota, Florida, as well as many other cousins and friends.

Ann was preceded in death by her grandparents: Elizabeth and Patrick Whalen and Eva and Irving Burgess; parents, Willard and Mary Burgess and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 600 East Jackson Street in Morris on Thursday, March 27, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. until time of funeral service, 10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Ronald Margherio presiding and Deacon Paul Jung assisting.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services, and she will be privately laid to rest in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Minooka with her parents and grandparents.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ann's memory to Immaculate Conception Catholic School, 505 E. North Street, Morris, IL 60450.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to the staff at Loyola (especially the 4th floor Surgical ICU) for the constant support and kindness which was extended to Ann and the family throughout her illness.

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

Funeral and cremation services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves, Fruland and Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.



Danny E. Anderson



COAL CITY— Danny E. Anderson "Dan," 86, of Coal City, passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at Morris Hospital in Morris. Born Nov. 3, 1938 in Dwight, IL to the late Robert G. and Eileen (nee Sorensen) Anderson. Graduate of Dwight High School in 1956. Danny married Gail Koca on May 20, 1960. Veteran of the United States Army, serving 1962-1964. He took an Honor Flight of Chicago in 2024. Member of the Coal City United Methodist Church. Danny was a Cement Mason for 62 years, retiring in 2018. He was employed at Bolander Construction in Libertyville, IL for 35 years and most recently Owned and Operated Anderson Concrete Company, Inc. for 27 years. Dan was a fan of Illini sports, Chicago Bears fan and season ticket holder since 1974, IHSA Basketball Official for 25 years. He loved watching his grandkids and great grandkids playing sports, enjoyed traveling, history, basketball books, enjoyed going uptown to hang out with "the coffee guys" as much as possible, and thoroughly enjoyed his newspapers, eight per day.

Surviving are his wife, Gail; son, Chris (Mary Beth) Anderson of Coal City; two grandchildren, Justin (Allison) Anderson

and Colin Anderson; two great-grandchildren, Payton and Cole Anderson; brother, Doug Anderson; sisters-in-law, Nori (Barry) Butterfield, Beverly Koca, and Eileen Anderson; and nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents; son, Shawn Eric Anderson; brother-in-law, George Koca; sister, Darlene Bellis; and brothers, Dean Anderson and DuWayne Anderson.

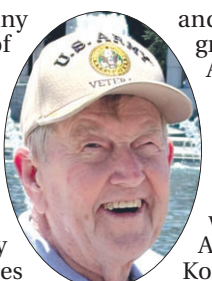
Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 9-11 a.m. with memorial service at 11:00 a.m. Inurnment will be private.

Pallbearers included: Justin Anderson, Colin Anderson, Lenny Onsen, Duke Durando, Geoff Koca, Roger McCoullough, Tony Grosso and Gary Vilt.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in his name may be directed to Lightways Hospice or Coal City Food Pantry.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is entrusted with arrangements.



Edith Jaudon

WILMINGTON—Edith "Edie" Eileen Jaudon, 86, of Wilmington, passed away on March 18, 2025 at the Arc at Dwight, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on Nov. 18, 1938, in Wilmington, Edie was a daughter of Harley and Mildred (Wright) Bengé. She was raised in Wilmington and attended Saint Francis Academy, graduating with the Class of 1956. Edie married Johnny Jaudon, and together they established their home and family in Wilmington. She began her career with office work at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant before transitioning to the security department at (either the Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant or the Dresden Generating Station.)

Edie was a proud member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington and took great pride in welcoming friends and family into her home. Edie was always offering a beverage and ensuring her guests left well-fed. She was an avid decorator for the

holidays, often transforming her home to reflect the season. Edie was a devoted pet owner, with a special fondness for her dog, Stormy. She will be remembered for her feisty personality, sense of humor, and strong sense of family. Her lasting impact on those who knew her will never be forgotten.

Edie is survived by her brother, Ronald (Brenda) Bengé; one sister-in-law, Joyce Bengé; nieces and nephews: Laurie (Randy) Melvin, Jim (Lisa) Bengé, Bob Bengé, Valeria (Marcus) Montgomery, Mike (Victoria) Bengé, and Ron and Jill Bengé; several great-nieces and nephews, numerous cousins, and her favorite "grandson," Dylan Wager.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Johnny; two children, Pete and Debbie Jaudon; siblings, Gloria (Tom) Kunz and Jerry Bengé.

Private family services will be held at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. Edie will be laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery.



Bonnie L. Connor

MORRIS— Bonnie L. Connor, 86 of Morris, took the hand of the Lord, peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Friday, March 21, 2025.

Bonnie was born to proud parents Francis and Beatrice Flint in Kankakee, on March 11, 1939. She was raised in Manteno until moving to Morris with her family at the age of 13, and went on to graduate from Morris High School with the Class of 1957.

Bonnie lived life to the fullest, visiting all 50 states, Canada, and Mexico. She enjoyed spending time and shopping with her best friend Sherry Wettering and ALL her bunco lady friends. She also enjoyed and was thankful for her neighbor Diane Kjellesvik.

Bonnie is survived by two sisters: Carol Kramer of Morris; Jackie Ferguson of Wilmington; a son Randal Bradley (Mary) of Dwight; a daughter Diane Welch (Scott) of Cherokee, NC; Four grandchildren: Jessica Bradley of Morris; Douglas Bradley (Tasha) of Emington, IL; Katie Welch Smith (Jeremy) of Bryson City, NC; and Tammy Kjellesvik of Morris; Seven great grandchildren: Nate, Rayella, Cohen, Jayla, Teigan, Alayna, and Jacob; Two Great Great grand-

children and several cherished nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Edward Connor; brother Frank Flint; daughter in-law Diane Newman Bradley, and great granddaughter, Makayla Kjellesvik.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at First Presbyterian Church of Morris, 200 E. Jackson Street in Morris on Monday, March 31, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until time of memorial service, 11:00 a.m. Reverend James D. Friesen will officiate.

The family requests preferred memorials in Bonnie's memory be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Morris or Lightways Hospice of Joliet, IL.

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

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



Ann Burgess

MORRIS—Ann E. Burgess, 87, of Morris, passed away on Friday, March 21, 2025, at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL.

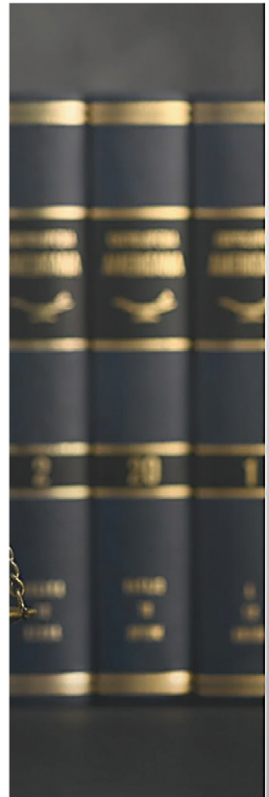
Born Aug. 4, 1937, in Morris, Ann Elizabeth was the daughter of Willard and Mary (Whalen) Burgess. She was raised in Morris and graduated from Morris Community High School with the Class of 1955. Ann furthered her education at the University of Illinois and Northern Illinois University before moving to Chicago, where she attended Moser Secretarial School. After completing her studies, she ventured to New Orleans and worked for Pan American Life Insurance Company. Upon returning to Illinois, she built a successful career with Amoco Chemical Company, dedicating 32 years to the company before retiring in 1997.

A woman of deep faith, Ann was a life-long and devoted member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris. She actively served as an extraordinary minister, bringing communion to nursing home residents, and volunteered with the funeral luncheon committee. She also gave her time as an auxiliary member of Morris Hospital, assisting in outpatient services and the surgical waiting room.

Ann had a zest for life and a love for people. An avid card player, she was involved in numerous bridge clubs over the years and was a proud member of the Morris Country Club. She cherished her coffee group gatherings downtown and had a passion for travel, making cherished memories on pilgrimages and wintering with her cousins in Florida and Arizona.

Fiercely independent and always positive, Ann had a way of bringing people together. She loved dining out, enjoying a good cocktail, and making the most of every moment. Christmas was especially dear to her, as she carried on the family tradition of candy-making, a cherished ritual passed down through generations. She delighted in holiday outings to the Chicago Festival of Lights and festive lunches at the Walnut Room.

Above all, family was at the heart of everything Ann did. She was the glue that kept relatives connected, always genuinely interested in their lives. For many in the



MEENTS LAW IS GROWING!

We are excited to announce that Meents Law, P.C. has officially acquired The Law Offices of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, LLC. This strategic move allows us to expand our expertise and continue delivering top-tier legal services to our clients.

We look forward to this new chapter and continuing to serve you with even greater strength!

Phone:
815-476-7635

207 S. Water St.,
Wilmington



GOODWILL DONATION CENTER

NOW OPEN



NEAR YOU!

155 E. DIVISION ST. COAL CITY



Save the date

Save the date for "Our Couture Closet", a family-friendly fashion show/auction to support "Our Caring Closet", on Sun., April 13, at the Wilmington High School. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

INSURANCE

Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond

(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

State Farm

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

CAVITY FREE CLUB

Patrick J. Yerkes, DDS

688 W. Baltimore, Wilmington • 815-476-5248



Dr. Yerkes and staff would like to congratulate all the cavity free kids for the month of October - December 2024. Keep up the good work!

Bianca Ader
Kinley Albin
Reese Albin
Rowan Albin
Maverick Albin
Emily Alderson
Paige Alderson
Raelyn Aldridge
Coltin Allen
Jane Allen
Laura Allen
Brinlei Bulthuis
Bree Burkett
Andi Chandler
James Cullmann
Maura Ekstrom
Jack Ekstrom
Jillian Erhard
Elliot Erhard
Lorelai Erhard

Marina Figge
Jagger Garcia
Caiden Giordano
Charlee Hameister
Tyler Hill
Alden Hill
Millie Howell
Mason Hurley
Kamryn Hutman
Elizabeth Jensen
Dex Kehm
Wade Kehm
Keegan Kerr
Kamden Kerr
Stephen Kinnett
Abigail Kinnett
Carson Lawless
Mae Lawless
Cainen Machalek
Molly Matsko

Darcy Matsko
Daniel Matsko
Alivia Maxard
Alaina Maxard
Aidan Meister
Paiton Meister
Avery Micklos
Bennett Miller
Sophia Moyers
Jayden Norris
Brexton Owensby
BB Robinson
Whyatt Robinson
Ella Spicuzza
Gionna Spicuzza
Thomas VanTilburg
McKenna VanTilburg
Keeley Walsh
Violet Webster
Gray Wetenkamp

Dr. Yerkes and staff would like to congratulate all the cavity free kids for the month of January & February, 2025. Keep up the good work!

Brock Bailey
Mykinley Barnett
Bradie Barnett
Reed Byers
Luca Byers
Ryder Cavanaugh
Lila Conrad
Jackson Cullmann
Annie Davis
Abi Donnelly
Aiden Dumycz
Timothy Feehan
Carson Feehan
Carter Giordano
Brynlee Granger

Jett Granger
Wybrant Klover
Rose Krug
Brooklyn Long
Jonathan Long
Rory Loughran
Brody Loughran
Kennedy Loughran
Alexis Mallaney
Kamille Morris
Dean Olson
Croix Owensby
Dean Penz
Trevor Reed
Landon Reeb

Lucas Rowder
Henry Sassenger
Charlotte Sassenger
McKenna Stehlik
Harper Stehlik
Kristal Smrz
Liam Sukley
Ryan Sukley
Carson Surman
Clay Surman
Kaysen Vandewerken
Chance Vanduyne
Travis VanDuyne
Trinity Whalen
Evyynn Wilber

Stand up and be counted

2025 BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

LAST CHANCE!

What year does your business fall under? Call us now to be included on this full page.

The Free Press Newspapers would like to celebrate the businesses and people who continue to make southern Grundy and Will counties the success it is today through years of hard work and perseverance.

Your business name, address, logo and website will be listed for \$30.

We will promote your business in all three of our newspapers

The beginnings and growth of some of the area's LEADING BUSINESSES

160 YEARS GRUNDY BANK 120 S. Main St., Wilmington (815) 476-7800 201 E. Main St., Morris (815) 942-0850 www.grundybank.com	153 YEARS THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE 111 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-7966 www.freepressnewspapers.com	138 YEARS Reeves & Baskerville Framed Pictures and Gifts 120 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-7800 www.reevesandbaskerville.com	128 YEARS WHITMORE 120 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-7800 www.whitmore.com
123 YEARS THE COAL CITY COURANT 271 S. Broadway, Coal City (815) 634-0315 www.freepressnewspapers.com	76 YEARS Bank of Pontiac Ponies • Cows • Dogs • Cattle • Pigs • Rabbits • Cats 111 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-7966 www.bankofpontiac.com	100 YEARS 75 W. Broadway, Coal City • 815-634-2125 700 E. Kehler Rd., Wilmington • 815-476-2181	57 YEARS Nelsons Home furnishings 290 Bridge St., Bldg. 231 Wilmington • 815-476-7629
54 YEARS WEESIP LIQUORS 1000 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-2784	49 YEARS Cardinal Transport, Inc. 7180 E. Road Road, Coal City (815) 634-4443	46 YEARS Sunshine 17 Mile West of I-55 on Rt. 15, Diamond (815) 476-0155 www.sunshinegardens.com	42 YEARS BACKYARD POOLS & SPAS 550 Day Lane • Wilmington (815) 476-2975
41 YEARS PRO REAL ESTATE 506 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-7916 Pete Barnes.net	39 YEARS CLUBB CONSTRUCTION 1005 S. Broadway, Coal City • 815-634-2544	39 YEARS Goetz 715 S. Broadway, Coal City • 815-634-8858	39 YEARS Eaton & Schultz Insurance Group 1000 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-5896 Auto • Home • Business • Life • Health • Disability • Travel • Pet • Umbrella • Rental • Boat • Boat • Boat
37 YEARS TUFFY'S Wilmington's Neighborhood Towing & Trucking 1000 S. Water St., Bldg. 231, Wilmington (815) 476-7916 • Check out our website	36 YEARS AMERICAN FAMILY TOWING Gerald Gresham 815-476-8384 • 815-729-3870 1310 E. Main St., Bldg. 231, Wilmington (815) 476-7916 • Check out our website	36 YEARS American Universal Companies Real Estate • Appraisals • Auctions • Construction Don S. Gormalee 4714 N. 1200th St., Bldg. 231, Wilmington (815) 476-7916 • Check out our website	35 YEARS WILSON'S 108 N. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-7296
30 YEARS State Farm Jerry Hallahan Agent 1350 E. Division St., Diamond • (815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com	30 YEARS DR. GARRETT B. SMITH D.D.S. 220 S. Main St. • Wilmington (815) 476-9715	30 YEARS COAL BIN SELF STORAGE INC. 655 S. Margaret St., Coal City (815) 634-8567	28 YEARS CONGRATULATIONS Call Today For An Appointment 1000 S. Water St., Bldg. 231, Wilmington (815) 476-7916 • Check out our website
22 YEARS GYMNASTICS Calibur 505 S. Kankakee St. • Coal City (815) 634-0315 www.gymnastics-calibur.com	21 YEARS Tammy Johnson, AAMS Financial Advisor 12 East North Street Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315 www.tammyjohnson.com	21 YEARS COUNTRY FINANCIAL ROBERT BOLSER 815-476-2884 201 N. Main St., Wilmington, IL	19 YEARS OAK KNOLL STRATEGIES STEPHEN FRANCIS CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ 205 South Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-2125
17 YEARS BREEZE-AIR Low cost great service HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING (815) 476-6615	14 YEARS 66 110 Bridge St., Wilmington (815) 476-9590	14 YEARS BOON'S ADVANCED AUTO & TIRE, INC. 40 E. Chatham, Coal City • 815-634-0004 Complete Auto & Truck Repairs	13 YEARS WARREN COLLIER CENTER 1000 S. Water St., Bldg. 231, Wilmington (815) 476-7916 • Check out our website
12 YEARS ROUTE 66 ANTIQUES "YONKES, ANTIQUES AND MORE MODELS" 602 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington, IL	12 YEARS FORZANO 1100 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-2025 www.forzano.com	10 YEARS THE FLOWER LOT 1100 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-2025 www.theflowerlot.com	7 YEARS Expect The BEST! 840 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315
5 YEARS Old School Brewing 110 Bridge St., Wilmington (815) 476-2200	3 YEARS HOPKINS TOWING INC. 1100 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-6226	2 YEARS BIG STORAGE SOLUTIONS 460 NORTH 5TH AVENUE, COAL CITY (815) 201-2232	2 YEARS WILDCAT SELF STORAGE 131 N. Second St., Wilmington, IL

For info on how to be listed contact
Patti Sorg 815-922-1342 or email: fpnpatti@comcast.net or
Eric Fisher 815-476-7966 or email: efisher@fnpusa.com

Deadline
March 27

The Free Press Newspapers

111 S. Water St
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966

271 S. Broadway
Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-0315

Published
April 2

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk.- \$17; 2 wks.- \$21;
3 wks.- \$25; 4 wks.- \$29*
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
*plus .0399% with credit card

The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Coal City - 2nd story apartment in 4 unit building. Located in a quiet residential neighborhood near schools. Building is 5 miles from I 55 access. 2BR, 1BA, Kitchen, Dining Room, Living Room. Each apartment has their own laundry room within the apartment with a washer & dryer hook-up and additional storage space. Tons of closet space and also an outdoor storage shed is provided for each apartment. Refrigerator and Stove are furnished. Landlord pays for water/sewer and waste disposal. Tenant pays for electric. Off street parking. 1 year lease. No pets. \$1200 rent \$1200 security deposit. Call 815-634-2294. cc13

FARM EQUIPMENT

Farm disc plow, \$1,500 Located in Wilmington. Call 815-210-3302. ch13-14

HELP WANTED

Optometric Office Member to join our team. Qualifications: Leadership skills to build a working team; Previous experience in administrative services or other related fields; Ability to prioritize and multi-task; Strong organizational skills; Deadline and detail-oriented; Strong leadership qualities. Quickbooks skills a plus. Our goal is to build from low volume practice to a highly efficient business, increasing profit and employee compensation. Compensation: \$17.00 to \$22.00 + depending on confirmed resume. In Joliet across from St. Joseph Hospital. Applicant must be able to work occasionally in our Dwight Location adforhelpwanted@yahoo.com cc12-15

HELP WANTED

Cinder Ridge Golf Course is hiring for seasonal positions. Deli, pro shop, cart person, & ranger for afternoon shift. Apply in person at the Pro Shop. 815-476-4000. ck11-14

HELP WANTED

The Reed Township Mosquito Abatement District is currently looking for a Seasonal Field Technician. Application and Job Description are available by contacting (815)458-6538 or email reedtwpmad@sbcglobal.net ch11-13

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

A Thousand Words Photography
385 N. Second Ave. Coal City
Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

GOT GRASS Lawn Care

Jim Baudino
815-342-6394
cc11-26

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Free roof inspection. Low prices. Lic #104.007296 Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck47-20

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinityservices.org.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 920 North Kankakee Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Single). On the 3rd day of April, 2025 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **NUMARK CREDIT UNION Plaintiff V. ADAM POULOS; ELIZABETH A. POULOS A/K/A ELIZABETH POULOS**; Defendant. Case No. 24FC 0703 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: **LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP** 2121 Waukegan Rd, Suite 301 Bannockburn, Illinois 60015 **P: 847-770-4348 F: 847-291-3434** 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., March 12, 19 & 26, 2025.

WANT TO BUY

WANT TO BUY
Clean,
Mercury Grand Marquis,
Lincoln, Buick, Etc.
Cash Buyer...Larry T.
(815) 671-8741

WANTED

WANTED
SCRAP METAL
• Farm Machinery
• Garden Tractors
• Snowmobiles
• Appliances
• Anything Metal
Free pickup
7 days
815-210-8819

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
- No Deposit -
Starting at \$50
515 Dary Lane, Wilmington

Roadside litter cost Illinois \$7 million

The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking the public to be on the alert for crews picking up litter and to Put a Lid on Litter!

IDOT will be mobilizing litter pickup operations this spring and encouraging you to be part of the solution in keeping roadsides and communities free of unnecessary trash and debris.

Excess garbage on highways can be easily avoided. Dispose of garbage properly. Make sure loads are properly secured and covered to keep debris and other trash from winding up on the roads.

Illinois is home to 150,000 miles of road. You can do your part to keep them clean by using bags and receptacles in your vehicle to collect and dispose of trash.

IDOT spent approximately \$7 million picking up litter and removing large debris in 2023.

With the arrival of spring, IDOT forces are engaged in litter removal operations across the state, which will continue until winter.

• Roadside litter causes distractions that can lead to dangerous crashes. It also requires maintenance operations that put workers in potentially hazardous situations.

• Litter kills plants and animals. And it is unsightly. No one likes litter in their community.

• Littering is illegal and subject to a fine of up to \$1,500 in Illinois. In addition to other penalties, violators may be required to maintain litter control over a portion of highway for 30 days.

• Loads must be tarped and secured, with permits required for certain cargo. Violators can face penalties that include a fine up to \$250 in Illinois.

Littering is a problem that's easily controlled and preventable. Use a trash can instead.

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY
APRIL 5
9:00 AM

Address:
170 E 3rd St
Coal City, IL

1993 Chevrolet Suburban 2WD 125k mi, 1985 Sea Ray Boat cuddy cabin, Lund Alum Boat, Yamaha U3 Upright Piano, Predator 4k watt Generator, Tools, Outdoor Camping, Fishing, Taxidermy, Tools, Household Furniture & Collectibles, Lawn & Garden

See website for Photos, Flyer and more Info.

Seller: Herman Wilhelm

Auctioneers:
Dick Olson 815-258-3003
Erik Olson 815-931-0699

RO
RICHARD A. OLSON
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

www.richardaolson.com

DISCOVER

Fiber Internet Plans
Start at Only
\$25/mo*
with AutoPay
Taxes Included

- ✓ Price-Lock for Life*
- ✓ All-In Pricing*
- ✓ NO contracts
- ✓ NO hidden fees
- ✓ FREE Installation*
- ✓ 24/7 local customer service

THE DIFFERENCE
EASY RELIABLE LOCAL



CALL 1-833-544-2983
VISIT SurfInternet.com

SurfInternet.

*Restrictions apply. Go to SurfInternet.com for details. ©2025 Surf Internet

21
CENTURY 21
Coleman-Hornsby

Locally Owned
Nationally Known

Call Us At 942-9190 or Log on to C21.com
Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker
1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

NEW LISTING
MORRIS \$299,900
3BR, 3BA brick and vinyl exterior ranch home with over 3,000 sq. ft. of finished living area. Shawn 815-474-6670. CR1802

SOLD
MORRIS \$575,000
4BR, 3.5BA. Nice kitchen, hardwood floors, 3 car garage, full basement, corner lot. Jo 815-252-1724. 1013WD

WILMINGTON \$469,900
3BR, 1BA Ranch Home on 11.53 acres. Large pole barn. Whole house generator & metal roof. Call Tami 815-325-0550. BS19502

MORRIS \$389,900
Beautiful 4 BR, 2.5 BA Cape Cod home with many updates. Wooded backyard with a creek. Shawn 815-474-6670. BF600

GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER
Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2024 By Grundy County Offices.
SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM
(815) 942-9190
99% Customer Satisfaction Rating

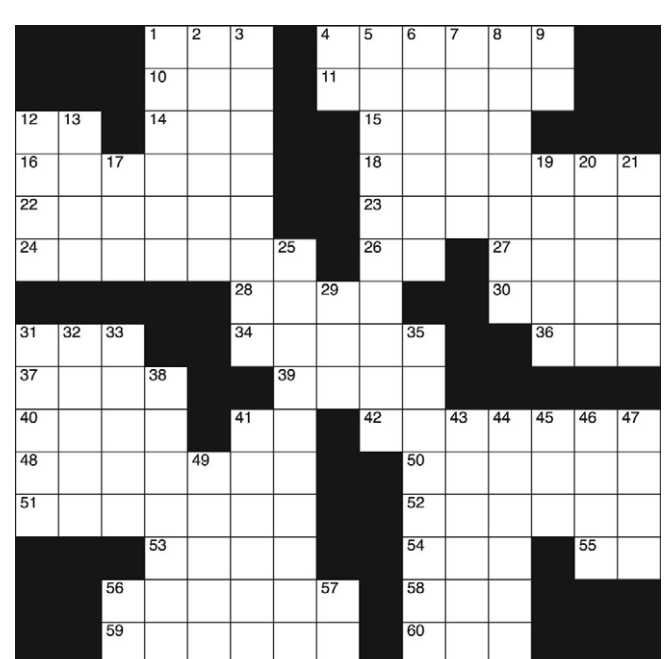
SOLD
MORRIS \$274,900
2BR, 2BA all brick duplex situated on corner lot w/2 car garage and full basement. Call/Text Tom 815-368-5330. EA1046

RESIDENTIAL LOTS Including Wooded and Waterfront

MORRIS \$259,900
Quality 2-3 BR home w/2.5 car garage, near city park with playground & ball fields. Shawn Hornsby 815-474-6670. NK348

MORRIS \$239,900
2 Unit investment property or residence w/add'l income. 3BR, 1BA & 2BR, 1BA. Call/Text Terri 815-474-1575. DR607

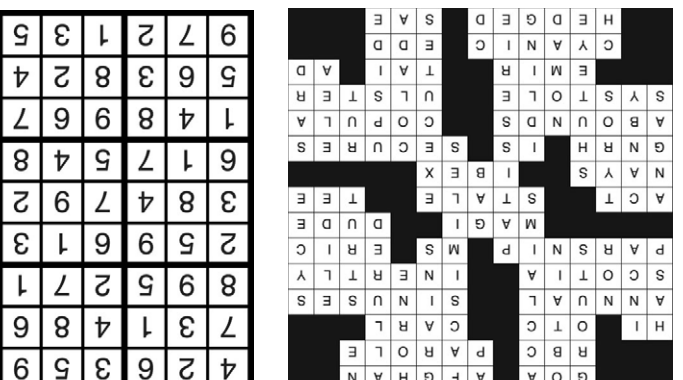
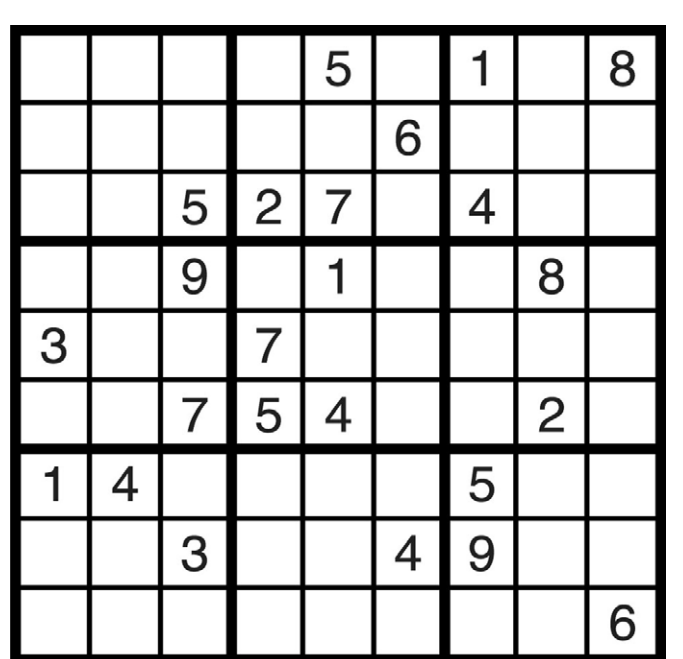
SOLD
MORRIS \$224,900
3 BR ranch on corner lot. Move in ready! Full basement, 1 car attached garage. Big yard. Jo 252-1724. 1724NN



- CLUES ACROSS**
- State in southwestern India
 - Pashto
 - Corpuscle count (abbr.)
 - Supervised release from prison
 - Greeting
 - Type of drug
 - ___ Sagan, astronomer
 - Every year
 - Nasal cavities
 - Nova ___, province
 - In an inactive way
 - Cream-colored root
 - Nervous system disease
 - Guitarist Clapton
 - Three came to see Baby Jesus
 - Lebowski's nickname
 - Play a role
 - Not fresh
 - Where golfers begin
 - Negatives
 - Wild goat
 - Releasing hormone
 - Makes up
 - Fastens
 - Exists in large numbers

PUZZLES

- A connecting word
- A phase of the heartbeat
- Northern Ireland county
- An independent ruler or chieftain
- Pacific sea bream
- Commercial
- Azure
- Doctor of Education
- Protected oneself against loss
- Car mechanics group
- CLUES DOWN
- Pastes for filling crevices
- Acquire
- Heralds
- News group
- Exact copies
- Particles
- Noted 20th C. performer
- Lena
- Tempted
- Midway between north and east
- Slotted, hinged metal plate
- South American hummingbird
- Neither
- Walk with confidence
- Omit when speaking
- Imperial Chinese currency
- A bakery specializing in



COALER SPORTS

Coalers break in new turf with win over Prairie Central

The Coalers varsity baseball team opened the season and the new turf at Cullick Field with a 15-3, six inning win over Prairie Central last Monday.

Coal City trailed 3-1 after three innings before taking control in the fourth with four runs scored. They added three in the fifth before erupting with seven runs in the sixth to clinch the victory.

AJ Wills went 2 innings on the mound, allowing 3 runs on 3 hits with 4 walks striking out 5. Ethan Olson notched the win hurling 4 innings allowing no runs on 2 hits, walking 1 and striking out seven.

The Coalers banged out 15 hits in 6 at bats. Lance Cuddy was 3-for-5 with a 3-run homer and four RBIs. Gabe McHugh was 2-4 with a triple and an RBI. Dylan Young had two doubles in four trips to the plate. Connor Henline was 2-for-4 with a triple. Donnie Ladas was 2-for-4 with 3 RBIs. Blaine Doss, Gavin Berger (double), Hayden Clark (double) and Ethan Olson (double) added hits in the win.

On Tuesday, Coal City handled Dwight 11-5 at Cullick Field.

Lance Cuddy earned the win on the bump hurling 5+ innings allowing

just 2 earned runs on 3 hits while walking 1 and striking out 11. Connor Henline came on to pitch the final 2 innings, surrendering 3 runs ((one earned)) on 4 hits allowing 0 walks and striking out 2.

The Coalers broke a 1-1 tie by scoring five runs in the bottom of the third, then added two more in the fifth and three in the sixth to make it an 11-5 final.

Gabe McHugh was 3-3 with a home run, a double and two RBIs. Cuddy was 2-4 with a homer, a double, and 2 RBIs. Dylan Young was also 2-4 with 2 doubles and three RBIs. Hayden Clark chipped in with 2 hits. Blaine Doss (RBI), Gavin Berger and Connor Henline added hits in the win.

Coal City dropped a non-conference game to a talented Minooka squad 12-1 in 5 innings at Cullick Field on Friday.

Their lone run came in the second inning before Minooka took control in the top of the third by scoring six runs.

Sophomore Kellen Forsythe got the start on the mound and threw 2.2 innings surrendering 8 runs (1 earned) on 4 hits while walking 6 and striking out 2. Ben Watson came on to fire 1.1 innings allowing just 1 run on 1 hit while walking 5.

Hayden Clark hurled the final inning giving up 3 runs (none earned) on 4 hits.

Ethan Olson had the lone Coaler hit, a double.

The Coalers hosted Pontiac at 11 a.m. today (Wednesday), Parkview Christian at 11 a.m. Friday and Beecher at 11 a.m. Saturday. On Monday ICE Conference action starts with a game at Lisle before the Lions come to Coal City on Tuesday.

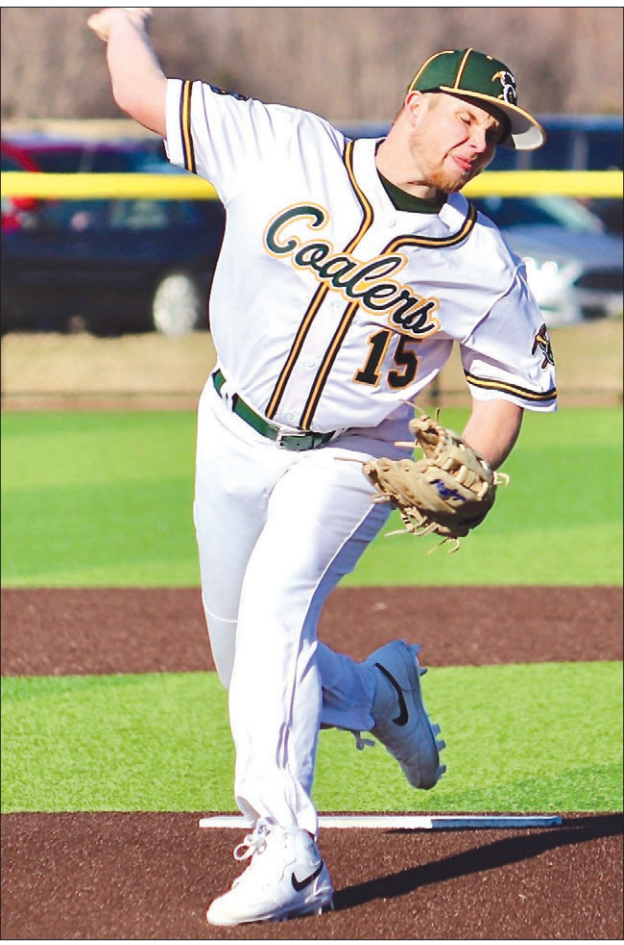


Photo by Amy Walker

THROWING STRIKES—Coal City's A.J. Wills got the win, 15-3 over Prairie Central, to start the season at home last week.

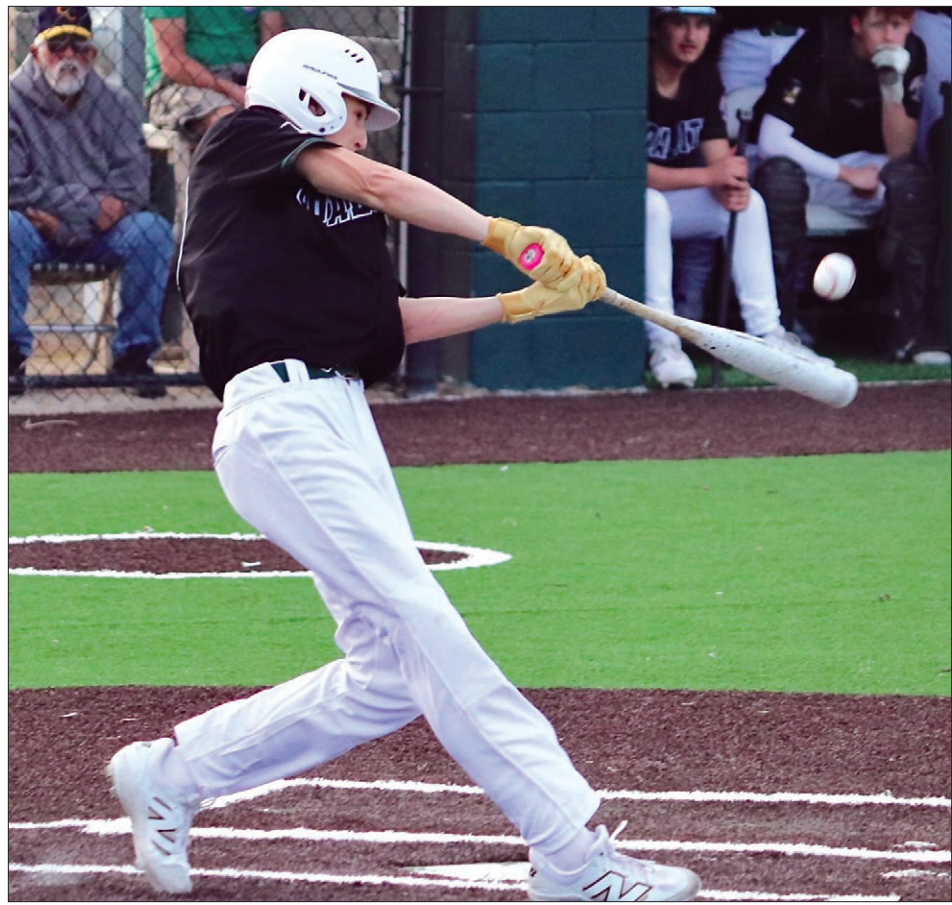


Photo by Amy Walker

BAT ON BALL—Coaler Connor Henline connects for a triple during a 15-3 victory over Prairie Central.

New turf perfect for a Lady Coaler season opening win

There's no place like home to start the season, especially on a brand new turf field.

The Lady Coaler softball team broke it in right, winning Friday over Prairie Central 9-3.

"Tonight was our season opener on our new turf field and we came out performed well," commented coach Rodney Monbrum.

"I'm proud of the way we competed both offensively and defensively tonight. Masyn Kuder pitched well and earned the victory on the mound."

Kuder struck out nine batters over 6.2 innings while giving up one run (unearned) off three hits while walking three. Naomi Rodriguez closed out the win in the end, giving up two runs off two walks while striking out one.

The Lady Coalers came out swinging, getting two runs in the first and two

in the second before plating three more in the third. Lone runs in the fourth and fifth innings were insurance but not needed.

Khloe Picard led the way offensively and called pitches behind the plate. She hit two triples while finishing 3-for-4 at-bats, including two RBIs. Contributing two hits each were Madalyn Petersen, Addison Harvey and Darcy Ness.

Lady Coalers Kaycee Graf, Sierra Anderson (two RBIs) and Juliana Covington each had a hit.

Coal City hosts Kankakee today (Wednesday) before entering the WJOL Tournament on Friday at the Inwood complex in Joliet (varsity and JV at 4:30 p.m.) Tournament play will resume April 2 and 3. On April 4 Coal City will host Joliet Central.



Photo by Eric Fisher

KNEE STOPPER—Coal City forward Nettie Connor gets control of the ball on the bounce during the season opening victory.

CC soccer gets rolling with back-to-back wins

The Coal City soccer team opened its season at Braidwood March 17 in a non-conference contest against Reed-Custer.

The Coalers ended up on top 2-0 with goals scored by Hayden Francisco, assisted by Courtney Elberts, and a second half goal by Nettie Connor, assisted by Kyah Hawkins.

Keeper Chloe Pluger had 7 saves including a PK to earn her first shutout of the season.

On Thursday the Lady Coalers kept their winning momentum going, shutting out Beecher 7-0.

Goals were scored by Kylee Kennel 3, Hayden Francisco 2, Claire Mohler 1, Nettie Connor 1.

Assists were dished out by Nettie Connor 2, Claire Mohler 1 and Kylee Kennel 1.

Keeper Chloe Pluger had 7 saves to earn her second shutout, record 2-0. Next match Tuesday when they host Mendota for a 6:45 p.m. contest.



Photo by Eric Fisher

LEAPING FOR THE ball to take control while being pressured by Reed-Custer's Gwen Stewart is Coal City's Faith Horkavy.



Photo by Eric Fisher

COAL CITY GOALIE Chloe Pluger makes one of her seven saves to help shutout Reed-Custer 2-0 during the season opener.



"Proud to be serving the community for the past 40 years!"

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

COUPON

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

2- ONE TOPPING PIZZAS
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$35.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 03/31/2025

715 S. Broadway, Coal City

815-634-8858

Order online at www.geospizza.net

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

MasterCard VISA