

A Veteran Committed to Community Service

DAVID SPESIA

For Coal City Mayor



Coal City Village Trustee - 2018 To Present

Streets & Alleys Committee Chairman

Broadway Reconstruction Project Completed

Reed Road Reconstruction Project Completed

Alley Paving Construction Projects Restarted

New Waste Hauler Contractor In 2020

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Honorable Discharge As Corporal

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Courtesy photo

COAL CITY MAYORAL candidate Ross Bradley. He currently serves as a village trustee and is chairman of the Water & Sewer Committee.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY MAYORAL candidate David Spesia. He currently serves as a village trustee and is chairman of the Streets & Alleys Committee.

The race for mayor

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

By this time next week, residents of Coal City will have made their choice for village president.

David Spesia and Ross Bradley want to be president—a position more commonly referred to in town as mayor. Both have experience in municipal government as they serve as village trustees. Spesia chairs the town's Streets & Alley's Committee and Bradley the Water & Sewer Committee.

During their current terms, both have been part of major projects within their respective areas of oversight.

For Bradley, it's the modernization of the village's sewer treatment facility and upcoming water plant expansion. While Spesia oversaw the reconstruction of South Broadway and is part of the planning for the expansion of that project to the north.

Spesia was appointed to his seat in 2018, was elected to continue in that role

one year later and was re-elected as a trustee in 2021.

When Terry Halliday approached him about filling the vacated position, he said the mayor had a great recruiting speech.

"He said you will serve your community, it's going to be great. And, he was right, it's great to serve the community," Spesia said.

Bradley began his tenure as a trustee 12 years ago, opting to put his name on the ballot after leaving the employment of the village. Not only did he want to continue to serve his community, he had some questions.

As a 17-year employee of Coal City's water and sewer department, Bradley often questioned why certain decisions were made by the Board.

"I had questions and concerns why previous boards might have done something and the best way to find out and help do something was to serve on the board," Bradley said.

During his three terms, Bradley said

a lot of good things have been accomplished. He's enjoyed being a part of the decision-making as a trustee, but said he feels the time has come for him to give even more and move up into the position of mayor.

His top priority would be to keep the town's tax rate and fees as low as possible while still providing necessary services, supporting the village's business community and maintaining the small town feeling Coal City is known for.

Maintaining the small town, community atmosphere is also key for Spesia. It's what drew him to settle down in Coal City some 30 years ago.

Both candidates have ties to the village of Carbon Hill. Bradley grew up there and Spesia's great-great grandparents were among the early settlers in the 1890s.

As a kid, Spesia would often visit the community and said he, "just loved the

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 2

Coal City trustees approve amended 2023 budget

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

As the village of Coal City heads into the final month of its fiscal year, town trustees approved amending the 2023 budget.

This is an annual exercise that Administrator Matt Fritz said, allows the Village Board to review its proposed budget to actual expenditures that took place through the year.

"From time to time there are expenditures that come up through the year that go beyond what was planned for that program. So in order to have the authority to make those expenditures there is an amendment resolution to the budget that ensures all the expenditures happen within the funds and programs," Fritz said.

The Village Board is adjusting amounts in five village funds. The shortfall amounts to \$1.99 million. The amendment will not only cover the shortfalls, but provide additional revenues to the 2023 budget as \$2.7 million will be added.

According to Fritz, within the general fund the police department will exceed its budget by \$162,000. The majority of the shortfall, \$87,080, is in the salary and overtime line items for full-time officers.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 2

Coal City to waive \$6,000 in unpaid utility bills

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

A portion of unpaid utility accounts ranging from 1¢ to \$1,575 will be waived by the village of Coal City.

The Finance Committee took a look at unpaid balances on old water bills and presented the Village Board with a proposal to clear \$6,009.42 from the books.


"This is .34% of the total fees collected on an annual basis," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said.

There are 100 accounts being waived and the majority of them have balances under \$100.

After the waivers there is still \$10,820 left outstanding which the village will still attempt to collect.

Fritz said collection efforts have begun and will continue over the next three to five months. These accounts, for the most part, are connected to rental properties with the same landlord.

SEE BILLS, PAGE 2



Courtesy photo

THE VILLAGE OF Coal City Park Board presented its plans for the development of a new park in the Meadow Estates Subdivision. The space will include playground equipment and pickleball court.

A playground and pickleball for new public park

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The village of Coal City is creating another park with input from the community.

As part of a development agreement the Village Board entered into with Mark Scaggs, developer of Meadow Estates Subdivision, space was set aside for a park. Now that the residential project is nearing completion, the town's Park Board is prepared to develop the plot of land located along Richards Street where it connects with Foxgrove Drive.

The park space will feature a playground with slides, swings and a pickleball court.

Trustee Sarah Beach, chairperson of the Park Board, presented the plans to the Village Board last week.


"We have been working with the [subdivision] residents. We put out a survey last March to determine what the subdivision and community was looking for in a park and we had quite a few people from that specific neighborhood show up at out meetings," Beach said.

The Park Board shared the concept drawing with the neighborhood residents attending the committee's March meeting and it was well received.

In addition to the playground and pickleball court, the park space will have benches and if all goes as planned, a drinking fountain.

The Park Board is working with NuToys out of Westchester on acquiring the equipment.

SEE PLAYGROUND, PAGE 2



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Municipal, school and library board members to be elected

STAFF REPORT

When area residents go to the polls on April 4 for the consolidated election, there will be few contested races for local municipal, school and library boards.

Just the village of Coal City and village of Carbon Hill have positions with opposition.

In addition to the race for village president [mayor] in Coal City, there are four individuals seeking the three available trustee positions on the Village Board.

All four candidates have municipal government experience. Two candidates—Dan Greggain and Dave Togliatti—are currently serving as trustees and have multiple years of experience in the positions they hold.

The other two candidates are current village clerk Pam Noffsinger and former mayor and trustee Neal Nelson.

Nelson served two terms as the town's mayor and followed that with a term as trustee.

Noffsinger, who retired from her position as town collector last year, has served as the village clerk for over 20 years.

Coal City voters will also elect a new village clerk. Alexis Stone is lone candidate for the position.

In Carbon Hill, four residents are seeking the three available four-year terms for commissioner. They are Gary Smith, Tyler Jones, Laura Johnson and Laura Jones.

Tyler Jones currently oversees the town's parks and Laura Jones oversees

finance.

Voters will also select residents to serve a two-year term. Seeking those seats are streets and alley's commissioner Lorna Surman and Eric Johnson. Both are assured a seat since there are three two year positions open. The third position will likely be appointed by the mayor and commissioners following the election.

Additional elections of local importance:

Unit 1 Board of Education—Four seats with four candidates are on the ballot. They include current board president Ken P. Miller, incumbent board member Quintin Harmon, Daniel P. Engelhart and Cynthia 'Cindy' Klein.

Coal City Public Library Board of Directors has three seats available—

two six year terms and one unexpired two year term. There are three candidates on the ballot and all are incumbents.

Current board president Deborah Trotter and incumbent board member Betsy Stahler are seeking the six year terms, while board treasurer Renee McLuckie is seeking the unexpired term.

In the Village of Diamond there are two commissioner seats with one name on the ballot. Addis Dean Johnson is looking to be re-elected.

Voters will also decide the Joliet Junior College Board [Community College District 525]. Seven individuals are seeking two available six year terms. Names appearing on the ballot are Kevin Collins Hedemark, Richard A. Davis, Alicia Morales, Krystal

Garcia Centeno, Diane M. Harris, Carol Lee and Judy Medvid.

Additionally, voters will be asked to vote on members of the Regional Board of School Trustees for Grundy and Kendall counties. Three seats are open, and the four individuals seeking those seats are Paul Nordstrom, Tom Collins, Jeff Hanford and Kristopher J. Koppers.

A complete list of all Grundy County races can be found on the Grundy County Clerk's website at grundycountyil.gov.

Polls open at 6 a.m. on election day and remain open until 7 p.m. Election results will be posted on the county website, grundycountyil.gov, as they come in with early votes included in the first upload of vote totals.

New polling location for Maine Township voters

Early, election day polling places

Grundy County Clerk Kay Olson announced two polling place changes for the April 4 consolidated election.

Voters residing in the Maine 1 precinct will now vote at the Felix 2 polling location, Felix Township Hall, 6525 E. Whitetie Rd. Coal City.

Voters residing in the Vienna 1 precinct will now vote at the Highland 1 polling location, KMTC Community Center, 219 Main St., Kinsman. These polling changes were prompted due to the lack of election judges.

The clerk's office has also consolidated several other precincts over the last few years in an effort to be more efficient and for cost savings to the county. These consolidations have proven to be successful.

According to Olson, signs will be posted on the doors to the regular polling locations on

election day, and postcards have been sent to all voters of these precincts notifying them of the changes. These polling place changes will be permanent and will be reflected on the next voter registration card the voters receive.

Olson would also like to remind voters of the early voting and vote by mail opportunities which are available now.

Early Voting takes place at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris and continues through April 3. Vote by mail applications may be submitted now through March 30.

Early voting is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday, March 30 until 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Election day polling location for residents in Braceville precincts 1,3 and 4 is the Coal City Lions Hall and Braceville 2 is located at the Braceville

Township Hall, 7900 Braceville Rd.

Voters in Felix precincts 1 and 4 will cast ballots at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Felix 3 voters will report to the Diamond Village Hall and as noted Felix 2 voters will report to the Felix Township Hall.

Voters in Goose Lake precincts 1 and 2 will cast their

election day votes at the Goose Lake Township Hall.

A complete list of polling locations is located on the Grundy County website at www.grundycountyil.gov.

Voters with questions or concerns may contact the clerk's office at 815-941-3222, ext. 1, or e-mail questions to elections@grundycountyil.gov

Mayor

area."

After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Spesia and his family moved to Coal City and got involved, he spent a few years coaching youth baseball and to this day is still called 'coach' by his former little leaguers.

Spesia said a top priority moving forward is supporting economic development.

He sees business development as a big part of what the future holds for the village. Developing the industrial corridor on the south end of town is an important step in moving the village forward. As part of the village's TIF district, new business there will generate dollars that can be used to incentivize additional support for economic growth and funding for future improvements across town.

Both candidates say they support economic development tools such as TIF.

The two men agree the biggest challenge facing Coal City is developing and maintaining business.

Spesia said, "the village is willing to meet with business entities to review their business plan," noting the town is always looking at what is the best fit for the community as a whole.

Bradley said it's important that when entertaining new business, the village needs to do so in a way that does not overtake services, "we have to be able to have controlled growth," he said.

The candidates point out that the village is currently in the process of expanding and modernizing its water and sewer services to accommodate additional growth in the business sector.

As for existing businesses, Spesia said it's important for residents to support these entities.

Another priority for Spesia is to maintain current staffing levels within the Coal City Police Department.

The safety of the community is one of the top three things both candidates say the village is responsible for providing.

"We have to make sure we have enough people, that they are trained and have the equipment they need," Bradley said of the department.

The mayoral candidates also agree water and sewer services are among the top responsibilities of a municipality.

"You have to have clean drinking water and when you flush our toilets you want to have somewhere for that to go. Over the years we've done a lot to update things and we just need to stay focused on that and not fall back, we have to keep up on stuff," Bradley said.

Among the top three for Bradley is assisting local businesses.

And, Spesia believes it's also the village's responsibility to provide residents with a comfortable community to live in.

The people, both candidates say, are the town's biggest asset.

"The residents here are very supportive, we can see that from any fundraising effort that comes up. We have a great community that we come together," Spesia said.

Bradley adds that Coal City is a welcoming community and he's seen that come through be it with new residents coming in or in times of trouble like the 2015 tornado.

"It really couldn't get much worse for a town, but I think as a village we worked through that pretty well. I know nothing's perfect and it was devastating, but in the end everyone came together and we were able to start rebuilding and get back to being Coal

It's garage sale season

Coal City, Diamond announce sale dates

It's time to clean out the closets and garage to get ready for another garage sale season.

The village of Coal City is teaming up with the village of Diamond to sponsor the spring sales. The two day community-wide event is scheduled for Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.—rain or shine.

Diamond residents can begin signing up by visiting the village's website at villageofdiamond.org. Sign-up information for those in Coal City will be released in the coming weeks.

Participation in the Coal City and Diamond sale is free.

City," Bradley said.

Overall, the candidates say the village is in good shape when it comes infrastructure, finances and personnel.

Both men say they want to be the next mayor because they care about their community and its future.

Bradley, as noted is a lifelong resident of the area spent much of his professional career working for the village and his post-high school education was focused on courses that directly related to the work he was doing in town's water and sewer department.

Spesia is a military veteran whose early career was working in operations and inspections for the oil and gas industry. He then moved into maintenance planning, and construction management, before starting his own company. He currently is the owner/operator of Fastrack Construction Management.

If elected mayor, neither candidate foresees any major changes in the administration of the village.

Spesia said should he be elected, he would look to possibly define the roles of key administrative posts and implement a goal setting system.

With so many similarities between the candidates in their thoughts about the village, the question comes down to why should residents vote for them. We asked them that question.

This is what Bradley said, "I've spent my life here, I have enjoyed it. It was a great place to grow up and a great place to raise my kids. I want to do what I can to make sure it stays that way. It's a place where most everybody knows everybody...even though we have to grow we have to try and keep that as much as we can. That is what makes Coal

City what it is. Like I said it was great place for me to grow up, my kids had great childhood's here with the schools and sports and all the different friends they made and still have. I want to try and make sure we keep the community part of what Coal City is."

As for Spesia, "I'm dedicated to residents of Coal City, I believe I bring a different view as a business owner. Integrity, unselfish and I make decisions on what I feel is best for the community. I am able to work with other board members, I have done this before and I value their input and will continue to do so as the mayor. I have called each individual trustee on different occasions to talk about different issues that were coming up. I don't claim to know everything and by having a discussion we might be able to come up with a better plan. Overall, I would hope people would value my ability on what I have done and because I want to do what is right for the community and its businesses."

The April 4 election is the first with a contested race for mayor since 2015 when Halliday was first elected to the position.

Halliday's decision to not seek a third term as mayor opened the door for someone new to take on the position. His departure also marks the end of a 24-year tenure in municipal government as he spent 16 years as a trustee.

A week from now we will have a mayor-elect and just who that will be is up to voters.

Early voting is available at the Grundy County Courthouse through April 3 and the polls will open at 6 a.m. on April 4 and will close that evening at 7 p.m.

Bills

For now the village will carry the remaining balances forward and revisit the balances at a later date.

Overall, the village's utility collection rate has been what Mayor Terry Halliday called, "excellent."

Moving forward, the Village Board could require a deposit on all utility accounts.

Attorney Mark Heinle said the town code provides for certain types of customers to put down a deposit when opening an account. The deposit would be returned when the account is closed

and balances are paid in full.

"This would help with collections," Heinle told trustees, noting the village staff has done a good job at sending delinquency and termination notices, and collecting past due balances.

Currently the code exempts owner-occupied properties from providing a deposit, however that could be amended to require a deposit on all new accounts.

Current utility account holders would not be required to submit a deposit.

"It's just food for thought," Heinle said.

It might be something the village will look at in the future.



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Coal City Village Board

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PUBLIC NOTICE
EARLY VOTING SITE – GRUNDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
CONSOLIDATED ELECTION – APRIL 4, 2023

Early Voting will begin on Friday, March 10th and continue through Monday, April 3, 2023.
LOCATION – Grundy County Courthouse (Lobby)
Grundy County Election Authority
111 East Washington Street, Room 12
Morris, IL 60450
TIME – Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (unless noted below)

| | | |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Saturday | March 11 th | 8:00 a.m. to Noon |
| Tuesday | March 14 th | 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | March 16 th | 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | March 18 th | 8:00 a.m. to Noon |
| Tuesday | March 21 st | 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | March 23 rd | 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | March 25 th | 8:00 a.m. to Noon |
| Tuesday | March 28 th | 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Thursday | March 30 th | 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | April 1 st | 8:00 a.m. to Noon |
| Sunday | April 2 nd | 8:00 a.m. to 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

Budget

The police budget will be adjusted by \$263,980, the additional funds coming from sales and income tax, police grants, and p-ticket fines.

An interfund transfer from the TIF fund will go to cover a \$28,215 shortfall coming with the first—interest only—payment to repay the bond proceeds for the sanitary modernization project.

An additional \$2.3 million in bond proceeds will be transferred to cover a \$1.7 million expended on engineering and construction associated

Playground


ing the equipment that comes at a cost of \$37,692.

Funds to develop the park space will be included in the village's fiscal year 2024 budget. But it's unclear how long it could take to develop the park based on the time frame for acquiring the equipment.

Improvements to the town's two other parks are planned once the Meadow Estates project is completed and funds are available.

with the modernization project.

The amendment further includes a \$67,000 transfer to cover costs associated with waste removal, and the final change will move \$19,011 from the proceeds of a land sale to cover bond principal and interest payments.



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News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Trustees approve 7% utility increase

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Coal City water and sewer users will be paying a little more each time they flush.

On March 22, trustees approved a utility rate increase to cover the cost of providing residents and business owners with water and sewer services.

The rate is based on a formula that looks at the cost of operation, maintenance and replacement, plus capital improvement and debt service that is then divided by the total estimated usage to take place over the course of one year.

The village anticipates it will cost around \$1.9 million to run the department with \$1.3 million of that going to operations.

The new rate structure will have those

utilizing up to 5,999 gallons paying \$14.63 per 1,000 gallons. Those consuming between 6,000 and 20,999 will be billed \$16.30 per 1,000 gallons and 21,000 gallons or more will be billed at \$15.63.

As previously reported, the rate adjustment is included in the village's fiscal year 2024 budget to be adopted when the Village Board meets on April 12. The new rates will take effect May 1.

In other matters from the March 22 meeting:

- Luevano's Barbershop was granted a Class A liquor license allowing the business to serve craft beer and other alcohol to customers.

- Trustees ratified a resolution approved earlier in the month accepting the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) housing grant totaling \$350,000.

- The Board authorized the Will-Grundy Counties Building & Construction Trades Council to hold its Dollars Against Diabetes (DAD's) Day fundraiser on Saturday, July 17. Representatives of the organization will be collecting donations at various locations throughout the village.

- Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$68,831.33. Included in the bills were a \$12,626 payment to the Coal City Public Library District a figure representing 15.51% of personal property replacement tax; \$7,389.01 to Grainco FS for propane, diesel and unleaded fuel; and \$7,676 of network equipment at the Village Hall and public works building.

The next meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 12 in the Village Hall meeting room.

Search on for a new patrol officer

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Coal City's Fire and Police Commission is again looking to hire a new patrol officer for the village's police department.

The three-member commission was notified of the resignation of patrol officer David Kasher and that the position be filled with a candidate from the police eligibility list.

Police Chief Chris Harseim told the Village Board last week that Kasher has accepted a position with a new department and take his final shift on April 3.

Kasher departs the village with 14 years of service. He was hired in October 2008 and has served in various capacities including firearms and OC [pepper] spray instructor.

In 2011, Kasher was named the department's first ever Officer of the Year.

Prior to a career in law enforcement, Kasher served in the U.S. Marine Corps. While serving his country, Kasher served in Iraq and was a recruiter for the Marines.



File photo

COAL CITY POLICE patrol officer David Kasher has submitted his resignation and will complete his tenure with the village on April 3.

The vacancy created by Kasher's resignation will be addressed by the Fire and Police Board who is now charged with hiring a new officer based on the department's current eligibility list that contains the names of seven potential candidates.

Two of those on the list—Connor Goron and Kolton Stockdell—were hired by the village in 2022.

Hot meal offered in Coal City

The table is set for the weekly St. Vincent's Table dinners, a hot meal provided to anyone who is in need of one.

The weekly dinner will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 180 S. Kankakee St., Coal City, through April.

Dinners are offered each Monday from 4:30-6 p.m. and hosted by various community churches for local residents in need of a nutritious meal.

The meals will move to the First Baptist Church of Coal City for the months of May and June.

Community Foundation offers non-profit wish list

The Community Foundation of Grundy County is offering a new service to support local non-profit organizations and units of government.

Through its non-profit wish list, the Community Foundation will accept donations and forward them on to the organization at the beginning of each month.

Donors can support one or more organizations or agencies. The items seeking funding can include assistance with utility bills, purchasing new equipment or even constructing new buildings or adding staff.

Non-profits interested in being a part of this new program can sign up via the Community Foundation's website at cfgrundycounty.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/request.

Those looking to assist these non-profits can log on to cfgrundycounty.com to make a donation. Links to several non-profits and agencies are already listed.

Bunny hops into town



Photo by Ann Gill

GRUNDY COUNTY HEROES & Helpers did their part to help the Easter Bunny make a pre-Easter visit to kids in the local community. On Saturday, March 25, the bunny stopped by Coal City Fire Station 1 meet local kids—about 150 people stopped by for the meet and greet—including 3-year-old Celia Tabler. Those attending also had an opportunity to meet members of the fire department and check out the department's new ambulance. Heroes & Helpers is a non-profit organization comprised of law enforcement and first responder families dedicated to assisting children and families in need.

Golf outing to support Megan's Mission

Megan's Mission Foundation is set to host its annual golf outing to continue Megan Bugg's mission of ending childhood cancer.

The Megan Bugg Memorial Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, July 22 at The Creek in Morris with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

All proceeds from the event will go to further the work taking place at the Megan Bugg Global Rhabdomyosarcoma Research Laboratory at Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute [CC-TDI].

The foundation recently donated \$100,000 to continue supporting two promising childhood cancer research projects that Megan founded

at CC-TDI, according to Kent Bugg, Megan's dad and foundation president.

The cost to play a round of golf in honor of Megan is \$500 per foursome—\$125 per golfer—and includes 18 holes of golf and lunch.

Non-golfers who would like to support Megan's Mission can do so by signing on as sponsor—various levels are available—or participating in the post golf lunch that will include raffles, silent auction and a presentation about Megan's Mission.

To register for the outing, inquire about sponsorships or make a donation text 815-210-6394 or e-mail debbugg@gmail.com.

Registration form [avail-

able on the Team Megan Bugg Facebook page] and payment, along with donations—checks made payable to Megan's Mission Foundation—can be sent to Megan Bugg Golf Outing, 7920 Bowman Rd., Lodi, WI 53555.

Fire and Police Commissioners vote to amend rules, regulations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that on the 27th day of March, 2023, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners of the Village of Coal City, Illinois, voted to amend its Rules and Regulations. Printed copies of the Board's Rules and Regulations, as amended, may be obtained from the Office of the Village Clerk, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, Illinois. The rules shall be operable on the 10th day of April, 2023, or 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, whichever date is later.

Published in the Coal City Courant on March 29, 2023.

GPA of 3.20 or higher are on the dean's list.

Attorney Peacock files Carlson estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

In the Matter of the Estate of
GERRY L. CARLSON, Deceased.
Case No.: 2023 PR 3

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the death of GERRY L. CARLSON, and that Letters of Offices were issued on March 13, 2023, to JEFFREY CARLSON, 529 NARVICK AVE, Morris, IL 60450, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is PEACOCK LAW OFFICES, P.C., P.O. Box 69, Morris, Illinois 60450.

The Estate will be administered without Court Supervision unless, under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (735 ILCS 5/21-103), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition to Terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 or with the representative or both, on or before September 30, 2023, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it is filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

JEFFREY CARLSON,
Independent Executor
BY: JOHN D. PEACOCK
PEACOCK LAW OFFICES, P.C.
P.O. Box 69
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0733
johnpeacock@peacocklawoffices.com
Atty. #6201772

Published in the Coal City Courant on March 29, April 5 and 12, 2023.

Attorney Peacock files McGee estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

In the Matter of the Estate of
KATHRYN A. MCGEE, Deceased.
Case No.: 2023 PR 13

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the death of KATHRYN A. MCGEE, and that Letters of Offices were issued on March 13, 2023, to MICHAEL BAKER, 432 E. Park, Elmhurst, IL 60126, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is PEACOCK LAW OFFICES, P.C., P.O. Box 69, Morris, Illinois 60450.

The Estate will be administered without Court Supervision unless, under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (735 ILCS 5/21-103), any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition to Terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 or with the representative or both, on or before September 30, 2023, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it is filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/> service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

MICHAEL BAKER,
Independent Executor
BY: JOHN D. PEACOCK
PEACOCK LAW OFFICES, P.C.
P.O. Box 69
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0733
johnpeacock@peacocklawoffices.com
Atty. #6201772

Published in the Coal City Courant on March 29, April 5 and 12, 2023.

Lander accepted at Palmer College

Cameron Lander, of Goose Lake, has been accepted for enrollment for the spring 2023 trimester in the Doctor of Chiropractic degree program at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, IA.

Garfield Township to hold annual town meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters of the Town of Gardner, Garfield Township, in the County of Grundy and the State of Illinois, that the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING of said Township will take place on: TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 Being the second Tuesday of said month. At the hour of 6:00 p.m. at Garfield Township Hall 301 North Liberty St., Gardner Illinois for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said town, and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear, and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

Business of the Township

Agenda

1. Call the meeting to Order
2. Pledge to the flag
3. Elect a Moderator
4. Set Moderator's salary
5. Approval of minutes: Annual meeting of April 12, 2022
6. Announcement of next annual town meeting- Tuesday, April 9, 2024 @ 6 p.m.
7. Fix hour and day monthly Town Meetings are held
8. Approve Supervisor's annual reports
9. Budget amount for youth and senior services
10. Budget amount for food pantry
11. Adopt Annual Audit Report
12. Recommendations, resolutions and discussion by electors
13. Adjournment

Dated March 9, 2023
Nick Hamilton,
Garfield Township Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on March 29, 2023.

Wehman named to dean's list

Matthew Wehman, of Coal City, was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's dean's list for the 2023 winter quarter. Wehman is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering.

Undergraduate students who have earned at least 30 credits and have a cumulative

Attorney Black files Buttry estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE**

No. 2023 PR 21

In the Matter of the Estate of
DEBRA A. BUTTRY,
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Debra A. Buttry. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to David W. Buttry, 3255 W. Buffalo Rd., Verona, Illinois 60479, whose attorney is DONALD F. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 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 to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

DAVID W. BUTTRY
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
Donald F. Black
Black & Black
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on March 29, April 5 and 12, 2023.

Unit 1 Board announces change in meeting date

The Coal City Unit 1 Board of Education a study session of the whole has been canceled for the month of March.

Additionally, due to the scheduled spring break—April 3-10—the Board's monthly meeting is being pushed back one week to Wednesday, April

12 at 6 p.m. in the district's administration center.

Village of Coal City to host public hearing on tentative budget

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Coal City has developed a tentative budget for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024. Illinois Compiled Statutes (65 ILCS 5/8-2-9.9) provides that prior to final approval of the budget, the Village hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment on the tentative budget. Public comment may be received in three different manners— 1.) Physically attend the meeting at Village Hall; 2.) Leave a voicemail with content that does not extend beyond 3 minutes at 815-518-3051 prior to Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 12:00 noon; or 3.) Send an e-mail to lsula@coalcity-il.gov prior to Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 12:00 noon.

The public hearing on the budget will be held before the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Coal City on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 commencing at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416. The tentative budget is on file at Village Hall, accessible at its website www.coalcity-il.gov and is available for public inspection.

PAMELA M. NOFFSINGER
VILLAGE CLERK

Published in the Coal City Courant on March 29, 2023.

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Spade & Chisel files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

**Assumed Name
Publication Notice**

Public Notice is hereby given that on March 14, A.D. 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Spade & Chisel, located at 214 E. Wilmington St. Gardner, IL 60424.

Dated this 14th day of March, A.D. 2023.

Kay T. Olson, Grundy County Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on March 22, 29, and April 5, 2023.

Foreclosure sale of 1093 Black Diamond Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS**

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC
Plaintiff,

-v-
SHIRRELL HALL et al
Defendant,
2022 FC 59

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 9, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on April 26, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF GRUNDY, STATE OF ILLINOIS, BEING KNOWN AS LOT 13, EXCEPT THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET, AND ALSO EXCEPT THAT PART LYING SOUTHERLY OF A LINE CONNECTING A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF LOT 13 WHICH IS 64.50 FEET NORTHERLY FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 13 AND A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF LOT 13 WHICH IS 65.29 FEET NORTHERLY FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 13, IN COALFIELD ESTATES FIRST ADDITION, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 8, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED 10 AUGUST, 1990 IN PLAT CABINET F, SLIDE #162, AS DOCUMENT #304387, EXCEPT COAL AND MINERALS AND THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME; IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 1093 BLACK DIAMOND DR, COAL CITY, IL 60416

Property Index No. 09-02-356-023

The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No 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. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@ilcslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-22-06330
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2022 FC 59
TJSC#: 43-1050

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2022 FC 59
13216169

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, March 22, 29 and April 5, 2023.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

His own space

WILMINGTON—Thank you Free Press Advocate for the front page article about Kevin Fox. I so appreciate the focus being on Kevin without mentioning the unjust arrest mess with Will County. He deserves his own space and tribute especially since being found not guilty. I'm currently irritated with the TV stations announcing the accident while a video of Kevin in prison clothes is running in the background. Freedom of the press or not...that's just wrong.

Toss them in jail

WILMINGTON—Why is it always politically motivated or "a witch hunt" when the facts prove a law was broken by a politician? Can I call for a rebellion to take my town back when I get a speeding ticket? I am sick and tired of politicians from both parties who think they are above the law. Fine these babies or toss them in jail for 30 days.

Problems/solutions

BRAIDWOOD—I was going to write a Soundoff about a problem and the solution of problems. I decided not to use the word solution to avoid confusion. The word colloidal (sp?) fit. That Sound Off would have been in the same March 22, 2023 issue as the Coal City, "A new deal" and its use of solutions and again humanity needs solutions. I started to wonder if it was my pondering putting the word "solution" in the air and it was picked up.

The middle class

COAL CITY—The poor have Medicaid and food stamps and the rich have money to get by on. What does the middle class have? You go out and go to work, you come home and don't even have enough money to go on vacation or even go out and get ice cream because you've got to pay your bills, your insurance, mortgage, everything. Food is going up. Please, if you feel like I do, call or write your senators. I don't think they're going to be much help because it seems like the politicians are all in cahoots. They don't want to help the middle class person, they just want to drown us or something. I love this country but what's happening to it is a disgrace.

Signs of Spring

BRAIDWOOD—Well we waited all winter for this. Spring, it's finally here. And you can tell it's spring just from the political signs all over town. I think there should be a limit as to how many each candidate can put out because apparently some of these politicians are thinking the more they put out the easier they will get elected. Let's pass an ordinance that says

each candidate gets up to 20 signs, no more. That way the town wouldn't look so trashy.

Walking on water

WILMINGTON—Where was the city of Wilmington engineer when the list was made for repaving streets? Seems to me like North Water Street should have been on that list. We're a town that plans Easter egg hunts, a Route 66 festival and Catfish Days focusing on the downtown so why not have the street in tip-top shape. We're finally seeing businesses fixing up the fronts of their buildings but the street itself is a hellhole that should have been repaved years ago.

R.I.P Kevin

WILMINGTON—Rest in peace Kevin Fox. My heart aches for his family and friends. Word of his sudden death reminded me of the injustice he suffered at the hands of Sheriff detectives who were blind to the evidence that was in their possession. Sadly, so many in this town were led to believe he was guilty while the real murder went unknown for six years. Kevin leaves behind a wife and three kids. As a community we can show compassion for his loved ones. There is a Go Fund me account set up to help his family. I urge you to give.

Cut wasteful spending

BRAIDWOOD—Here are some ways to solve Illinois' 120 billion state pension deficit. Why does Illinois need township government, regional superintendents and many other do-nothing jobs? Cut all wasteful spending and cut all programs that the state can't afford. Freeze all politicians' wages. Revamp the entire public pension system. Public employees work for the taxpayers and we should determine their compensation. Welfare payments are wasted on far too many. Once all these suggestions are met, take the savings to pay down the pension deficit. Instead, Gov. Pritzker and the Democrats in charge in Springfield just keep passing more tax increase in the form of user fees. License plate, trailer, driver's license, gas taxes and property taxes have all gone up. They raise the minimum wage and what does that mean? More payroll taxes for the state, thus another tax increase. Cut the waste.

Running mate

Something to ponder: When the character of your running mates is so bad, you won't admit that they're your running mates.

Retraining

SHADOW LAKES—Grandmammy is now racist, please report anyone using this word to the local Democratic HQ for retraining.



The trash corridor

COAL CITY—What an embarrassment it is to see all the garbage thrown out along I-55. Just look in the median from Arsenal Road to the Des Plaines River bridge. I have never in my life seen it as bad as it is now. I'm not sure who is responsible for this problem but since it's an Illinois State Highway I think the Governor would be the best place to start. Maybe IDOT? Sounds like the garbage trucks traveling along there are responsible for a lot of the mess but if so then they need to be held accountable for it. We have plenty of inmates in prisons who could be out there cleaning up the mess. Why not put them to good use? If anyone reading this knows who to direct this problem to please do so or leave instructions in this column on how to deal with it. Illinois sure doesn't have the best reputation lately for a great place to live.

The local store

COAL CITY—Well, you have lost a customer as of today. You had a sale going on the Scott's 1-4 Step program. Halfway through your sale you decide to now offer a \$15 gift card on top of the sale price if you purchased the 1-4 Step program. Why wouldn't you have offered that at the beginning of the sale? When I asked

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

Local gas prices jump then come back down

Gasoline prices jumped as much as 20 cents per gallon at a couple of area stations on Wednesday, but have since trickled down from a high of \$3.79/g.

On Monday stations in Wilmington were charging anywhere from \$3.38/g (Mohsen) to \$3.72/g (Circle K), a difference of 34 cents.

Braidwood area stations were priced at \$3.64/g while in Coal City motorists were paying \$3.69/g. at the pump.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 6.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.67/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 16.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 80.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The lowest price in the state was \$3.23/g while the highest was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$1.56/g.

The national average is up 7.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 83.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

"The national average price of gasoline has seen little overall change over the last week, with big decreases in states like Colorado and Ohio offset by large increases in Arizona and North Carolina. While more states saw declines than increases, any downward trends are still likely to be temporary and not necessarily long lasting," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"While Colorado's refinery issues are largely moving into the rearview mirror, challenges making the transition to summer gasoline in Arizona are leading to tight supply and accelerating prices. Motorists in some areas may be on the receiving end of good news, while others may not as we hit the second half of refinery maintenance season. You never know what the closing moments will look like, and motorists could be in for a dramatic ride if issues develop."

Diesel has fallen 5.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.19 per gallon.

Ranked choice voting being debated

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois lawmakers are debating whether the state should join a growing list of jurisdictions in the United States that allow voters to pick more than one candidate for an office, ranking them in order of preference rather than choosing just one.

Ranked choice voting, or as it's sometimes called, "instant runoff voting," actually has a long history in U.S. elections at the municipal level. But it has become more widely adopted in modern times, including in several states and dozens of municipalities.

"This is a better voting model to ensure all voices and choices are reflected in the election results," Amber McReynolds, an elections expert and former elections director for the city and county of Denver, CO, told a House committee March 15. "It prioritizes and expands voter choice, it puts voters first, and it improves the voting experience for all."

The proposals facing Illinois lawmakers are subject to change as they move through the legislative process.

In a general ranked choice voting system, voters mark candidates in the order of their preference in races with three or more candidates. The voter can rank as many candidates as they choose. In a five-person race, for example, a voter might rank one candidate first, another second and leave the sections of the other three candidates blank.

In the first round of counting, ballots are counted as they are now, with everyone's vote going to their first choice.

If no one has achieved a majority, the person with the fewest votes is eliminated and their voters' ballots are recounted with their votes going to their highest ranked candidate that is still in the race.

This continues until a candidate earns a majority of votes counted in a given round of tabulation. This may not mean a majority of all people who voted in the election, since a ballot isn't counted after all of their listed choices are eliminated.

According to the group FairVote, which advocates for ranked choice voting, there are 64 jurisdictions that allow that method of elections, including the states of Maine and Alaska, as well as two counties and 60 cities.

Colorado enacted a law in 2021 that allows municipalities to opt in to ranked choice voting in local elections. And Democratic parties in five states – Alaska, Kansas, Hawaii, Nevada and Wyoming – used it, wholly or partially, in their 2020 presidential primaries.

There are currently three bills pending in the General Assembly that would allow ranked choice voting in one form or another.

House Bill 2716, by Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Inverness, would implement the system for elections for the General Assembly, governor and other statewide constitutional officers.

House Bill 2807, by Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, would establish ranked choice voting in presidential primaries in Illinois. And House Bill 3749, by Rep. Kam Buckner, D-Chicago, would allow municipalities to use ranked choice voting if the municipality's chief election authority submits a written statement saying they have the ability to conduct such an election.

Impact on elections

Supporters of ranked choice voting argue that it has several advantages over "plurality voting," in which the person with the most votes after one round of counting wins regardless of whether that person has a majority.

One, they say, is that it reduces the number of "wasted" votes – that is, votes cast for candidates who drop out of the race after it's too late to remove their name from the ballot. McReynolds said that is particularly true in presidential primaries in which a large field of candidates is winnowed down to just a few after the first few states cast ballots.

"In 2016, more than 2 million voters actually took the effort to vote for a candidate on the Republican side (after they had dropped out of the race). Their vote was lost," she said. "In 2020, around 3 million to 4 million of Democrats – that's the estimated (number) – had that same issue happen because lots of dropouts start happening after Super Tuesday in those periods of time."

Under ranked choice voting, she said, even if a voter's first choice is no longer in the race, their second or third choice could still count in subsequent rounds of counting.

Some advocates also say it can reduce the overall cost of certain elections by eliminating the need for runoffs, like the one coming up April 4 in the Chicago mayoral race.

"There are estimates that runoff elections cost the city between \$25 and \$35 million each time," Buckner said. "And so this, if for no other reason, for financial reasons, being able to give us winners of both aldermanic and mayoral elections on the initial election date and to save some of those dollars and resources from the city and municipality."

But Boone County Clerk Julie Bliss, speaking on behalf of the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders, said there would be significant up-front costs for local officials to buy the voting machines and software needed for ranked choice voting, as well as the cost of printing and mailing what would be much larger ballots.

"Expense and funding absolutely is going to be a question that all the local election authorities are going to have for you," she told the committee. "... The initial cost of implementing something like this is going to be higher."

Brian Pryor, deputy director of election operations at the Illinois State Board of Elections, said there are currently no voting systems in Illinois that could implement ranked choice voting immediately.

"Some systems are capable of conducting ranked choice voting but they require additional components or software, which would need to be certified for use in Illinois," he said. "There are currently 16 jurisdictions that have no capability of implementing ranked choice voting. These jurisdictions would need to procure new equipment."

The committee discussion of the three bills was "subject matter" only, meaning they did not come for a vote. They have been re-referred to the House Rules Committee, meaning they may face an uphill battle to be passed into law in the current General Assembly.



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Fresh, All-Natural Bone-In Pork Sirloin Roasts
\$1.49 LB

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Made with Garlic, Onions, & Bacon
\$4.99 LB

All Natural Fresh Pork
NO ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS & UNUSUALLY PROCESSED

Berkot's Fresh, All-Natural Bone-In Center Cut Pork Chops
\$3.99 LB
-\$2.00 LB
\$1.99 LB with loyalty

Farm Fresh Chicken Drumsticks Family Pack
88¢ LB

Censea Cooked Shrimp
31-40 ct - Sold in 1 lb bag
\$7.99 EA

USDA CHOICE

USDA Choice Boneless Top Sirloin Steaks
\$6.99 PER LB

APRIL SHOWERS OF SAVINGS 2 DAY SALE
SATURDAY 4/1 - SUNDAY 4/2

4/1/23-4/2/23 ONLY PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

USDA CHOICE

Angus T-Bone Steaks
\$9.99 LB
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LIMIT 6 STEAKS*

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Angus Porterhouse Steaks- LIMIT 6 STEAKS*
\$40.99 - \$3.00 = \$37.99
with loyalty

4/1/23-4/2/23 ONLY PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
with loyalty
LIMIT 2 OFFERS* (4 boxes)

Berkot's Frozen Ground Chuck Patties
2 lb box - Reg. Price: \$13.99 ea

4/1/23-4/2/23 ONLY PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

\$3.99 PER LB
with loyalty

LAND O LAKES

Land O'Lakes American Cheese
Yellow or White

4/1/23-4/2/23 ONLY PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

12 FOR \$4
with loyalty

Super Sweet Florida Sweet Corn

4/1/23-4/2/23 ONLY PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

\$1.99 PER LB
with loyalty

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Premium Seedless Green Grapes

4/1/23-4/2/23 ONLY PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

\$14.99 EACH
with loyalty
LIMIT 1*

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Propane Tank Exchange

4/1/23-4/2/23 ONLY PRICE W/ LOYALTY ONLY

\$9.99 EACH
with loyalty
LIMIT 4*

18 PACK!!

Sparkling Ice Drinks- 18 pk 17 oz btl

Berkot's has the freshest produce at the freshest prices!

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Celebrate Spring with a sweet Sangria cocktail

In a pitcher or in a bowl, nothing brings springtime refreshment like a scratch-made batch of authentic Sangria.

There are bottled "Sangria" options in the wine section of your local spirits retailer if you are looking for a shortcut, but you can't beat the real thing when it comes to Sangria.

This week we will roll up our sleeves and prepare a batch of the 100% authentic variety, and the end result will be worth the effort.

Ah, Sangria. The wine punch that everyone loves to



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Sangria recipe uses a true Spanish red wine and blends of herbs, spices, sugar, fruit, etc. The real trick was getting the Sangria recipe under 10 ingredients and cutting prep time down to minutes as opposed to hours.

Sangria was originally a spring/summer afternoon drink in its native Spain, but the modernized version of Sangria is very much a drink for all seasons thanks to the addition of brandy.

The addition of brandy to the red wine adds an incredible depth to the punch while maintaining the refreshing notes of citrus and apple. Brandy-based Sangria is

drink but nobody likes to prepare. Preparing a batch of authentic Sangria is more akin to cooking than it is to mixology, but the sharing of ideas among the innovative mixology community has yielded some simplified but tasty Sangria recipes over the last fifteen to twenty years.

A "real" Sangria recipe uses a true Spanish red wine and blends of herbs, spices, sugar, fruit, etc. The real trick was getting the Sangria recipe under 10 ingredients and cutting prep time down to minutes as opposed to hours.

Sangria was originally a spring/summer afternoon drink in its native Spain, but the modernized version of Sangria is very much a drink for all seasons thanks to the addition of brandy.

The addition of brandy to the red wine adds an incredible depth to the punch while maintaining the refreshing notes of citrus and apple. Brandy-based Sangria is

regarded by Europeans as "Americanized" Sangria, and the American imbibers also took some liberties with the sugar portions and the use of club soda to add a bit of sparkle to the wine punch.

Sangria recipes vary widely, even in the US where the term "Sangria" now refers to nearly any combination of red wine and fruit served in a pitcher.

Regardless of what Sangria is or is not by your definition, every host or hostess should have a tasty Sangria recipe in their notebook. I love "self-serve" drinks when hosting parties.

Set out some of the smaller punch cups when serving to keep portions small and have a second pitcher in the refrigerator if you are expecting more than 15-20 people.

Sangria is also customizable, perhaps more so than any other concoction from your kitchen or home bar. More sweetness? Add more brown sugar. Don't like brown sugar? Add cane sugar. Not strong enough? Add more brandy. Can't taste the citrus?

Add more orange juice, and you get the idea. The recipe below will serve as the

perfect jumping off point, but it is also a fine "simplified" Sangria even if no further ingredients are added.

I know of families that have incorporated Sangria into their Thanksgiving dinner tradition, an example of how this versatile wine-based cocktail is never out of season.

If you follow the recipe below, you are virtually guaranteed a tasty Sangria. However, the key is to use quality ingredients in your Sangria. Not necessarily expensive, but quality. This means no plastic bottle wine or brandy.

Speaking of wine and brandy, you should reach for the "middle shelf" variety of both. With any luck a decent Spanish red will be on sale, but any dry red wine will work in this recipe. Don't waste a bottle of the good stuff, you should not spend more than \$20-\$25 on a bottle of dry red for Sangria.

Same with the brandy, stick with the middle shelf bottles. Many high-end restaurants use quality cognac in their Sangria recipes, but this is more of a gourmet twist on the recipe that is tailored for pairing with certain dishes.

I wouldn't waste cognac of

any price point on Sangria, Christian Brothers brandy works well as a mixer and is my first choice for Sangria. If Christian Brothers is unavailable, reach for E&J.

Use the orange juice that you have on hand, but be aware that some juices contain added sugar. Remember, you are adding sugar in addition to the orange juice so it is best to use a "100% juice unsweetened" orange juice.

I recommend decreasing the sugar to cut sweetness as opposed to backing off the orange juice. The orange and citrus notes are too important to the overall flavor of the drink, if too little orange juice is used the citrus notes will be overpowered by the wine.

If you're an experimental mixologist and can't resist the urge to add some ingredients to your Sangria, some popular additions are: lemon wheels, club soda, peaches, pineapples, pears, nectarines, blueberries, blackberries, triple sec, and various flavored liqueurs.

Sangria is built in a large pitcher, served chilled.

Ingredients:
1/2 apple, cored, skin on, and chopped
1/2 orange, sliced, rind on,



seeds removed
4 tablespoons brown sugar
1 cup orange juice
1/3 cup brandy
1 bottle (750 ml) of Spanish red wine
Garnish with orange wheels or slices
Add fruit and sugar to pitcher, then muddle for 30 seconds. Muddle once more after orange juice and brandy are added. Add red wine, then stir to combine ingredients. Add orange garnish and 1-2 cups of ice, and serve.
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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IDNR accepting public comment on area mine reclamation projects

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is accepting public comment through May 22 about the abandoned mine lands reclamation projects that have been selected for work through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

IDNR's Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Division was awarded \$75.7 million for land and water reclamation work at 55 abandoned mine sites throughout Illinois, including seven in Grundy and Will counties, during the first year of the grant.

IDNR is eligible to receive \$75.7 million per year for a total of 15 years through IIJA to address additional reclamation projects.

The Abandoned Mine Land program addresses environmental and safety problems at coal and non-coal mines that were abandoned prior to Aug. 3, 1977.

States may use the federal grants to address coal abandoned mine land problems, including hazards resulting from legacy coal mining that pose a threat to public health, safety, and the environment; water supply restoration; and coal abandoned mine land emergencies.

Comments will be accepted until May 22, 2023, and can be emailed to Lance.L.Range@illinois.gov or mailed to Lance Range, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals, 1 Natural Resources Way, Springfield IL 62702.

Projects proposed for the first year of the grant and estimated cost include:

- Grundy County**
- Wilmington Star Mine No. 7 – Reclaim the vertical opening - \$10,000.
 - Gardner and Wilmington Coal Co. No. 1 – This five-acre area contains a one-acre gob pile and a settled shaft. Reclaim to prevent hazardous conditions - \$100,000.

\$100,000.

• Will County Coal Co. – Reclamation of areas with a dangerous impoundment and dangerous highwall where revetment mat is failing to prevent possible dam breach - \$805,200.

• Lake Tandem – Reclamation to correct a dangerous slide area and relocate a house - \$178,906.

Will County

- Murphy, Lindsy and Kasher No. 4 – Reclaim vertical openings and correct clogged stream lands to address flooded road and sinkholes - \$28,500
- Chicago Material, Wilmington and Vermilion – Cover gob material and correct vertical opening. This site is easily accessible within a town of more than 5,000 people and is considered a hazard - \$15,000.
- Novy Road Highwall – Correct 1,900 feet of dangerous highwall along a public roadway - \$1,124,800.

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Price: \$6.00 per plate
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Dine in or drive through with the pick up on East 1st Street
Includes: 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, butter and syrup.

Electric vehicle event at JJC

Joliet Junior College is planning an Electric Vehicle Event (EVE 23) on Saturday, April 15 for all to learn more about EV charging stations, vehicles and automotive care.

A fully electric car never needs an oil change and the brakes last much longer as they generate power to the batteries.

The JJC Automotive Services school is partnering with the Sustainability Club to bring this powerful event to everyone from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They welcome car dealerships to get involved and hope to raise funds for scholarships for students earning certificates to work on all types of electric and hybrid vehicles.

Trout season opens April 1

The 2023 Illinois Spring Trout fishing season is coming to three area locations starting Saturday, April 1.

Bird Park Quarry in Kankakee, Rock Creek in Kankakee River State Park and Lake Milliken in the Des Plaines Conservation Area, Wilmington will all be stocked with rainbow trout.

Rock Creek will open for catch and release-only fishing on March 18. On April 1 trout may be kept to eat.

Anglers will need both a fishing license and an Inland Trout Stamp to participate, unless they are under the age of 16, blind, disabled or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces.

Licenses and trout stamps are available for purchase on the Illinois Department of Resources (IDNR) website and at DNR Direct license and permit locations, including Angelo's Outdoor Sports in Wilmington.

The trout fishing at Milliken Lake is allowed at 5 a.m. on April 1. Anyone attempting to take trout before the legal harvest season opening will be issued citations.

The IDNR stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year, with 58 ponds, lakes and streams throughout the state being stocked for the spring season, and an additional 80,000 trout stocked for the fall season.

For more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, check the website at www.ifishillinois.org.

For more information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the opening date.

The state reminds sportsmen that new licenses are required April 1 for the 2023 year.

Forest Preserve to host special sensory program

The Forest Preserve of Will County is hosting a Sensory Sunday on Sunday, April 2, from 11 a.m. to noon at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

This independent program is for guests with sensory-processing needs, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder. Buddy bags, noise-

canceling headphones and handheld audio units will be available for use. Staff will be on hand to help. Free, all ages. Register by April 1.

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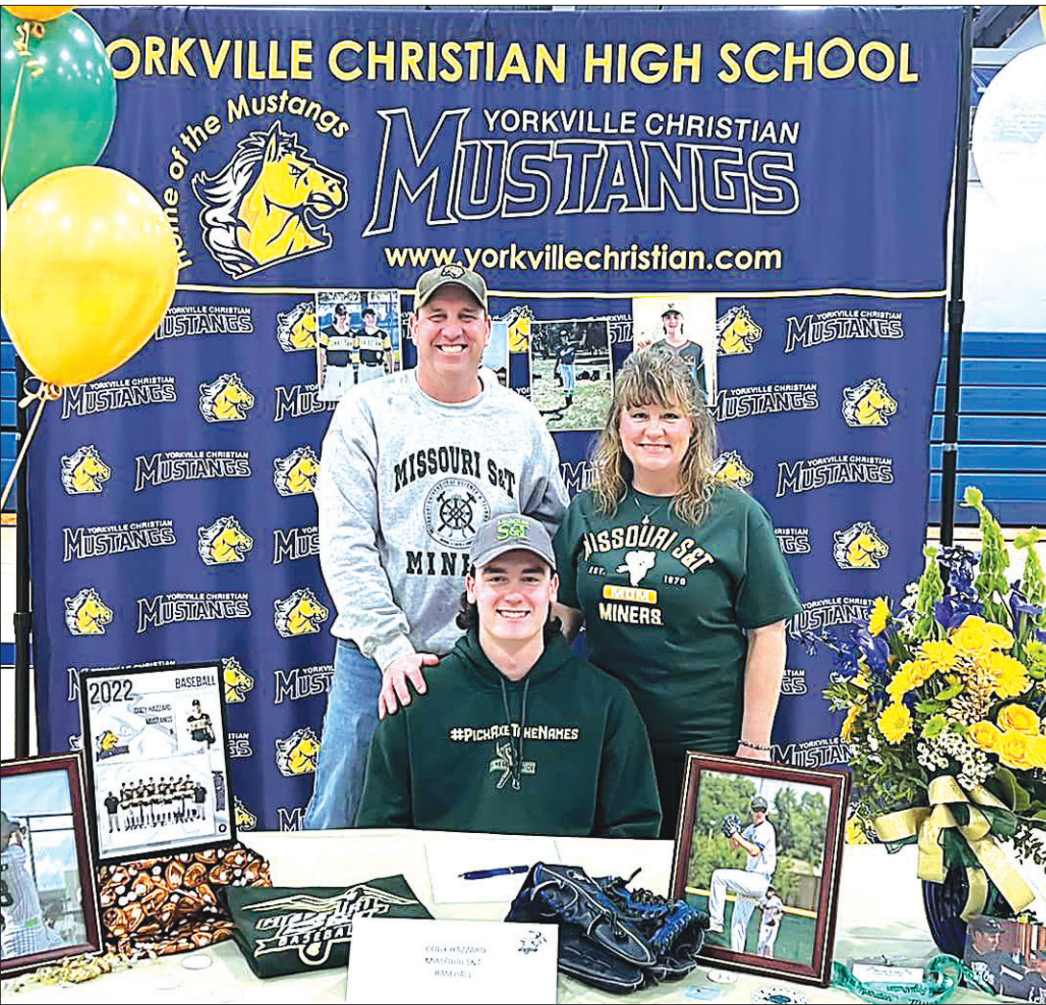
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Hazzard will pitch at Missouri S&T



CODY HAZZARD, a senior at Yorkville Christian High School in Yorkville, IL has committed to play baseball at Missouri University Science and Technology in Rolla, MO while continuing his academic and athletic careers. Hazzard led all IHSA 1A pitchers in 2022 with 87 strikeouts. He is the captain this season and the pitching staff's ace for the Mustangs. Hazzard excels in the classroom as well, as he has a 4.1 gpa and a perfect attendance record. He is with his parents Jim and Pam Hazzard of Mazon. His grandparents are Jim and Karen Hazzard of Wilmington.

Bennett advances legislation to remove roadblock for aspiring teachers

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Senate Education Committee voted unanimously to advance legislation from State Senator Tom Bennett that would remove one of the biggest issues stopping prospective teachers from making it to the classroom.

His legislation would suspend the current edTPA requirement, a much-criticized evaluation program that has regularly been cited as a major factor in the worsening teacher shortage.

"We continually hear that the current edTPA requirement is one of the biggest roadblocks for prospective teachers in education programs," said Bennett. "This legislation will waive the requirement for two years, helping to get more teachers into classrooms while we develop a better system."

Under current law, prospective teachers are required to pass the edTPA requirement to

complete their education program. The edTPA standard has been criticized for being difficult, inaccurate in predicting future performance, expensive for education students, and for taking too much time away from in-classroom training. The requirement has also been blamed for keeping diverse teachers out of classrooms.

Senate Bill 1488, filed by Bennett, would waive the edTPA requirement through August 31, 2025. The legislation would also create the Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force, which would be tasked with developing a new evaluation system for teaching students. The task force would be required to present its findings no later than August 1, 2024.

The legislation passed the Senate Education Committee on March 22.

Come hike the story trail

The Forest Preserve will be hosting a Four Rivers Story Trail Tuesday, April 4, through Tuesday, April 11, from 8 a.m. to sunset at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Follow Finn and her dog Skeeter around a woodland trail in "Track that Scat!" by Carrie Ann Bradshaw. Read the story along the trail and discover the clues our native animals leave behind. Free, all ages.

Forest Preserve to hold Scout Day April 15

Scout Day - Spring Takes Flight will be hosted Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Scouts will move through stations focusing on how plants and animals use the power of flight to survive in the wild. Free, all ages. Register by April 14 at reconnectwithnature.org.

New child program at the Forest Preserve

The Forest Preserve of Will County will be hosting a new program for little ones and rainbows called "Rivers of Color - Little Explorers, Rainbows".

It will be held Wednesday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Bring children to Four Rivers to explore the colors of the rainbow with music, movement, a hike, hands-on activities, crafts and free play. Free, ages 3-5. Register by April 11.

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Oakwood Cemetery to hold Spring Clean-up

Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington will be holding Spring Clean-Up during the month of April. A dumpster will be available on March 31. Two (2) organized volunteer clean up days have been scheduled for April 1st and 8th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please bring rakes and tarps to remove leaves. Your help is greatly appreciated. All wreaths, grave blankets and broken decorations must be removed and placed in the dumpster by April 30th.

Oakwood Cemetery is a non-profit organization operated and maintained solely by volunteers. Maintaining the beauty and improvements throughout the cemetery requires community support. Call (815) 735-5147 if you have any questions.

Rain barrel, compost bins to be available in Wilmington

Will County is teaming up with The Conservation Foundation to offer compost bins and rain barrels this Spring.

Order them on-line by April 30 and pick them up in Wilmington on Saturday, May 13.

A rain barrel will capture 70-90% of a typical rain fall, allowing some overflow to cascade across your lawn to storm drains in the street or

swales in some subdivisions.

You may use the water you captured for watering your garden, plants, trees, and bushes between rain events. This saves you money and reduces pressure on our drinking water sources.

Prices start at \$64.50, up to \$186.50 depending on the style. To place an order go to the event calendar at will-countygreen.com

New giant to greet Route 66 travelers



Free Press photo

CONCERNS THAT WILMINGTON may someday lose its biggest celebrity, the Gemini Giant, to the highest bidder has prompted a local effort to bring a new giant to the community. The proposal is to add a second Route 66 attraction, a white goose like those that populate the north island park, in front of Nelly's. Travelers would have plenty of room to pull over, park in the city lot, get a bite to eat at the restaurant and take their photo in front of the goose. "You would be a fool to believe this isn't a golden opportunity for Wilmington," planners said. "The golden egg has come for our community." Starting April 1 residents can join in the campaign for another giant by naming the gander. Email your entry on April 1 to news@fpnusa.com.

Lawmakers approve kindergarten reform, plan to address childhood literacy

BY ANDREW ADAMS
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

CHICAGO – Lawmakers are looking at several ways to improve learning for young students in Illinois.

On March 23, members of the House of Representatives approved a proposal that would require school boards in Illinois to provide full-day kindergarten starting with the 2027-2028 school year.

The measure, House Bill 2396, was met with bipartisan, though not universal, support, passing out of the House on Thursday on an 87-23 vote.

Some lawmakers were uneasy with the potential costs for school districts, particularly stemming from potential increases in staffing needs and facility space requirements.

"When this goes into effect in 2027, are we going to be ramped up enough to be able to provide additional teachers throughout kindergartens across Illinois?" Rep.

Dan Swanson, R-Alpha, asked during debate over the bill.

The worry about funding is echoed by some in the education field, including the Illinois Association of School Administrators, or IASA.

IASA chief of staff Emily Warnecke said in an interview that her organization supports the movement toward full-day kindergarten. But she said they are still concerned about a requirement that would force districts to raise their own capital funding to expand school facilities to accommodate full-day programs.

"The vast majority of districts who don't offer (full-day kindergarten), don't offer it because they don't have the space," Warnecke said.

Currently, about 80% of districts in Illinois offer full-day kindergarten.

The bill sets up a "Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force" to study the best way to implement the expansion of full-day kindergarten. The task force

will also be responsible for determining the criteria for districts' eligibility for a two-year extension to the deadline for rolling out full-day kindergarten.

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Literacy improvements
On Friday, the Senate unanimously approved Senate Bill 2243 from Senator Kimberly Lightford, D-Westchester, that would require the Illinois State Board of Education to develop a "comprehensive literacy plan."

In 2022, nearly 38% of Illinois' fourth grade students did not meet grade level reading standards, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress. This is roughly average and is not significantly lower than the nation's overall reading scores.

Deborah MacPhee, a researcher and professor at Illinois State University, said early literacy education has become politicized with debates between competing systems of reading instruction.

MacPhee said she liked that the bill involves "education stakeholders." She said this will contribute to the ongoing conversation around what sorts of educational programs teachers should use.

In a 2022 study published in the journal Reading Horizons, MacPhee and her team found that 97 percent of Illinois teachers use phonics in their classrooms to teach reading. But 80% of those teachers using published curriculum

for their phonics instruction, at least 41 different programs are used.

"We have to be educating teachers to be using programs effectively," she said.

Lightford's plan is not the only bill at the Statehouse in recent weeks aimed at improving childhood literacy. Representative Mary Flowers, D-Chicago, introduced a bill that would require schools to use phonics to teach reading, though it was met with push-back from teachers' unions.

Spaghetti dinner planned for April 15

The Wilmington Knights of Columbus will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Saturday, April 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the St. Rose Hall, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

Spaghetti with meatballs,

garlic bread, salad, desserts and drink will be served. Carry-outs will be available.

Cost is a free-will offering to help the Knights with community service projects throughout the year.



Easter Egg Hunt

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EGG Hunt Begins at 1 pm (divided groups by ages)

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Law change could help police in fighting crime

Could the 2022 massacre during Highland Park's July 4th parade have been prevented with a small change to state law?

It's never been publicly reported before, but several local sources confirmed this week that Highland Park Police Chief Louis Jogmen wanted to send a city-owned drone above the July 4th parade last year. That camera-equipped drone could've spotted Robert Eugene Crimo III on a building rooftop overlooking the parade before he fired 83 shots that killed seven people and wounded 48 more. But the chief couldn't launch that drone because of state law.

Chief Jogmen's police department has for years wanted to launch the camera drone, which the city uses for search and rescue and other emergencies, to fly over major public events. But state law prohibits law enforcement agencies from using the drones for things like event surveillance.

In other words, state law allows police to use drones in the aftermath of horrific and deadly mass shootings, but not to safeguard the public before they happen.

"The Illinois Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

was passed in 2014 in an effort to balance evolving technology with important privacy concerns," explained Rep. Bob Morgan (D-Deerfield), who was at Highland Park's Independence Day parade last year. "Nearly ten years later, it has been unchanged

and undeniably stands in the way of law enforcement doing their jobs to keep our communities safe. We need to revisit and amend this law to prevent future mass shootings like what we endured on July 4th in Highland Park."

Highland Park and other municipalities are allowed to deploy helicopters with high tech video and tracking capabilities to surveil events, but not drones. Helicopters are expensive to purchase, operate and maintain and are very noisy (just ask anyone who lives in or near a high crime area in Chicago how loud they can be). Drones are relatively inexpensive, not difficult to fly and operate almost silently.

The quiet operation of the small drones is part of what worries the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. People "could be observed in a host of different places - like the upper floor of a large condo building or one's back-

yard - without knowing that any surveillance was taking place," explained ACLU of Illinois spokesperson Ed Yohnka. "The same is not true for a helicopter and requires law enforcement to - essentially - announce their presence. This announcement could well deter criminal activity."

Yohnka is right that the loud noise made by helicopters might deter criminal activity (it's also a very real and obnoxious intrusion on the lives of countless thousands of South and West Side residents at all hours of the day and night). But, again, helicopters are expensive and difficult to fly and maintain. A town of 30,000 people isn't going to, and likely can't afford to shell out that kind of money. Even a place as wealthy as Highland Park.

Highland Park city manager Ghida Neukirch pointed to a bill introduced last year that would've allowed police to use the drones for proactive law enforcement. "Had we had the opportunity to use it last July 4, it would have provided our employees with an aerial view of the entire parade grounds and rooftops and the entire area," she said of the drone.

Sen. Julie Morrison (D-Lake Forest) went further, suggesting that Highland Park's drone could have prevented the mass killing. Sen. Morrison was just a block away from the site of last

year's parade shooting and she's involved with the negotiations. "We've been working with law enforcement to tailor a bill that will serve public safety concerns," Morrison told me last week, adding that she and others have been "meeting on a daily basis" to find a fix for the state's drone laws.

The City of Chicago has its own drone rules, and is reportedly skittish about any state law changes that could alter them.

"It's an important issue to me," Sen. Morrison said. She said giving the police the ability to use drones in a more proactive sense, "could have prevented the shooting in Highland Park."

The General Assembly passed sweeping legislation to ban assault weapons after the Highland Park shooting. But, so far, those are just words on paper as court challenges to the law work their way through the system.

People should have the right to attend public events without nervously scanning unprotected rooftops, or worse. Nobody is talking about giving the police unregulated and unfettered access to drones. Nobody is talking about blocking Chicago's drone program. It is time to come to an agreement.

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

Wolf Road bridge over I-80 to close

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that a project to replace the bridge carrying Wolf Road over Interstate 80 in Mokena and Orland Park will resume today, weather permitting.

To accommodate the work, a full closure of Wolf Road between 183rd and 187th streets will be required through late August. A posted detour will direct motorists to 191st Street, LaGrange Road

(U.S. 45) and 179th Street. Motorists also should expect occasional overnight lane closures and lane shifts on I-80 approaching Wolf Road throughout the project.

The \$4.7 million project, which consists of replacing the existing bridge with a new wider structure, installing new storm sewers, along with resurfacing and landscaping, is anticipated to be completed later this fall.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Influential American political family

5. ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthé

11. Within

12. Pleasure seekers

16. Computer manufacturer

17. Home to college sports' Flyers

18. Fungal disease

19. Sleepwalk

24. Spielberg sci-fi film

25. Seasonable

26. Taxis

27. Radio direction finder (abbr.)

28. Thin, narrow piece of wood

29. "Mystic River" actor Sean

30. Ingenious

31. Musical composition

33. Turkish surname
34. High or hilly area

38. Wilco frontman

39. Pour it on pasta

40. Electric car company

43. Sea eagle

44. Walk with difficulty

45. Sign of healing

49. Boy

50. Protein-rich liquid

51. Washington city

53. Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)

54. Thought over

56. Scads

58. News agency

59. Standard

60. Deadlock

63. Pre-Columbian empire

64. Removed

65. French commune

CLUES DOWN

1. Large, dangerous animals

2. Straighten out

3. Family tree

4. Large stinging paper wasp

5. European river fish

6. Cut down in size

7. Denotes past

8. Larry and Curly's partner

9. Samoyedic ethnic group

10. Male parent

13. Specific gravity

14. Demeaned oneself to

15. Rigidly

20. Yankovic is a "weird" one

21. Belonging to me

22. Path

23. Airborne (abbr.)

27. Level

29. Atomic #94

30. Born of

31. Midway between northeast and east

32. Northeastern bank
33. Defunct airline

34. Having no purpose

35. A low wall

36. Swedish city

37. Earn a perfect score

38. Atomic #81

40. Beginner

41. Give off

42. Incorrect letters

44. Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)

45. Idyllic

46. Popular beer

47. A way to fine

48. Evildoer

50. More withered

51. Seventh note of a major scale

52. Commercial

54. Abnormal breathing

55. Moved more quickly

57. City of Angels

61. Partner to Pa

62. Equally

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Teresa's Family Styling has been serving the Wilmington community for the last 23 years on the corner of Water St.(102) & Kahler Rd in Wilmington. We are looking to hire a LICENSED STYLIST. An individual who is upbeat, hardworking & honest. A steady clientele is preferred but we're willing to work with the right candidate. Commission % based on experience. Please call 815-476-1955. ca11-14

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Part Time office help. Saturday's required. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Apply in person at Culligan of Coal City, 775 W. Chestnut St. Coal City. cc12-15

HELP WANTED

South Wilmington Grade School is in need of a part-time bookkeeper for approximately 10-20 hours per month. The candidate should have knowledge and experience with payroll, accounts payable, and bank reconciliation. Knowledge of QuickBooks is helpful. Interested candidates should submit a resume to South Wilmington Grade School, 375 Fifth St., P.O. Box 459, South Wilmington, IL 60474 or email cchristensen@swil74.org. Questions can be directed to Superintendent Cindy Christensen at 815-237-2281.

South Wilmington Grade School is seeking applicants for the following positions for the 2023-2024 School Year. Certified Paraprofessional-Full Time: Preference given to applicants with a BA and qualify to hold a substitute license. Middle School Language Arts Teacher: Full time starting with the 2023-2024 school year. For all positions, send letter of interest and resume along with a copy of certification and endorsements if applicable to Mrs. Cynthia Christensen, Superintendent, P.O. Box 459, South Wilmington, IL 60474 by May 1, 2023 or email cchristensen@swil74.org. Please indicate in the heading the position of interest. Start Date for all positions will be August 14, 2023.

Coal City Area Club is hiring Office Admin. Experience with Microsoft Office Apps; \$15 an hour; 4 days; 30 hours per week. Application at www.coalcityareacub.net or send resumes to info@coalcityareacub.net. ch13-14

Cinder Ridge Golf Course is looking for part-time help, must be 21. Pick up an application in the Pro Shop 8am-12pm, Mon-Fri. 815-476-4000. cc12-15

Office help needed at a local sportsmen's club. Seasonal part time hours. Experience with computers and knowledge of Excel and Access preferred. Please send inquiries to wccsc1946@gmail.com cc2-13

HELP WANTED

Reed-Custer Early Learning Center, located at RCHS and RCMS, is adding a position for a full-time early childhood teacher. Job details: Monday-Friday; 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; 180 days per school year; \$19 per hour. Qualifications: Sixty semester hours of credits from an accredited college or university with six semester hours in courses related directly to child care and/or child development, from birth to age six. If you are interested in working for Reed-Custer CUSD255 and are qualified for this position, please email the director at pam.frencl@rc255.net

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LOST & FOUND

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 404 N Outer Dr, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Single Family Home). On the 6th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Nationstar Mortgage LLC** Plaintiff V. **Ryan L. Zelek; et. al.** Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1131 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 sub-

divisions (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: **Codilis & Associates, P.C.** 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, March 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 522 South Kankakee Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 (single family residential). On the 13th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Nationstar Mortgage LLC** Plaintiff V. **Mary N. Stanley; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants;** Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 0389 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 sub-

divisions (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: **THE WIRBICKI LAW GROUP** 33 W. Monroe St. Suite 1540 Chicago, Illinois 60603 P: 312-360-9455 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 22, 29 and April 5, 2023.

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff, -v- SHIRRELL HALL et al Defendant 2022 FC 59 NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on March 9, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on April 26, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1093 BLACK DIAMOND DR, COAL CITY, IL 60416 Property Index No. 09-02-356-023 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No 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. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-06330 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2022 FC 59 TJSC#: 43-1050 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 FC 59 I3216169 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., March 22, 29 & April 5, 2023.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 265 E 1st Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Residential). On the 6th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **M&T Bank** Plaintiff V. **William S. Allen; et. al.** Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1024 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: **Codilis & Associates, P.C.** 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday March 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

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Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$59,731.88

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates March 13th, 2023 - April 17th, 2023 between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL.

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per candidate will be given.

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:30 pm on April 17th, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process. Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Monday, April 17th, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: Monday, April 24th and Wednesday, April 26th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

Wilmington Fire Protection District
501 N. Main Street
Wilmington IL. 60481

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| NEW LISTING GARDNER \$239,900 4 BR, 3 BA home is completely renovated and just waiting for you to move in and make it yours. Team Toler 815-715-5959. JR407 | NEW LISTING BRAIDWOOD \$164,900 Look no further! Affordable 2 BR, 1 BA, 1 car garage on crawl. Be your own landlord. Call Tami 903-54 pole bldg. On approx. 25 acres. Shawn 747-6670. MR7900 | SOLD MORRIS \$469,000 4 BR, 2 BA house w/two car att. garage and 7 buildings including a 90x54 pole bldg. On approx. 25 acres. Shawn 747-6670. MR7900 | COAL CITY \$449,500 Well maintained, 3 acres, 3020 sq. ft., 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 30x48 pole bldg, beanie sunrm, RV pkg, CC Sdbk. Rod 815-674-2583. MGS180 | MAZON \$398,000 3 BR, 2 full & 2 half BA. Back home w/geothermal heating and cooling for low utility bills. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. WM12 | | |
| SOLD MAZON \$269,900 Remodeled brick ranch home in Coal City School District. 2 car garage+24x24 out building. Shawn 474-6670. FH170 | GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER (815) 942-9190 SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM Source: Midwest Real Estate Database (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2022 By Grundy County Offices. | | | 1802 N. Division St., Morris | GARDNER \$225,000 Truly exceptional 3 BR, 2 BA home w/2 big garages 20x30 and 24x24 on a double lot. Call/Tami Christy 815-693-5757. MS121 | MAZON \$225,000 Adorable & cozy 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home which has been completely remodeled! Call Kelly 815-823-6147. HR113 |
| GARDNER \$150,000 3 BR, 1 BA ranch with large lot. All appliances stay. 24 ft. above-ground pool and hot tub. Kelly 815-823-6147. EU303 | MAZON \$119,000 2 BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large corner lot 24x24 det. ggy. 12x12 shed. 27 ft. above ground pool. Crawl. Della 258-6467. HL411 | MAZON \$129,900 Why rent when you can own this 2 BR home right in the heart of small town. Mazon. Loric+ Owen Toler 715-5959. DC602 | VERONA \$108,000 2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. Lg rooms/yard. Call Della 815-258-6467. AO432 | COAL CITY \$39,900 Here is your opportunity to own a great lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes! Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PP62 | | |

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COALER SPORTS



SHOWING BUNT—Mia Ferrias squares off at the plate on Monday when the Lady Coalers upended Peotone 9-1.

Photo by Amy Walker



Photo by Amy Walker

WE'RE PLAYING BALL! The weather broke Monday allowing the Lady Coalers to get a home game in against Peotone. Coach Rodney Monbrum speaks with his players in the huddle.

Lady Coalers come out swinging

The Lady Coalers softball team improved to 2-0 Monday, beating Peotone 9-1.

Coal City scored one run their first turn at bat and had a 2-0 lead after four innings.

Abby Gagliardo gave them some insurance room in the fifth with a two-run shot over the center field fence in the fifth. The Lady Coalers weren't done yet, as Kaycee Graf, Bri Combes and Kerigan Copes all drove in runs in the sixth when they finished with four more runs to ice the win.

Masyn Kuder pitched the win, allowing three hits and one run over 5 1/3 innings, striking out eight. Combes took over in relief.

The Lady Coalers garnered nine hits with two hits each for Jadyn Shaw (triple, single) and Copes (two RBIs). Better yet they played error-free in the field, led by Khloe Picard who fielded eight grounders.

The Lady Coalers were to play at Peotone Tuesday. Their next home game will be Friday against Joliet Central.

Good beginnings

Coal City opened its season with a decisive victory over Sandwich, 12-4 last Monday.

The Lady Coalers got their offense started in the first inning when Makayla Henline tripled on a 2-2 count, scoring one run.

They notched six runs in the second inning when Makenzie Henline, Abby Gagliardo, Jadyn Shaw, and Khloe Picard each drove in runs.

Masyn Kuder got her first career start and victory on the mound earning the win. Kuder held Sandwich scoreless through three innings, giving up three hits, striking out three and walking none. Bri Combes threw four innings in relief.

The Lady Coalers gathered 15 hits including a home run in the seventh inning by Sierra Anderson.

Henline, Kerigan Copes, Anderson, and Henline all collected multiple hits. Copes and Henline each managed three hits to lead the effort.

"Our bats came out swinging tonight and I'm proud of the way our girls played our season opener," said Coach Rodney Monbrum.



Photo by Amy Walker

THE LADY COALERS were error-free Monday during a 9-1 win over Peotone. Fielding a grounder is Abby Gagliardo who also hit a home run. There to assist is teammate Makayla Henline.



Photo by Amy Walker

EASY OUT—Coal City's Makenzie Henline makes a short toss to first baseman Kerigan Copes to get the force out.

Photo by Amy Walker

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*"Proud to be serving the community
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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"

Parade entries sought for Carbon Hill Homecoming

The village of Carbon Hill is gearing up for its 72nd annual Homecoming celebration and is inviting community businesses and organizations to be a part of its annual parade.

The parade will step off from the corner Rathburn [McArdle Road] and Carbon Hill Road at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 26.

The parade is 10 blocks long traditionally lined with residents and visitors to the village.

Parade applications are due by June 17 and can be obtained at the village hall or completed on-line though the link located on the village's new website at villageofcarbonhill-il.gov.

Information regarding the lineup including placement and times will be provided to entries prior to parade day.

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

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38TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
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Coalers silence the Blue Devils

Coal City varsity baseball team improved to 2-1 Monday, making quick work of Peotone at home.

The Coalers needed only five innings to get the job done, winning 11-0 behind another stellar performance by senior pitcher Carter Garrelts with support from Joe Watson.

The Coalers pair allowed the Blue Devils just three hits all game while striking out 11.

Coal City got things started in the first inning when Kaelan Natyshok drew a bases loaded walk, scoring one run. They finished the inning with three runs and in the second inning added four more runs. Derek Carlson, Luke Nolan, and Braiden Young all moved runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Coal City saw the ball well, racking up eight hits including a double for Jimmy Feeney. Carlson, Nolan Eddy and Feeney all had two hits to lead Coal City. Feeney scored three times while Cade Baldauf and Eddy scored twice.

The Coalers finished the game with no errors.

Garrelts was the winning pitcher. The righthander went three innings, allowing zero runs on one hit and striking out six. Watson threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Loss to Minooka

A week earlier the Coalers suffered a 3-2 loss at Minooka.

"It was a great game for us until Minooka scored two runs their last at-bat with two outs," commented coach Jerry McDowell. "Caden Kuder was great on the mound with nine strikeouts and no walks over six innings."

The pitching was strong on both sides as Minooka pitchers struck out 11 Coalers.



Photo by Eric Fisher

MAKING CONTACT with the ball Monday during an 11-0 shutout over Peotone is Coal City senior Nolan Ness.

The hitting was led by Carlson, Feeney and Danny Olson.

Coal City will play at Bishop McNamara Thursday before playing at Plainfield

East at 11 a.m. Saturday. On Monday they travel to Wilmington.

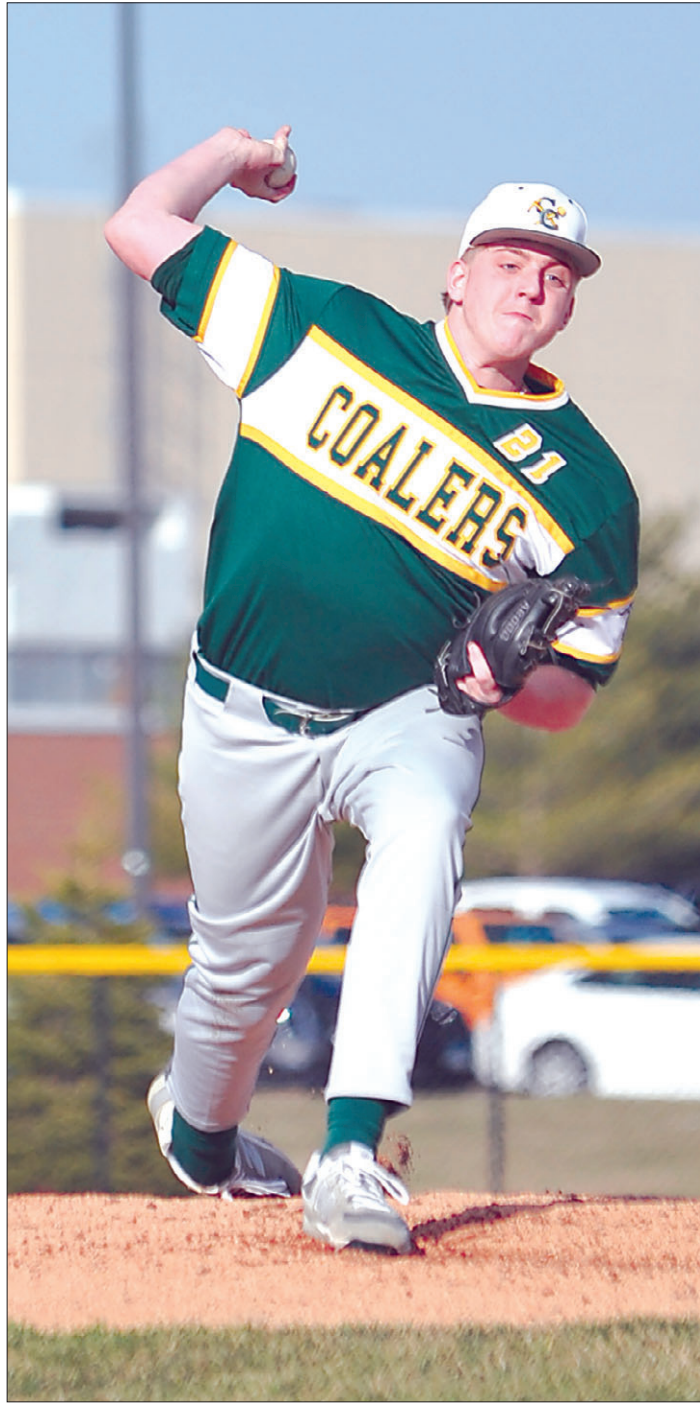


Photo by Eric Fisher

SENIOR PITCHER Carter Garrelts was impressive on the mound Monday, holding Peotone to just one hit over three innings while striking out six. It was his second win in two starts.



Photo by Eric Fisher

BEATING THE THROW at home plate is Coal City junior Lucas Nolan who hustled from third base to score against Peotone.

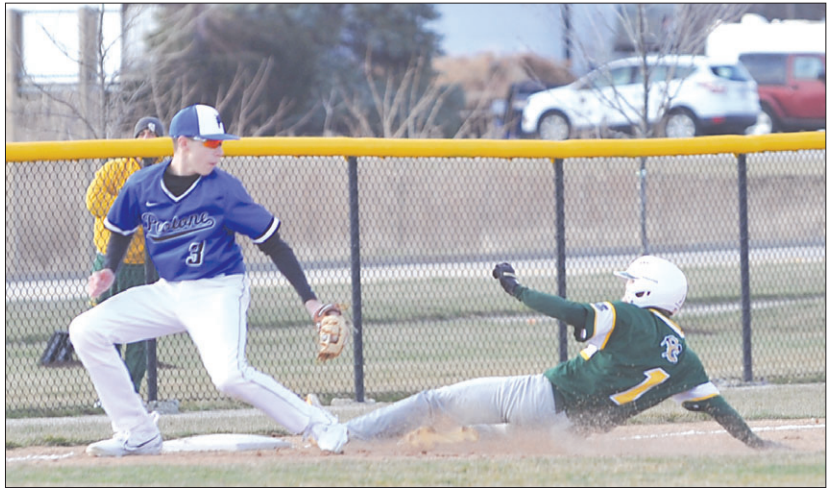


Photo by Eric Fisher

SAFE AT THIRD - Coal City junior Cade Baldauf beats the tag at third base Monday when the Coalers shutout Peotone in five innings 11-0.



Photo by Amy Walker

HUDDLE UP—The Coal City soccer team could have huddled to block out the wind and spitting rain last week before playing a match against Morris. It ended in a 0-0 tie.



Photo by Amy Walker

ON THE MOVE with the ball during an away match at Morris is Lady Coaler Aubrey Mellen.

Coal City kickers edge Comets

While rain and bone-chilling cold canceled most high school baseball and softball games last week, girls soccer team still took to the field.

The Coal City kickers were in that group, opening its season on the turf at Morris. In the end neither team scored, resulting in a 0-0 loss.

Lady Coaler keeper Chloe Plueger had 3 saves.

On Thursday, Coal City traveled to Reed-Custer to make up a game postponed from March 13.

The Lady Coalers walked away the victors, winning 3-2.

Two of the Coal City goals were scored by Kylee Kennel while Cara Planeta had a PK in the first half. Keeper Chloe Plueger had a great game with 8 saves. The win improves Coal City's record to 1-1.

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