

Auditions dates set  
for CCIS musical



Lady Coalers tame  
the Wildcats



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

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## \$1.26 million for Second Avenue upgrade

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

A much needed and long awaited project to improve storm water drainage is moving forward in the village of Coal City.

The improvements are centered on Second Avenue from Second Street to North Street and will include the replacement of storm sewer and water mains. The work will include improvements at cross streets and adjacent parcels.

"The storm sewer has been failing for a long time, said Ryan Hansen, the town's engineer. "The scope of this

project is something that we've talked about for some time, but we were waiting for funding to come through," he noted.

The funding came in the form of a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity [DCEO] that was approved at the end of 2020 and recently made available to the village.

At the time of the grant request the project cost was \$814,700. Since then project costs have increased and the engineers estimate construction costs will be \$1.25 million.

The work was put out to bid, and of the six contractors who obtained bid

packages two were returned with D Construction submitting the lowest responsible bid price at \$1.26 million. Leaving a funding shortfall of just over \$448,600.

"Although [the cost] is higher than the estimate, many years ago when we originally departed on this project, it is a much needed infrastructure project," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said.

The project will move forward, despite the shortfall in financing, as American Rescue Plan [ARP] funds will be used.

Included in the project cost was \$165,000 in associated roadwork that will be covered by sanitary utility funds.

In addition, Fritz said the water utility has \$95,000 in capital funds that can be shifted to cover the improvement. The remaining \$188,617 qualifies for funding under ARP.

Coal City received around \$730,000 in federal COVID funding which can be used for infrastructure improvements.

Town officials have earmarked those dollars for water main improvements. Even utilizing a portion of the funds to cover the Second Avenue improvements, town officials say there is still money to available to complete

SEE UPGRADE, PAGE 2

"THE STORM SEWER HAS BEEN FAILING FOR A LONG TIME. THE SCOPE OF THIS PROJECT IS SOMETHING THAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT FOR SOME TIME, BUT WE WERE WAITING FOR FUNDING TO COME THROUGH."

RYAN HANSEN  
VILLAGE ENGINEER

## Action taken to abate debt

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

The village of Coal City borrowed \$2.3 million to pay for the modernization of its sanitary treatment plant, adding a monthly surcharge onto customer bills in order to pay it back.

To keep the recorded debt from being levied and collected through taxes, the Village Board is required to adopt and file an ordinance with the county clerk abating the debt.

The debt was to be abated earlier in the year, however it was not recorded as planned.

"Upon inspection of the proposed rates from both Grundy and Will counties it was quickly discovered this amount was the difference between the projected levies proposed and adopted by the village and those to be levied," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said.

So at its most recent meeting, the Village Board took action to ensure the debt did not get passed along on the tax bill.

"This is a very important ordinance needing adoption," the administrator told trustees.

With the cooperation of both counties, Fritz said a tax abatement ordinance was drafted to abate the portion of the levy associated with the modernization project.

"We did not mean for this to go through to the taxpayer so by adopting this that is what will happen," he said.

The clerks in both counties have confirmed the debt will not appear on the upcoming tax bills.

The first debt payment for the sewer project is due this year, and since this amount had not been previously adopted it was not part of the town's other abatement ordinances that were approved prior to the start of the new year.

"I apologize for that," Fritz said.

The annual payments—principal and interest—are on the first day of December through 2030.

The debt payments range from \$290,875 to \$295,375.

## Hippity, hoppity, Easter's on its way



THE EASTER BUNNY and its friend, Chick, stopped by the Coal City Fire Department recently to visit with local youngsters. The visit was sponsored by Grundy County Heroes & Helpers, a non-profit organization backed by local first responders from Grundy County's police and fire agencies. The bunny is set to return to this weekend as the community celebrates Easter. The week also coincides with spring break for students and staff in the Unit 1 School District. Classes are set to resume on Tuesday, April 11.

## Consolidated election results available online

Results from Tuesday's consolidated election were not printed in this week's edition due to press deadlines.

While the polls closed at 7 p.m., results were unavailable in time for this week's print edition. However, coverage of local races, as well as vote totals will be posted in the April 12 edition of this newspaper.

Unofficial vote totals can also be obtained from the Grundy County Clerk & Recorder's website at [www.grundy-countyil.gov](http://www.grundy-countyil.gov) and the Will County Clerk's website at [www.thewillcounty-clerk.gov](http://www.thewillcounty-clerk.gov).

## Coal City Police present annual report

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

The FBI has modernized its method of collecting and reporting crime data, a process adopted by the Coal City Police Department two years ago, yet there is still no solid comparable data.

In 2021, the FBI retired the Uniform Crime Reporting [UCR] program and implemented the National Incident Based Reporting System [NIBRS].

The earlier system collected specific crime data and provided local law enforcement agencies with an annual report on what it called index

crimes—the most serious offenses including murder, theft, human trafficking and sex crimes among others. Law enforcement agencies could then compare the year-to-year data to assess changes in crime rates and assess the types of crimes occurring in their community.

NIBRS tracks these same types of crimes, but it added several additional categories and put them into two groups.

After its first year the system was reclassified so categories used by law enforcement belong under Group A offenses.

In 2021 the Coal City Police Department reported 139 Group A offenses and last

year that number dropped to 100, however the ability to compare the year-to-year data is difficult given the changes in the offense categories.

Moving forward the categories are slated to remain the same, according to information shared by Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim, who presented that data in his annual report to the Village Board.

Last year the department's NIBRS data puts the top crime in town as destruction of property and that was consistent from the prior year where such crimes were classified as destruction/damage/vandalism of property. In both calendar years there were 28 reported.

In the prior year, the department reported 10 Group A offenses, there were 14 reported in 2021.

The majority of crimes Coal City reported to the FBI in 2022 included fraud, simple assault and larceny/theft for a combined count of 53 offenses.

Additional crimes reported through NIBRS include rape, fondling, aggravated assault, intimidation, statutory

SEE POLICE, PAGE 2



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# Yard waste pickup resumes

Spring's arrival brings changes in the way local residents can discard of their yard waste.

This is the first week Coal City residents can use their yard waste containers, the one with the light green lid.

Yard waste service is provided to the village each week between April 1 and the first week of December. The carts should be set out with trash and recycling carts on your designated collection day: Thursday for those south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail crossing and Friday for those to the north of the crossing.

Items that can be placed in the containers include grass trimmings, leaves, twigs, branches, outdoor plants and flowers. Items that can not go in the yard cart include plastic bags, cardboard, concrete, rock, fruits and vegetables, dirt, stone, indoor plants, trees, stumps larger than 3 inches and animal waste.

In addition to the cart, the waste hauler will also collect yard waste placed at the curb in biodegradable kraft bags.

The burning of yard waste is no longer an option. The town's guidelines for burning vegetative debris is limited to December 1 to April 1. Residents who violate the town code could be cited with an ordinance violation and fine.

## Upgrade

the water main work.

"Although the grant proceeds will not cover the entirety of this project, it will still provide about 2/3 of the total funding of this necessary improvement to the neighborhood," Fritz said.

"The good thing is it sounds like we have a pretty solid plan for how we are going to come up with [the money]. This project has to get done, there is no doubt about it," Halliday said.

Trustees approved the bid awarding the project to D Construction.

According to the administrator, approving the bid will result in the DCEO funded project to move forward.

## Police

rape, burglary/breaking and entering, drug/narcotic violations and motor vehicle theft.

With the new system in place and a streamlined list of offenses, the department and others across the nation that utilize NIBRS will once again have a more comprehensive understanding of crime trends in their communities, as well as a measure of the effectiveness of programs and initiatives being used to reduce crime and ways to best allocate resources.

The 2022 annual report shows the department had an increase in call volume with total officer activity at 6,471—4,286 of those calls were officer initiated, an increase of 18% from 2021.

Last year, officers handled a total of 92 traffic crash report—up from 61 the prior year—with 46 requiring a state report.

Department data shows the majority of accidents occurring in the village were reported along Route 113 [Division Street]. The areas of Broadway and Division, Division and Kankakee and Division and Carbon Hill Road had the most recorded accidents last year.

In addition to crime data, the department's annual report highlights milestones that occurred within the calendar year including the addition of three officers—Connor Goron, Kolton Stockdell and Brandon Larson.

There were also improvements to the police station, and several events that officers took part in including holding a cook out to support its annual college scholarship program named in honor of former Police Chief Dennis M. Neary.

The dedication of a section of Division Street in honor of Neary was also noted in the report, as were departmental awards and various donations made to and from the department.

In 2022, the department was served by Harseim, sergeants Tom Logan and Jason Clark, school resource officers Mike Imhof and Dave Moran, administrative assistant Bonnie Wiecezorek and patrol officers Kevin Jones, Dave Kashner, Casey Roth, Nick Mazzone, Josh Nugent, Larson, Goron and Stockdell.

### 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/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 605/9(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, CODILLS & 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](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILLS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100  
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527  
630-794-5300  
E-Mail: [pleadings@il.cslegal.com](mailto: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  
13216169  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, March 22, 29 and April 5, 2023.

# Van Yperen elected to chamber executive board

Christina Van Yperen, Grundy Chamber president and CEO, has joined the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Board for a three-year term.

"Christina exemplifies what it takes to be a true leader in the chamber industry. Not only has she worked to create impactful solutions in her own chamber, but she has shared her expertise with chamber executives across the state. Her service to IACCE continues to enhance the professionalism of the industry which also results in increasing the success of businesses who are chamber members," said Lisa Weitzel, IOM, CAE, president of IACCE.

"Christina's commitment to excellence and clear vision will continue to lead IACCE as it continues to support the development of chamber professionals in Illinois."

The Grundy County Chamber currently has more than 500 members and celebrated its 75th anniversary in

2022. Van Yperen is about to hit eight years with the Grundy Chamber this year. In that time she has been an active member and volunteer of IACCE through committee work and events.

The Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives was established in 1915 and serves 150 chambers of commerce and their professional staff throughout the state. IACCE is a catalyst empowering and connecting chamber leaders to increase economic vitality across Illinois.

"It's an honor to be asked to join the IACCE Board," Van Yperen said. "IACCE provides resources and connections across not only Illinois, but the country to help chamber executives best lead their communities. I have utilized these benefits throughout my career to better serve Grundy County and my members. I look forward to being a resource for my peers across this network."

For more information on the Grundy Chamber and the Channahon Minooka



Courtesy photo

**GRUNDY CHAMBER PRESIDENT and CEO Christina Van Yperen, events & marketing director Amanda Hiller and membership & Accounting Director Pattye Webb attended the Annual IACCE Conference in November 2022. In January Van Yperen joined the IACCE Board**

Chamber visit [grundychamber.com](http://grundychamber.com) or call 815-942-0113.

## Middle School Students of the Week



TONY VALDEZ  
Middle School



LILLIAN AGUIRRE  
Middle School

### 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.

### 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 518-3 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.

## Grundy County E-waste, shredding event

Grundy County Land Use Department will be hosting an electronic E-waste and shredding event on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at the parking lot north of the Grundy County Animal Control Facility from 8 a.m. to Noon. The Grundy County Animal Control Facility is located at 310 E. DuPont Rd. in Morris.

Fees will be applied for all TVs: \$25/each for all TVs except projection. \$50/TV projection size.

Other electronics will be accepted for free at the event. See the home page for more information at [grundychamber.com](http://grundychamber.com)

mation at Grundy County Land Use Department. White goods, dehumidifiers, and air conditioners will not be accepted.

Please try and limit the number of shredding materials to two paper ream boxes. No plastics or metals are allowed in the paper shredding.

Gates will close at noon promptly, no exceptions.

Feel free to call the office for more information at 815-941-3228.

## Rainy end to the month of March

#### STAFF REPORT

It was a stormy end to the month of March, as the final hours were filled with high winds and rain.

Officially, Grundy County received 2.41 inches of rain last month, about half of the total rainfall that occurred during the same period one year earlier. So far this year the county has received 8 inches of rain with the highest 24-hour amount falling on March 25.

Rain that came with a series of storm systems on the final day of March will actually be calculated in the month of April as the recordings are for a full 24-hour period that ended on April 1.

According to the Grundy County Emergency Management Agency [GCEMA], the village of Coal City recorded a rainfall total of 2.11 inches between Friday, March 31 and 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 1. Rainfall data for the same time period puts total accumulation in Morris at .57 inches and .59 inches on the west side of the city.

The storm systems that came in at the end of last week also brought strong winds at 49 mph in the early morning hours of March 31.

The monthly high was 68.1 degrees on March 31. The daily low temperature of 10.8 degrees was set on March 18. The average temperature for the month was recorded at 38.7 degrees.

## Read away your fines

For the month of April the Coal City Public Library District (CCPLD) is giving all CCPLD library cardholders the opportunity to "Read Away Your Fines." Come to the front desk with CCPLD reading material and sit in the library and read.

For every 15 minutes you read (must be in the library) \$1 will be removed from your current fines only, does not apply to future fines. This does not cover damaged or unreturned library materials. Take advantage of this opportunity to clear your fines.

## SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

[freepressnewspapers.com](http://freepressnewspapers.com)

## COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Check online event calendar at [ccpld.org](http://ccpld.org) for a description of the events and to register.

Check out our digital services available 24/7 on our website at [www.ccpld.org](http://www.ccpld.org).

In-Person Adult Exercise, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9-10 a.m.

Library Road Trip - Saturday, March 25 thru Sunday, April 30 visit participating libraries, collect a souvenir and get a stamp in your passport book. The more libraries you visit the more times your name will be entered into a drawing for an awesome gift basket. You must turn in the passport book at your home library. Participating libraries include:

Charles B. Phillips Public Library District, Coal City Public Library District, Fossil Ridge Public Library, Joliet Public Library, Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District, Messenger Public Library, Morris Area Public Library, Oswego Public Library District, Plainfield Public Library, Plano Community Library District, Sandwich Public Library District, Seneca Public Library District, Shorewood-Troy Public Library, Somonauk Public Library District, Three Rivers Public Library District, Wilmington Public Library District and Yorkville Public Library.

Thursday, March 30-Terrific

Tots - 10am

Movie Day - A Man Called Otto, 1 p.m.

Terrific Tots, 6 p.m.

Friday, March 31- Fun Fridays, 3 p.m.

Monday, April 3- Makerspace Cart Mondays - All Day

Teen Artists, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4-Adult Book Club, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Paper & More, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Teen Anime, 4 p.m.



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

E-mail: News & News Photos: [news@fpnusa.com](mailto:news@fpnusa.com)  
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Ann Gill, editor



# Violence prevention focus during National Public Health Week

The Grundy County Health Department and American Public Health Association are celebrating National Public Health Week.

Held during the first week of April, each day focuses on a new theme related to public health. Violence prevention is one topic being highlighted this year as it has quickly risen to become a priority at the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] and Grundy County Health Department [GCHD].

From a public health perspective, violence prevention starts with building resiliency and creating healthier people and communities. GCHD is emphasizing prevention strategies, leveraging early intervention to avoid potential crisis and collaborating with other agencies.

GCHD will soon offer public courses

- including :
- CPR/First Aid — Designed to assist someone whose heart stops beating. CPR can double or even triple that person's chances of survival after a potential cardiac arrest.
  - Stop the Bleed—Encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.
  - Youth Mental Health First Aid—For adults who regularly interact with kids such as scout leaders, teachers, coaches, etc.. Can be for anyone assisting during a potential mental health crisis.
  - Catch My Breath—Provides up to date information to equip students with the knowledge of the toxic chemicals in vape pens and skills to make informed

decisions before considering use of e-cigarettes.

More information on these courses will be available at [grundyhealth.com](http://grundyhealth.com) in the summer months.

Collaborative efforts of local agencies include regular dialogue related to best practices for individuals presently experiencing unstable mental health. Agencies include law enforcement, schools, social service agencies and more.

This summer, GCHD will partner with the Morris Police Department for National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 1. This is a program that encourages community engagement in building relationships among residents and law enforcement.



Courtesy photo  
**COAL CITY HIGH School senior Derek Carlson stopped by Coal City Intermediate School last week to talk to fourth and fifth grade students during their lunch hour about the opportunity to perform in the upcoming musical "Madagascar—A Musical Adventure Jr." Auditions are set for next week and open to all intermediate school students.**

# Intermediate school musical set for May, auditions next week

For the first time in four years, the Coal City Theatre Department will present an intermediate school musical.

Fourth and fifth graders are encouraged to audition for the upcoming performance of "Madagascar—A Musical Adventure Jr."

The stage production is based on the DreamWorks animated motion picture about a group of animal friends who escape New York's Central Park Zoo on a journey to Madagascar.

Auditions will be held at the intermediate school during recess on Tuesday, April 11 and Wednesday, April 12. Students will audition on a first come, first served basis.

Those auditioning will be asked to sing 30-60 seconds of a song of their choice and

come prepared to sing a cut from the show song, "Best Friends" and act out a scene from the show. Audition materials were shared with students prior to spring break.

Casting decisions will be based on what is seen in the audition room.

The intermediate school musical is being directed by Coal City High School senior Derek Carlson with assistance from members of the high school Drama Club overseen by Jack Micetich.

The rehearsal schedule will be based on the high school students' availability and schedules of cast members.

The show will be presented in the Coal City Performing Arts Center on Friday, May 19.



Courtesy photo  
**COAL CITY COACH Brad Schmitt (center) was a guest speaker recently for the GSWB Varsity Club. He spoke with the junior high athletes about stress as a player and as a coach.**

# Coal City coach inspires GSWB Varistry Club

GSWB Varsity Club's speaker in March was Brad Schmitt. Schmitt was a 1994 Coal City High School graduate where he helped them win a state football title in 1993. Schmitt then played college basketball at Rockford before returning to Coal City to teach.

He has coached numerous sports in his 25 years in education, most notably leading a team to a 40-0

record to claim a softball state title. Currently, he coaches 6th-grade girls' basketball, Varsity girls' basketball, and 8th-grade softball.

To lead-off Schmitt talked about stress/anxiety you have in sports, whether it is a coach or player. He explained this can be from a team who is winless or undefeated, but there will always be stress around you.

After discussing this,

Schmitt asked the group multiple questions as members had a discussion and shared their opinions. Some questions/topics he made them think about were:

- The differences and similarities between middle school and high school sports
- The difference between an athlete and a competitor?
- The difference between leader and a captain?

• The difference in skill vs will?

To conclude his speech, he talked about being a leader and having confidence. He told the group that you make your own decisions for yourself and you are your own leader. Student-athletes who have a good work ethic and a positive attitude are something he expects from his players.

# Students of the Week



Courtesy photo  
**COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for March 29 are (from left): Ryder Morgan, Madilynn Williams, Isabella Escareno and Wyatt Janczak.**



Courtesy photos  
**COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for March 29 are Addison Blake(left) and Patrick Bordewyk.**



Courtesy photo  
**COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Center Student of the Week for March 29 is Ashton Becker.**

## STAFF REPORT

Believe it or not, but there are just 32 student attendance days left in the school year—23 for members of the senior class.

As the Unit 1 School District heads into the final two months of the academic year the activities calendar is filled with events including concerts, awards ceremonies and graduation activities.

Here is what is on the schedule for the months of April and May.

- Music Honor Society induction, Tuesday, April 18, 7 p.m., Coal City High School.
- Fourth grade concert, Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center [CCPAC].
- Second grade concert, Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Scholarship Night, Wednesday, May 3, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Fifth grade band/music concert, Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Coal City High School Prom Walk, Saturday, April 6, 4:45 p.m., CCPAC.
- High School band concert, Tuesday, May 9, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- High School choral concert, Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Third grade concert, Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Acclaimed Coaler Ceremony, Friday, May 12, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Coal City High School commencement, Sunday, May 14, 2 p.m., high school competition gymnasium.
- Middle school band concert, Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Middle school choral concert, Thursday, May 18, 7 p.m., CCPAC.
- Coal City Middle School eighth grade promotion, Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m., high school competition gym.
- Coal City Theatre Department Broadway Revue, Saturday, May 27 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 28, at 2 p.m., CCPAC

The final day of school is set for Wednesday, May 24.

## 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  
johndpeacock@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  
johndpeacock@peacocklawoffices.com  
Atty. #6201772

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

## Diamond to hold appropriation ordinance public hearing

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Village of Diamond  
Notice of Public Hearing on Appropriation Ordinance  
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Commissioners on the Ordinance Appropriating for all Corporate Purposes for the Village of Diamond, Grundy and Will County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2023 and ending April 30, 2024, at the Diamond Village Hall, 1750 E Division St., Diamond, IL on April 25, 2023 at 6:00pm. The Tentative Appropriation and Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 is available for public inspection on the Village of Diamond website at <https://www.villageofdiamond.org/>. If you do not have access to a computer or the internet please call the Village Clerk at 815-634-8149 to have a copy mailed or to arrange to pick up a copy at the Village Hall located at 1750 E. Division St, Diamond, IL.

Dated this 29th day of March 2023.

Lori Holmes, Village Clerk  
Village of Diamond  
1750 E. Division St  
Diamond, IL  
Grundy and Will Counties, Illinois

Published in the Coal City Courant on April 5, 2023.

## Attorney Black files Sohan estate claim notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE  
No. 2023 PR 23  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CAROLE SOHAN, DECEASED

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Carole Sohan. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Rebecca McComb, 4500 W. Southmor Rd., Morris, Illinois 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. 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.

REBECCA MCCOMB  
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR  
Frank J. Black  
Black & Black Lawyers  
201 Liberty Street  
Suite 211  
P.O. Box 148  
Morris, IL 60450  
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on April 5, 12 and 19, 2023.



Free Press Newspapers readers

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## Let the healing begin

BRAIDWOOD—Our community is an absolute political disaster zone right now, ripped right down the center by the political warfare that has played out over our heads. In 50 years of living in this community, I have never seen a more vicious, evil and underhanded local election as this one. By the time you are reading this, the back and forth political cannons have begun to cease as the polls close and the unofficial numbers start rolling in. By the next morning, the smoke will clear, the signs will disappear and the damage toll will begin to come into view. Braidwood is a community deeply divided right now and it will be up to those chosen leaders of our community to help begin the healing process. It is going to take a long time to recover from this one and unfortunately we know all too well that this war will repeat itself starting in December of 2026.

## Forgotten cones

WILMINGTON—How long are you going to leave the orange cones visible on Outer Circle Dr. in Wilmington. It's making us look ghetto around here. Thank you

## Must have a soul

DIAMOND—What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet lose his own soul? Sharon.

## Don't break the law

WILMINGTON—The ex-president says District Attorney Bragg hates him. Many people do. Solution? Don't break the law. Simple?

## Mind-boggling

COAL CITY—It scares me to know that after it was announced that a Grand Jury ruled to arrest Donald Trump, his campaign people sent out letters asking for donations to help pay legal bills. Over the weekend over \$4 million in donations came pouring in. Are there really that many out there who want to support this guy? That is so hard to comprehend. If someone breaks the law they should be held accountable even if they were once the president. Common people, don't you see this guy is a fraud who is out to rape people of millions of dollars before he gets jail time.

## Buying influence

DIAMOND—Do you remember Pritzker's SAFE-T Act and his amendment number 1. You'll recall that the Chicago Teachers Union, the CTU, is one of the most powerful "special interest" groups in Illinois. The CTU has shoveled \$17.2 million to half the sitting members of the Illinois Senate and Illinois House. That's how the union buys influence in Springfield. So it can inject it's radicalism, strikes and political wrangling to every corner of Illinois. Both the SAFE-T Act and the amendments were passed

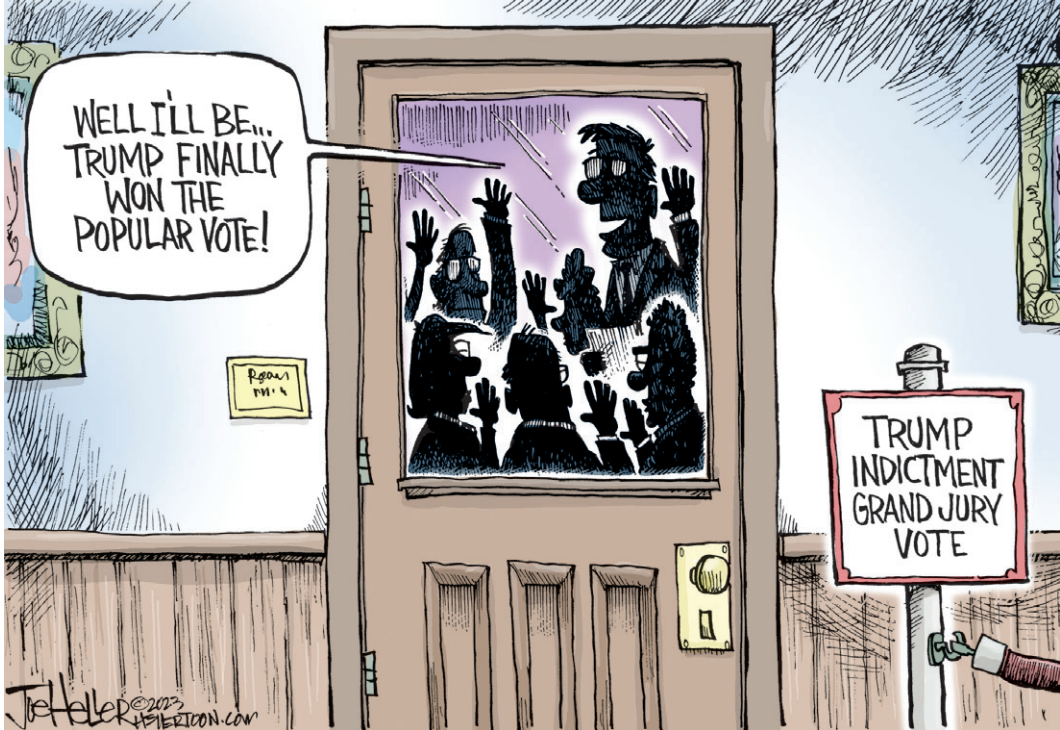
by voters in only two of Illinois' 102 counties. Unfortunately, the number of voters living in Cook and Sangamon County is greater than the number of voters in the other 100 counties. This miserable situation bought and paid for Democrats representation accounts for the ongoing flood of residences fleeing Illinois and our state's high tax burden. The U.S. Census bureau shows that 141,656 Illinoisans left in 2022 leading to their ninth straight year of population decline. But neighboring Kentucky, Wisconsin, Indianapolis and Missouri each gained residence-unlike Illinois-they have competitive tax systems. In addition, typical state retirees (not teachers) are collecting nearly 40% more in pension benefits than typical Illinoisans earn working full time jobs. Governor Pritzker signing a bill allowing Chicago public school principals to unionize and collectively bargain for higher wages-when they already make 30% more than their peers in the rest of the state. Of course tax payers like you and me that don't live in Chicago will be paying for these pay raises, like it or not. Sharon.

## Change the name

DIAMOND—We have some people in this country that have been elected to represent the American citizens that some individuals call the elite. But what they really are is a bunch of individuals who only care about their wallets and not the laws of the U.S.A. and the legal rights of any American citizen. So we should change the name from elite to VIPs which means vicious, inhumane, pretenders of the laws. They only respect themselves and other criminals. So the Democratic party should change its name to the deceitful party against the American citizens.

## Golf cart rules

BRAIDWOOD—Warmer weather is now upon us and the golf carts are out in full force on our city streets. Please remember that it is against the law to drive a golf cart down state roadways such as Rt. 113 (includes all of Main Street east of Division St.), Rt. 53 (aka. Front St.) and Rt. 129 (aka. Washington St.). If you need to get to a location on the opposite side of the railroad tracks, the only legal way to get there on a golf cart is to cross Rt. 129 & Rt. 53 at the Center St. railroad crossing and then continue down Center St. to Smiley Road and then back up Comet Drive. It's quite the detour but it's the only way to legally get from one side of town to the other. Illinois State Police have issued citations before so don't be surprised if you get caught and ticketed. They don't care that Braidwood is a golf cart community, against the law is against the law. They also need to be operated by licensed drivers in a safe manner. The Braidwood Police Department needs to step up enforcement of



these issues to ensure that nobody gets hurt or worse killed because of their heads being buried in the sand.

## A soft target

SHADOW LAKES—A comment about the last school shooting. Listen to what is said. This transgender person was having mental problems and was being treated for them. The date of this shooting, this person did and tried to contact the suicide hot line but they were slow in reacting. In this person's manifesto it was also claimed she was tired of living and wanted to die. Also stated in manifesto, another site was picked, but that site had too much security. So to fulfill her wish she chose a soft target, a school. Now, the wish was complete, suicide by the hands of another. Why do you think schools are singled out? Let us pray for their souls.

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

## Time for removal

COAL CITY—Coal City Schools, please remove the spray painted "stand in place" "X's" that were put in place during the pandemic. Leaving graffiti and not cleaning it off sends a negative message to our children.

## "Woke" really mean?

COAL CITY—The term "woke" originated in the black community to refer to awareness of racial injustice. Yet the poll results when asked how they would take being called "woke" themselves a plurality of respondents viewed it more as an insult than a compliment. Some are

Submissions by email to: [courant@fpnusa.com](mailto:courant@fpnusa.com) with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to [www.freepressnewspapers.com](http://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.

# Ag transportation costs ease, but issues linger

BY DAN GRANT  
FARMWEEK

The farm sector shouldn't see quite as many transportation-related challenges this year compared to 2022, according to industry experts at the CTU, is one of the most powerful "special interest" groups in Illinois. The CTU has shoveled \$17.2 million to half the sitting members of the Illinois Senate and Illinois House. That's how the union buys influence in Springfield. So it can inject it's radicalism, strikes and political wrangling to every corner of Illinois. Both the SAFE-T Act and the amendments were passed

Barge freight rates eased in recent months from historic highs last fall. And trucking rates were down about 8% as of Feb. 21 compared to last year.

"One thing that's improved year over year is transportation," Eric Wuthrich, manager of Farmers Grain Co. in Roseville, told FarmWeek after being elected GFAI president at the event.

"Last year it seemed freight was awfully hard to come by," he noted. "It seems to have improved somewhat, especially for trucking."

And that's particularly important for facilities such as Farmers Grain that don't sit on a river or rail line and therefore rely on trucks to move all products.

"One of the main challenges now is interest rates," said Wuthrich, who has spent 15 years in the grain industry and the past seven serving on the GFAI board. "We buy a lot of grain for December and January. There's a big difference between borrowing \$20 million at 3% interest or borrowing \$20 million at 7%."

Higher interest rates not only cut into grain handling margins but could also slow expansion or upgrade projects at elevators and other facilities.

"Capital will play into a lot of decisions (in the grain

industry), including expansion and capital projects," the GFAI president said.

Jake Brodbeck, vice president of ARTCo barge line, a subsidiary of Archer Daniels Midland, believes shipping rates in the trucking industry possibly eased in recent months due to slightly lower fuel prices and an easing of the driver shortage.

The situation is similar in the barge industry, although labor shortages mostly occurred at individual ports but not as much for long-haul crews for that mode of transportation.

"I think barge freight will remain firm the next couple years," Brodbeck said. "But I don't think it will be a repeat of the fourth quarter 2022, unless we get another crazy weather event. We had a perfect storm last year of low water, harvest demand and a shrinking fleet size."

Drought-induced low water levels on the Mississippi River last harvest caused barge operators to reduce payloads by 25% to 50% and idle much of the fleet.

But barge transportation is still one of the most efficient for grain and other ag products. A barge can move a ton of cargo more than 800 miles on just a single gallon of fuel, Brodbeck noted.

"The most important thing to keep in mind is the incredible advantage we have because of the waterway system (which contains about 25,000 navigable miles in the U.S.)," he said.

A challenge for the transportation sector moving ahead is the high cost of building new barges and train cars. The cost of building new train cars



Photo by Catrina Rawson of Illinois Farm Bureau

**BARGE TRANSPORTATION REMAINS** one of the most efficient modes for grain and other ag products. And during the past few months, freight rates have dropped from record highs.

increased about 20% in recent years.

Meanwhile, the high cost of steel not only remains prohibitive to build new barges, but it's also an incentive to scrap them. A scrapped barge currently is worth nearly \$100,000 compared to just \$30,000 in previous years.

"Interest rates are high

and the cost of capital is strong," Ken Eriksen, senior vice president of Agri Supply Chain, IHS Market Agribusiness, told the RFD Radio Network at the convention. "People are unwilling at these levels to invest in something, especially when you look at the cost of steel."

"While it peaked and has


come back down, there's still a lot of (steel) inventory priced high that companies are going to have to work through."

The current U.S. barge fleet consists of about 12,000 covered hoppers, 5,000 open hoppers and about 4,000 tanks. A barge typically has a lifespan of about 30 years and the average age of the current

fleet is about 20 years, meaning more are close to retirement, Brodbeck said.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).*

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**Aperion Care Easter egg hunt**

The Aperion Care, 555 W. Kahler Rd., Wilmington, will be hosting an Easter egg hunt on Friday, April 7, at 2:30 p.m. which is open to the public.

There will be prizes, raffles, refreshments and a special appearance by the Easter bunny.

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## Free community dinner Sunday at VFW Post 5422

The Wilmington VFW Malcolm J. Mayo Post 5422 will be serving a free community dinner on Sunday, April 9 in observance of Easter.

Dinners will be served to anyone who comes to 557 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington, between noon -4 p.m. A buffet style spread of ham, fried chicken, potato and vegetable dishes, along with dessert, will be served free by VFW volun-

teers.

Also the VFW will be taking orders for the Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser through April 21. Order forms are available at the post or call Kathy at 815-926-2651 for pre-ordering and payment over the phone.

Orders must be turned in before April 21 with delivery of the cakes in time for Mother's Day.

## Garden Club to talk about hydrangeas

The Wilmington Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St.

Special guest will be Special Ascot from Muddy Paws Nursery on Highway 113, in Custer Park.

Ascot will be describing

the cultivators of Hydrangeas, including 15 different varieties and how to care for them. She will give insight into how best to prune them.

Like to garden? Then come sit in a Garden Club meeting and bring a friend. For more information call Carol at 815-476- 2469.


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teamgresham@amfam.com  
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## ‘Ranch Water’ requires an extraordinary mineral water

It's only April, but the forecast in West Texas is already calling for 90 degrees. It won't be long before the scorching summer triple digit highs return to the Southwest. Texans will tell you that the best way, and for some the only way to beat the heat, is with a tall glass of Ranch Water.

It's hot in West Texas. You may or may not have experienced the Texas desert heat in person, but the fact that it's a "dry heat" really doesn't help. Ask the folks in Monahans, TX where the mercury hit 120 degrees in 1994. Having a way to cool off in the Lonestar State isn't a want, it's a need.

For at least the last few decades, the folks in sunny West Texas have turned to "Ranch Water" to beat the heat. Ranch Water has always been part of the menu on the working ranches in Texas and Mexico, though it did not have an official name until bars and restaurants began to add it to menus over the last 20 years or so.

Don't worry, Ranch Water does not contain, nor does it have anything to do with diluted Ranch Dressing. In essence, the drink is a three-ingredient cocktail made from tequila, lime, and most importantly, Topo Chico.

What exactly is Topo Chico? In short, Topo Chico is a mineral water sourced from a spring in Monterrey, Mexico near the mountain Cerro del

Topo Chico. Ask any native of West Texas or Northern Mexico, and it's beyond ordinary mineral water, Topo Chico is something special.

The springs from which Topo Chico is sourced bubble up from an inactive volcano in northern Mexico which gives the water a crisp, unique flavor profile that has generations of loyal fans coming back for more.

Topo Chico has been available commercially since 1895, but the story goes all the way back to the Aztecs, who according to local legend valued the water for its medicinal properties.

Legend has it that an Aztec princess had fallen victim to a disease that no doctor could cure and was healed by the mineral-rich water from the inactive volcano.

We have no way to prove that, but ask any (and there are many) loyal fans that make up Topo Chico's cult following and they will tell you it's true.

If you plan on spending any time in West Texas, you will see Topo Chico literally everywhere you go. In restaurants, bars, hotel lobbies, vending machines, anywhere refreshment is to be found.

The "Topo" sensation



**THE SUNDAY  
COCKTAIL**  
Brian Rung

started in the region and the cult following was largely limited to Texas until 2017 when the Coca-Cola company purchased the brand for \$220 million.

Fast forward a few years to 2023 and you should be able to find Topo Chico from sea to shining sea, and you should absolutely try it if you are a fan of mineral water.

Could you make Ranch Water with another type of mineral water? Probably, but it won't be the same. The mineral presence in Topo Chico is unique among sparkling waters and is particularly well-suited to mix with tequila.

Which makes perfect sense as tequila is also sourced from agave that is grown in soil that is rich in the same volcanic minerals.

Speaking of tequila, you will want to use a quality, 100% agave "blanco" or "silver" tequila for Ranch Water. I imagine you could use an aged reposado tequila for Ranch Water, but the blanco tequila is crisp, and dry with little or no after taste. These properties make blanco tequila a perfect match for Topo Chico.

Where there is tequila, there is lime! The Margarita, the Paloma, Ranch Water, or straight up with a pinch of salt, you will almost always find limes where tequila is poured.

There is no official measurement with regard to lime juice in Ranch Water, typically it's "squeeze in juice from 1/2 lime" and that usually does it. A typical lime contains around

1 oz. of juice, therefore 1/2 lime should yield around 1/2 oz. lime juice.

Preparation is quick, easy, and requires no special tools other than a glass. In some cases, the glass is not required either. It's not uncommon to see Ranch Water prepared and served in the Topo Chico bottle.

If you have 100% agave blanco tequila, a lime, and a bottle of Topo, then you're ready to beat the heat.

Start by filling a pint glass with ice. Add 2 oz. blanco tequila, squeeze in juice from \_ lime, and top with Topo Chico. That's literally all there is to it.

It's difficult to describe the taste, you'll just have to try it. On paper, it looks like Margarita minus the sweet notes of sugar and/or triple sec. Ranch Water is a completely different animal. In fact, there are Margarita fans that do not care for Ranch Water, and vice versa.

There's a lot going on in this drink with the complexity of what could be the world's greatest mineral water, it's unlike anything else in the cocktail world. As a bonus, Ranch Water is a low carb option for those seeking refreshment without the high sugar content of a restaurant Margarita.

Try this one on for size, it may be just what the Aztec doctor ordered.

**Ranch Water** is built and served in an ice-filled Collins (tall) glass.

Combine in glass:  
2 oz. blanco tequila  
Juice from 1/2 lime  
Top with Topo Chico mineral water  
Stir and serve  
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

## St. Rose Parish gives schedule for Holy week

St. Rose Church in Wilmington will be holding multiple masses during this Holy week.

- April 6, Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper. St. Rose Church - 7 p.m. with Fr. Sebastian. St. Pat's Church - 7 p.m. with Fr. Vern Arseneau.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, after the Liturgy, St. Rose - Midnight with Fr. Sebastian and St. Pat's - 9 p.m. with Fr. Vern Arseneau.

- April 7, Good Friday,

Liturgy of The Passion of the Lord, St. Rose - 7 p.m. with Fr. Sebastian. St. Pat's - 7 p.m. with Fr. Vern Arseneau.

- April 8, Holy Saturday, Easter Basket Blessing at St. Rose at noon. St. Rose - 8 p.m. with Fr. Sebastian. St. Pat's - 7:30 p.m. with Fr. Vern Arseneau.

- April 9, Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of The Lord. St. Rose - 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Fr. Sebastian. St. Pat's - 9 a.m. with Fr. Vern Arseneau.

## Illinois ranks as one of the most sinful states in the country

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
THE CENTER SQUARE

A new study puts Illinois near the top in a ranking of the most sinful states in the country.

The personal finance website WalletHub compared the 50 states based on several sinful behaviors, including vices, greed, lust and vanity. They determined that Illinois was the 8th most sinful state in the country.

Analyst Jill Gonzalez said some of the categories are tongue-in-cheek, while others have a definite impact on society. She notes that Illinois ranked in the top 10 in two categories.

"One was anger and hatred, so that would have a lot to do with violence and crime, while the other was vanity, which has to do with beauty salons per capita and plastic surgeries per capita," Gonzalez said.

Many states, including Illinois, have turned to vices to generate tax revenue. Illinois

allows sports betting and may give the green light to online casino gambling as well. In 2022, sports betting produced total tax revenue of nearly \$128 million.

Illinois leads the nation in the number of electronic gaming devices, with over 40,000 machines at nearly 8,000 locations around the state in 2021, everywhere from bars, gaming parlors to gas stations.

Recreational marijuana in Illinois has been even more successful for the state. The state made \$445 million in tax revenue from the sale of legal marijuana in the last fiscal year.

"Marijuana is involved in these when it comes to excesses and vices, so it's right up there with adult smokers," Gonzalez said.

According to the study, Nevada, California and Louisiana were the top three most sinful states.

### IDENTITY THEFT TIP

Use different usernames and passwords for all your accounts. Keep your passwords in a secure place and change them regularly.

## Red Carpet Corridor Festival Craft show and flea market Wilmington, IL • Saturday, May 6

Become a vendor in the craft show and flea market planned for Saturday, May 6, in downtown Wilmington during the Red Carpet Corridor festivities, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A non-refundable permit fee for a 10x10 space is \$35 on or before April 22; \$50 postmarked April 24-29. Do not mail after April 29. For vendors who make payment the day of show the fee will be \$65 (first come, first served). Must arrive by 8 a.m. to set-up. Even non-profit organizations must pay for a spot.

For fresh food vendors (for all who prepare food on site): \$100 fee for a 10x20 space and contract must be postmarked by April 29; \$130 fee if space is paid for after April 29.

Set-up can begin as early as 6:30 a.m. Arrive by 8 a.m. and remove all vehicles by 8:40 a.m. Check in will be at the north end of Water St. Unfortunately, no electricity will be available.

Complete the contract below and return it with a check made payable to "Women of Wilmington" to: Women of Wilmington, c/o Brenda Craig-Cherveney, 1235 Chesson Court, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Questions can be directed to Cherveney by emailing brennief@aol.com.

The Red Carpet Event Committee and Women of Wilmington will not assume liability for any losses, damages or injuries sustained by exhibitors or spectators.

### Craft Show and Flea Market Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

List of what will be sold: \_\_\_\_\_

How many spaces? (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

## Dreaming of a good night's rest? Our showroom is open, Come in and find the right mattress for you!



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Back Row: Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Sara Daniels and Kelly Olson

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# What's good and bad in the basket

Ranking the best, worst Easter candy

## STAFF REPORT

For Illinoisans, jelly beans are the favorite sweet treat to find in the Easter basket, but Cadbury Mini Eggs rein supreme among all spring holiday candies.

There are hundreds of candies on the shelves with a spring theme—solid and hollow chocolate bunnies, taffy, marshmallow, caramel and peanut butter-filled eggs and even sweet and sour chicks, ducks and bunnies.

In the past three years, Americans have spent around \$3 million on Easter candy, according to data from the National Retail Federation.

This Easter season the rankings of the most popular and worst candy have been released, and CandyStore.com provides a comprehensive listing of both by analyzing multiple published reports and comparing it to its own survey of over 10,000 consumers of what the public wants to see the bunny place in the basket on Easter morning.

The 2023 list of America's favorite starts with the mini-eggs—milk chocolate coated in a candy shell. Jelly beans come in at number two, but not just any type of jelly bean. It's the gourmet variety that tops the charts and in 2023 the favorite flavor is buttered popcorn.

The Reese's peanut butter egg is the number three favorite, although its a number one pick among readers of the Free Press Newspapers.

Rounding out the top 10 favorites are the hollow chocolate bunny—down from its number two spot last year, and up from number eight last year is the robin's egg by Whoppers.

Foil wrapped chocolate eggs, marshmallow topped Reese's peanut butter cup, Kinder Joy eggs, plastic eggs



CHOCOLATE BUNNIES, jelly beans, sugar coated marshmallow chicks, and chocolate eggs filled with caramel and cream are among the nations favorite and most disliked candies found in Easter baskets.

filled with Skittles and the Hershey fun mix—mini bars of Krackle, Mr. Goodbar and chocolates finish out the list of favorites.

CandyStore.com reports 87% of those who celebrate Easter will purchase candy and even those who don't celebrate the holiday will still be purchasing the spring themed candy at a rate of 33%. And, the average spent on candy is about \$21.

Among those who participated in the candy survey they also shared what they would prefer not to find in their baskets, and the results are somewhat contradictory to the other list and what local readers say they prefer in candy.

The CandyStore.com ranking of the worst treats starts with the Cadbury creme egg and Peeps—favorites among some Free Press readers.

According to Candy Store.com, it takes just six minutes to make a Peep and over 700 million are bought

each year.

Solid chocolate bunnies, bunny corn, Oreo eggs, the Sour Patch white chocolate bunny and chicks and rabbits—similar to circus peanuts are also at the top of the worst list, as are chocolate crosses, Cheetos cinnamon puffs and "generic" jelly beans.

Originally, jelly beans were originally a Christmas candy, reports CandyStore.com. The company that offers bulk candy sales further reports 16 million jelly beans are manufactured for Easter alone.

Chocolate, black licorice and grape are the top flavors among Illinois residents.

As noted, American's rank buttered popcorn as the top overall flavor, followed by black licorice, cinnamon, cherry, watermelon, root beer, juicy pear, blueberry, coffee and orange.

As for all other Easter candy, the CandyStore.com survey breaks down the candy choices by favorite for each

state.

Along with jelly beans, Illinois residents list Kinder eggs and Hershey fun size candy bars are their top three choices.

Neighbors in Wisconsin put the fun sized Hershey at the top of the list, and Iowa residents choose Peeps., Missouri and Indiana residents favor foil wrapped chocolate eggs, and the Cadbury cream egg is the favorite among residents of Kentucky.

This Easter 87% of parents will prepare an Easter basket for their child, and CandyStore.com reports 81% of those parents will be enjoying the treats in those baskets.

# 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

# Electronics dropoff event coming to Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, April 13 from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players,

DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

*Wilmington Knights of Columbus*

## Spaghetti Supper

Saturday April 15  
5pm - 7pm

St. Rose Hall ~ 626  
Kankakee St., Wilmington

Spaghetti, Meatballs,  
Garlic Bread, Salad,  
Dessert, Drink

Carryout Dinners  
Available

Freewill Donation

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

# Roadside litter cost Illinois \$26.5 million last year

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation is asking the public to be on the alert for crews picking up litter and to Think Before You Throw!

As part of an ongoing awareness campaign, IDOT is mobilizing litter pickup operations this spring and encouraging you to be part of the solution in keeping roadsides and communities free of unnecessary trash and debris.

"Excess garbage on highways can be easily avoided," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "Dispose of garbage properly. Make sure loads are properly secured and covered to keep debris and other trash from winding up on the roads. Litter has consequences: Think before you throw!"

Illinois is home to 150,000

miles of road. You can do your part to keep them clean by using bags and receptacles in your vehicle to collect and dispose of trash.

Last year, IDOT spent approximately \$26.5 million picking up litter and removing large debris. That's the equivalent of buying 143 maintenance trucks that also plow snow in winter or purchasing all of the salt IDOT spread during the past snow-and-ice season, with \$1 million left to spare. It also could pay to resurface 13 miles of interstate.

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

• Roadside litter causes distractions that can lead to dangerous crashes. It also requires maintenance opera-

tions that put workers in potentially hazardous situations.

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

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

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

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

Goal: draw, color and create your own artwork to express encouragement, positive attitude, funny humor, or just feelings from past memories.

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Email submissions or if you have questions contact:  
GymshoeArt@gmail.com

## Drawing by Bella Morris

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# BRYAN WILLIS Benefit

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 @ NOON

GODLEY PARK DISTRICT

500 S. Kankakee St., Godley, IL 60407

Lunch served at 1:00 p.m.

\$20 Adult (prepaid) \$25 At the door \$10 Children	Shirts & Bracelets for sale
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RAFFLE BASKETS | LARGE ITEM RAFFLE | FACE PAINTING | BAKE SALE

Raffle tickets sold early and at the event



# OBITUARIES

## Richard Lee Bjarnarson

WASHINGTON ISLAND, WI—Richard “Dick” Lee Bjarnarson, 90, of Washington Island, WI passed away suddenly on Dec. 12, 2022 at home.

He was born Nov. 1, 1932 in Washington Island, the son of the late Oliver and Est her (Hanson) Bjarnarson. Dick graduated from Washington Island High School with the class of 1950. He married Marilyn Nelson on June 14, 1950 and they moved to Wilmington, IL, where they lived for 43 year and raised their four children, and eventually settled on a career at Argonne National Laboratory and retired from there in 1993. He had a large friend group and did volunteer work. Dick was a lifetime member of the Masonic Temple. During his time, he achieved Excellent High Priest and Worshipful Master. Immediately after retirement, he went back to his beloved Washington Island.

He loved his family and friends and socializing. He enjoyed solving the world's problems during happy hour at the Middle Bar with his close friends that he considered to be family. He was such a joyful character that brought life into any room and was loved by so many. Ivan Johnson has been an especially wonderful friend to Dick. His presence down at Jackson Harbor will be missed, along with his warm hugs and uplifting spirit.



He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Bjarnarson; daughters, Sheryl Anderson and Carol Carr; grandchildren: Kimberly (Chris ) Duchene, Stephanie (Brad) Lowery, Jason Carr, Adam Surman and Tina McCarthy; great-grandchildren: Kathryn Carr, Kylinn Lowery, Lauren Duchene, Tyler Duchene, Colby Lowery, Christian Garcia, Ariana Garcia, Ryker McCarthy' and great-great-grandchildren, Tate Henderson and Jorah Russell.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver and Esther; his brother, Dale Bjarnarson (wives, Shirley and Jean); sister, Shirley Atkins Ellefson (husbands, Len and Jake); brother-in-law, Henry Nelson; children, Richard Lee Jr. “Rick” Bjarnarson and Nancy Surman and grandson, Richard Carr.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service in honor of Dick will be held on May 20, 2023 at 11 a.m. at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church on Washington Island, WI.

Expressions of sympathy, photos and memories can be shared with the family on Dick's tribute page at [caspersonfuneralhome.com](https://caspersonfuneralhome.com).

Casperson Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Sister Bay is assisting the Bjarnarson family with arrangements.

## Michael Phillips

BRAIDWOOD—Michael John Phillips, 71, of Braidwood, formerly of Lockport, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 25, 2023, at his home.

He was born July 17, 1951, in Chicago, to the late Michael John and Jean F. (nee Kozerski) Phillips. He graduated from Lockport High School, where he was affectionately known as “Buster.” After his father's passing, he ran the family hardware store, Western True Value Hardware in Lockport. He was an extremely hard worker, who held three jobs simultaneously to support his family. He worked for Avatar Corporation in University Park, IL; the Reed-Custer Community Fieldhouse and the city of Braidwood in the water department. He loved sports, both as a lifelong fan of the San Diego/LA Chargers and Detroit Red Wings, and as a participant in adult-league hockey.

He also enjoyed coin and stamp collecting. BBut the center of Mike's life was always family. On April 11, 1980, he married the love of his life, Joan, in Joliet. He was a dedicated husband, proud father and doting grandfather. He enthusiastically coached teams in the Tri-County Recreational Soccer League and Little League Baseball. He taught his children to skate, icing



the backyard to play hockey with them. Every minute with his family was treasured.

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, Joan Phillips, of Braidwood; five children: Derek (Mindy) Phillips, Michael (Jacía) Phillips, Brian Phillips, Darcy (Dhyia) Phillips and Kimberly (Martel) Thomas; seven grandchildren: Caleb and Collin Phillips, Hartson and Valentina Phillips, Sterling Phillips, Winston Thomas, and one on the way; sister, Joyce Tischer, of Elwood; three nieces: Cindy (John) Daigle, June (John) Wassenaar and Nancy (Dean) Mitchell and many cousins and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on April 22, 2023, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood 60408. Cremation rites will be accorded and inurnment will take place in Lockport Cemetery. Cards may be sent to Patterson Funeral Home.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com).

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

## Donna Horrie

SOUTH WILMINGTON— Donna M. Horrie (nee Lardi), 80, of South Wilmington, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at her home.

Born Jan. 8, 1943 in Joliet, she was the daughter of Armando Raymond and Mary Constance (nee Cherfoli) Lardi. Donna graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington High School with the class of 1961. She married her high school sweetheart, Gerald Horrie, June 6, 1964 in South Wilmington.

Before they created their beautiful family, she and Gerald enjoyed playing cards, especially euchre, and spending winters snowmobiling. They were known as the dancing couple and were always the first and last on the dance floor. She was a member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington. Donna was a dedicated homemaker, proudly raising their three children. She always looked forward to attending their sporting events and carried on that tradition with her grandchildren. Family was most important to her, whether it was hosting her daily coffee clutch with friends and family, socializing, playing cards, or teaching her grandchildren checkers and other board games, her family was and will always be what was most cherished.

Surviving are three children: Jason (Christie) Horrie, of Coal City; Christine Windle,



of South Wilmington and Gina Horrie, of Dwight; three grandchildren: Asher John Ruskin Horrie, Hallie Rae Horrie and Reed Allen Horrie; four brothers: Don (Pat) Lardi, Dan (Rosalie) Lardi, Denis (Wanda) Lardi, and Dale (Joy Blondin) Lardi, all of South Wilmington; numerous nieces, nephews, and their families; brother-in-law, James (Kay) Horrie and sisters-in-law, Lila (Raymond) Dite and Sandy (David) Lardi.

Preceding her in death were her parents and husband of 49 years, Gerald Allen Horrie.

Per Donna's wishes, cremation rites were accorded. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington. Inurnment will take place in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville at a later date.

Memorial donations in her name may be directed to the South Wilmington Volunteer Fire Department.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Janice L. Ziller

WILMINGTON—Janice L. (Tomsheck) Ziller, 74, of Wilmington, passed away April 4, 2023, in her home surrounded by family and friends.

Jan was born on Feb. 5, 1949 in Wilmington, to Joe and Blanche Tomsheck. She wed Tom Ziller on June 17, 1967. They were married 40 years, until his death on July 17, 2007. Jan graduated from Wilmington High School in 1967, married the love of her life, worked many jobs, and the most rewarding other than being a wonderful mom to her three children, was being a school bus driver for the Wilmington and Elwood schools for 34 years. Family was always Jan's number one priority and she enjoyed time with her children and grandchildren. She loved horseback riding and going on trail rides with her friends. Jan also made beautiful quilts and was quite the perfectionist when it came to sewing.

She is survived by three children: Tom (Christy) Ziller, of Wilmington; Miki (Doug) Wesley, of Saint Joseph, IL and Joie Ziller (Mike Scagnelli), of Wilmington and one sister, Jeanine Griffith, of Silver Peak, NV. Jan leaves



behind three grandchildren: Shelby (Timothy) Eaker, of Coal City; Hannah (Tyler) Worley, of Muncie, IN and Sam Wesley, of Saint Joseph, and one great-grandson, Jameson Thomas Eaker.

Jan is preceded in death by her husband, her parents and two siblings, Jim Tomsheck and Joann (Chuck) Bray.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 11 a.m. until time of service at 1 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](https://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Jan's memorial page online through social media.

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

## William Vocelka

SHADOW LAKES—William “Bill” George Vocelka, 85, of Shadow Lakes, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at his home.

Born Nov. 30, 1937 in Oak Park, IL, he was the son of William and Rosalie (nee Mares) Vocelka. William married Edith L. Satava on Sept. 24, 1960 in Cicero, IL. He had a very long career with Illinois Bell, starting as a frame man and working his way up to engineering. He was a member of the Shadow Lakes Fishing Club and AA. He was known for his friendly demeanor and enjoyed helping others. He never met a dog he didn't like, or a dog that didn't like him.

Surviving are his wife, Edith Vocelka; three daughters: Cheryl Vocelka, of Shadow Lakes; Catherine Vocelka, of Phoenix, AZ and Virginia (Robert) Sturlini, of Plainfield, IL; six grandchil-



dren: Kristin Baylor, Tracy (John) Elliott, Daniel (Cortney) Baylor, Robert (Ashley) Sturlini, Stacy (Joseph) Butkovich, and Ronald J. (Vanessa) Anderson; and five great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, sister, Judith (nee Vocelka) Mikutis and brother-in-law, Edward Mikutis.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial service will be Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 1 p.m. with visitation to follow until 4 p.m. at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity or organization of your choice.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

## George Winkel



MORRIS—George Robert Winkel, 87, of Morris, passed away Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

Born May 29, 1935 in Morris, George was a son of Ralph and Mary Edna (Sullivan) Winkel. He attended school in Morris and Minooka, graduating from Minooka High School with the class of 1954. From 1955-1957, he proudly served in the United States Army. On April 16, 1964, George married Kathryn Barra at the priest's home of the Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City, and not at the church itself due to construction on the church at that time.

George was owner and operator of George Winkel Excavating and Trucking Company. He was an excellent heavy machine operator who loved being able to use his talents to help people with their needs. He was a member of the Morris VFW and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris. He was also a member of the Local 150 International Union of Operating Engineers. George will be missed and fondly remembered by his family and friends for his kindness, generosity, helpfulness, and outgoing personality. He always had a joke or some “words of wisdom” to share, and could strike up a conversation with both friends and strangers alike.

Survivors include his sister, Theresa Craig



of Lonsdale, AR; brothers, Leo (Judy) Winkel, of Morris and Duane Winkel; sister-in-law, JoAnn (Norman) Wills, of Platteville, WI as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn (2019); his parents, brother, Bernard Winkel; sister, Florence (John) Gollick and brother-in-law, Clyde Craig.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris with Reverend Jason Stone presiding and Deacon Paul Jung assisting. A live stream of George's funeral is available on George's memorial page.

Pallbearers were Jim Benda, Frank Black, Dan Hoffman, Jeff Ivanyi, Kurt Stevens and Rance Welsh.

Burial with full military honors followed the funeral at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Morris, where George was laid to rest with his wife, Kathryn.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in George's name to the charity of the donor's choice.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share George's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris.

## Andrew G. Calderon Sr.

COAL CITY—Andrew G. Calderon Sr., 90, of Coal City, formerly of Chicago, ascended to eternal life Monday, April 3, 2023 at Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

Born Nov. 30, 1932 in Spring Branch, TX, Andrew Guzman Calderon was a son of Torilario and Dolorez (Guzman) Calderon. He was raised and educated in Texas, and on July 19, 1952 he married Pauline Martinez. Andrew and his wife moved to the south side of Chicago before settling in Coal City where they would live and raise their family for over 50 years.

He worked at Hillmans' Foods in Chicago for over 30 years, but was a 'jack of all trades' and served as the maintenance technician for many years at Burt Estates in Diamond. Andrew was a member of Assumption of the BVM Catholic Church in Coal City, and was an avid fisherman who relished every opportunity to go out and try and get that next great catch. He also loved horse racing, card games, and 16 inch softball, which he would play well in to his 80s. Andrew was a huge Green Bay Packers fan and enjoyed a friendly rivalry with his family who were fans of the Chicago Bears. He had a great appreciation for music and dancing, which he could still do even at his 90th birthday party.

Andrew was a much beloved man with a dynamite personality. He was a wonderful role model and father figure, not just to his own children and family, but to many people that needed that positive example in their life. Andrew was the most reliable man, always there when you needed him and he was always checking in with his family with regular phone calls. He leaves behind so many beloved family and dear friends, and will always be affectionately known

as "Grandpa" and "Uncle" to all who knew him.

Survivors include five children: Maxine (Mike) Manella, of Brookfield, IL; Lillian Calderon (Jorge Guerrero), of North Riverside, IL; Andrew "Sonny" (Carol) Calderon Jr. and Larry (Karen) Calderon, both of Coal City and Roberta Calderon, of Chicago; one daughter-in-law, Sandra Sanchez, of Chicago; 26 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; as well as his beloved extended family of countless in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Andrew was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Pauline; one son, Alan Calderon and one great-granddaughter, Delilah Lemke and two brothers and one sister: Matias Calderon, Mary Alice "Leacha" Bautista and Edward "Lalo" Calderon Sr.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway St., one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Friday, April 7, 2023 from 4 p.m. until the time of funeral service at 7 p.m.

Per Andrew's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral service.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Andrew's memory to the charity of the donor's choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Andrew's memorial page via social media.

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



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# OBITUARIES

## Carolyn Stamets

ELWOOD—Carolyn Stamets, 82, of Elwood, and formerly of South Holland, IL, passed away Thursday, March 30, 2023 at Northwestern Memorial Palos Hospital in Palos Heights, IL.  
Born Jan. 30, 1941 in Hammond, IN, Carolyn was a daughter of A. Albert and Hester (Ball) Lindquist. She was raised in the Hegewisch Neighborhood of Chicago and graduated from Bowen High School with the class of 1959. On June 3, 1961, Carolyn married Stanley Stamets in Lebanon Lutheran Church in Chicago.

Carolyn was a 35 year member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in South Holland, and active with the Thornwood High School Band, where she was known as the doughnut and hot dog lady to many kids throughout the years.

She was employed as a school bus driver for 20 years, and when out of school, Carolyn loved traveling and participating in 'out of the box' activities. She enjoyed rock hunting, art fairs and jewelry shows, but nothing gave her greater joy than being a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Survivors include her sons: Russell (Reena) Stamets, of New Delhi, India and Donald (Barbara) Stamets, of Addison, IL; four grandchildren: Tristan, Matthew, Freya and Thomas;



one sister, Lisa (Steve) Buccellato, of Ft. Myers, FL and extended family in Sweden.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Stanley; half sister, Betty Kavanaugh and half brother, Marion Forest Gregory.

Per Carolyn's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and she will be privately laid to rest with her late husband, Stanley in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.  
Family, friends, and neighbors are invited to attend a celebration of Carolyn's life at the Lloyd Erickson Park Pavilion, 801 N. Chicago St. in Elwood at 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2023.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Carolyn's memory to the Elwood Children's Garden. [www.villageofelwood.com/161/Childrens-Garden-Project-of-Elwood](http://www.villageofelwood.com/161/Childrens-Garden-Project-of-Elwood).

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

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

## Wavel Needy

GARDNER—Wavel Needy (nee Meyer), 90, of Gardner, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

She was born on June 17, 1932 in Chicago to Louis and Viola (nee Philbrick) Meyer. She was a full time loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother. Family was very important to her. She lived in Lockport, IL for 33 years and moved to Gardner in 1990. In her spare time, she was a Girl Scout Leader, Sunday School Teacher, was her husband's unpaid secretary during his time as a teacher, a member of the Gardner United Lutheran Church Altar Guild, an active member and officer of the Gardner Senior Citizen Group, and a board member of the Gardner Prairie Cemetery.

Wavel was known for her annual tomato garden. She also enjoyed sewing, embroidering, and puzzles. She had a special fondness for ice cream.

She is survived by her two daughters, Dawn (Ken) Luzbetak, of Bremerton, WA and Sharon Bernico, of Braidwood; son-in-law, Mark (Diane) King, of Rockmart, GA; eight grandchildren: Sarah (Steve) Myers, of Mystic, CT; Karen (Andy) Luzbetak, of Bremerton, WA; Jenniver (Brian) Nesselroad, of Burnaby, BC, Canada; Timothy (Tracy) Bernico Jr., of Braidwood; Alex



Bernico, of Foster City, CA; Secilanne (Mark) Amlotte, of Wilmington, NC; Erin (Neal) Humphreys, of Lawrenceville, GA and Gail (Bill) Brewer, of Rockmart, GA; 16 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wavel was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Raymond Needy; her parents, daughter, Alice King and sister, Althea (Sylvester) Servin.

Visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 4-7 p.m. Family and friends will meet at the United Methodist Church in Gardner on Wednesday, April 12, for funeral services beginning at 10 a.m. Pastor Greg Olson will officiate. Interment will follow in Gardner Prairie Cemetery in Gardner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Wavel's name may be directed to the United Lutheran Church, 309 E. Jefferson St., Gardner, IL 60424.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Rosella Votta

BRAIDWOOD—Rosella Votta, 90, of Braidwood, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at Miller Rehabilitation Center in Kankakee.

Born April 2, 1932 in Carbon Hill, Rosella Marie was a daughter of John and Angela (DePratt) Bonucci. She was raised in Carbon Hill, attended Carbon Hill School, and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1950. On June 5, 1954, Rosella married the true love of her life, Joseph Votta at Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City, and together they would eventually live and make their home in Braidwood.

Due to her father's untimely death at Rosella's tender age of 5, she learned a strong work ethic from an early age and gained employment in the local garment factories as soon as she was old enough to work. Her career later began at the Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency (APSA), where she worked for many years until gaining employment as the office manager at her cousin, Dr. Richard Tarizzo's physician office in Joliet. She retired at the age of 55.

Rosella was a past member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood and Saint Lawrence O'Toole Catholic Church in Essex, and belonged to the Women of the Moose. She loved to play card games, especially Euchre, and looked forward to her regular card club which she participated in for 40 years. Rosella also enjoyed playing Bingo and had a 'green thumb' for flower gardening. She was an avid sports fan and was the biggest supporter of her granddaughters' various sporting and school events. Watching the girls excel gave her great joy, and both she and Joe never missed the opportunity to be in attendance to see the grandkids whenever possible. Over the years, Rosella and Joe also participated in local bowling leagues in Wilmington, and they enjoyed golfing together not just locally, but also in Florida where they would spend their winters.

Rosella's greatest memories were made

with her family. She cherished her three granddaughters, but her heart was overfilled with the addition of her three great-granddaughters who were precious to her. Rosella and Joe were inseparable, and in addition to celebrating 69 years of marriage this year, the two lived without regret living their best life for 45 years of retirement.

Rosella devoted her life to putting family first and being a wonderful caregiver to those she knew and loved. She will be remembered as one who never complained, and leaves behind the legacy of being a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to all who knew her.

Survivors include her husband, Joe Votta, of Braidwood; one son, Greg (Kim) Votta, of Essex; three granddaughters: Kate (Erick) De La Rosa, of Northridge, CA; Rebecca Votta (fiancé Edward Charleson-Gallacher), of Los Angeles, CA and Georgia Votta, of East Lansing, MI; three great-granddaughters: Sofia, Alba and Luna De La Rosa; one sister-in-law, Marie (the late Ernie) Swanson, of Coal City and Al (Wilma) Votta, of Alabama; and nieces and nephews: Denise (Dave) Stybr, Tiffany Votta, Joshua Votta and Ronnie Votta.

Rosella was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Elvira (Bob) Smith.

Per her wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and private memorial services will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Rosella's memory to Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Rosella's memorial page via social media.

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

# Census Bureau needs to get Illinois' population right

If you're getting a strong and unpleasant sense of déjà vu about the new US Census Bureau's population estimates for counties, including Cook County, you're not alone. US Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-8) is feeling it as well.

Krishnamoorthi, who sits on the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, has been trying to force the Census Bureau to retool its population estimates because they have been so awfully inaccurate going back years and years.

The Census Bureau's annual statewide population estimates released in December of 2020 claimed Illinois had cumulatively lost an astounding 240,000 people over the previous decade, representing 2 percent of the state's population. The publication of those estimates every year showing sharp population declines regularly provoked an uproar in the news media and among pundits, particularly on the rightward end of the spectrum. And it came to a head in 2020, when the Census claimed that Illinois had lost the equivalent of more than two Springfields.

But when the actual Census, based on real-life counts of human beings and not estimates, was published in 2021, the state's population loss was pegged at 18,000 people, just 7.5 percent of the previously estimated loss.

And then the following year, after the Census Bureau delved deeply into its own numbers, the federal agency admitted it had blundered. The Bureau's Post-Enumeration Survey, using what the Census Bureau said was a "statistical technique called dual-system estimation," found that Illinois' population actually grew by about 250,000 people, an almost 500,000-person shift from that December 2020 estimate.

Yet, here we are, back to reading about the results of annual US Census surveys and nobody seems to remember any of that history or has bothered to remind the public to take these estimates with a gigantic grain of salt.

This past December, the Census Bureau released estimates claiming that the state's population had fallen by 113,776 people, which prompted several hand-wringing stories without any historical context.

In January, Congressperson Krishnamoorthi called on the Bureau to conduct a thorough methodological review of its estimate process. A month later, Krishnamoorthi received a communication from the Bureau saying that this review would, indeed, be done, but "potential" changes using tools from the Post-Enumeration Survey wouldn't be implemented until this coming December at the very earliest, if at all.

Which brings us to last week.

"Cook County lost 68,000 people last year,



Rich Miller

Census Bureau says," blared a recent Crain's Chicago Business headline about the Bureau's newly released "Vintage 2022 estimates." The story included no context about the wild inaccuracy of previous Census Bureau estimates.

Crain's wasn't alone. "Cook County population drop second-worst in country," declared a Chicago Sun-Times headline. That story, too, did not include any context of prior errors. "Baseball season has begun and Cook County residents are going, going, gone by the tens of thousands, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest estimates," the story began.

"Census data shows urban counties rebounding, but Cook County's population has yet to recover from pandemic dip," was the Chicago Tribune's take, also without any reference to the Bureau's previous blunders.

The Bureau's faulty estimates did vast reputational harm to the state during the previous decade, and centered intense public debate around proposed policy fixes to halt what was thought to be a huge population decline, which turned out not to be real when actual noses were counted. And even then, a post-count examination found that the physical headcount was short by a very large margin.

So, Congressperson Krishnamoorthi has written yet another letter to the Census Bureau demanding answers.

The latest estimate "appears to echo" earlier data "that drove misleading narratives and rhetoric surrounding purported population losses in Illinois which were subsequently revealed to be unfounded," the Schaumburg Democrat wrote to Bureau Director Robert Santos.

And the numbers don't just harm the state's reputation and provoke public debates based on faulty data, but they can have a major impact on federal funding the state receives.

"Beyond the implications such data have for our understanding of our state's population dynamics," Krishnamoorthi wrote, "Census Bureau data will be utilized over the next decade to allocate roughly \$1.5 trillion in federal funding through approximately 100 programs, including Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare, Highway Planning and Construction, and Pell grants."

The rest of the state's congressional delegation, including our two US Senators, should step up and join Congressperson Krishnamoorthi's calls for change at the Census Bureau. And in the meantime, the news media in this state ought to stop flushing the Bureau's past mistakes down the collective memory hole.

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

## Hospital transitions to 1 electronic health record

On April 1, Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers made the transition to a new electronic health record (EHR) system using Meditech Expanse. The \$12 million strategic project has involved years of planning and preparation and will result in one combined patient record rather than separate physician office and hospital records.

"We have been using multiple electronic health record systems in different care settings for years because that was the best solution at a previous time," explains John Wilcox, Chief Information Officer at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "With improvements in technology, today we are able to use one electronic health record system whether we're seeing a patient in the physician office setting, caring for an inpatient at the hospital, treating a patient in our Emergency Department, or performing diagnostic testing."

"For our staff and providers, having one electronic health record means one login and one point of access for all patient information. For patients, it means having one portal for all medical records associated with Morris Hospital and our Healthcare Centers instead of two separate portals like we have today," he says.

Morris Hospital selected Meditech Expanse after an extensive vendor review

process in 2018. The next step involved preparing for the system infrastructure by purchasing additional server capacity and storage. In early 2020, the project was placed on hold due to the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic. The project resumed in March 2022, with the past 13 months spent building and testing the new system and training over 1,500 staff and providers.

"Changing to a new electronic health record system is typically a once in 20 year event for a healthcare organization," says Wilcox. "Our Board of Directors recognized that this is a necessary, top strategic initiative for our organization that will enhance continuity of care, patient safety, and operational effectiveness. It will touch every patient who uses Morris Hospital for any service and every person in our organization who logs in to our electronic health record system."

"Our team has done an outstanding job over the past 13 months working through thousands and thousands of details that were necessary to make a transition of this magnitude," he adds.

In order to accommodate for the additional time that may be needed while staff and providers adjust to the new electronic health record system, adjustments have been made to the patient schedules in certain settings for the first four weeks following the April

1 "go live" date.

The launch will also impact Morris Hospital's patient portals. Patients will still be able to log in to the hospital portal, My Health@Morris Hospital and the MHealth app, using their same user name and password. Beginning April 1, appointments and visit summaries associated with physician office visits in a Morris Hospital Healthcare Center will also be available in this portal. In addition, patients will be able to message their Morris Hospital Healthcare Center providers through the new portal, request prescription refills, and pay both hospital and physician office bills.

While the physician office portal, or Healow app, will still be available to patients for viewing for a limited time, no new information will be added to this portal after April 1. Instead, patient activity that occurs in the physician office setting beginning April 1 will appear in the My Health@Morris Hospital portal. Patients currently enrolled in the physician office portal who do not have a My Health@Morris Hospital account will need to enroll in order to access the new portal. Instructions explaining how to enroll have been sent to patients through the physician office portal. In addition, patient portal enrollment information is available on the Morris Hospital website.

## Food, nutrition benefits safety net for Illinoisans

BY KAY SHIPMAN  
FARMWEEK

More than 1.7 million low-income Illinoisans depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), based on the most recent data from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). As of March 1, the federal government reduced those benefits to pre-pandemic levels.

In Illinois, SNAP participants saw their benefits reduced anywhere from \$95 to \$250 per person per month, according to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). IDHS stated the reduction impacted 2 million people and 1 million families.

USDA data covers fiscal

year 2020 from September 2019 through February 2020. That fiscal year, 1.71 million people in 877,028 families received SNAP benefits across Illinois. The per-person benefit averaged \$116 per month in the state.

Nationwide, more than 41 million Americans receive food-buying benefits through SNAP. The program provided on average about \$260 per month to individuals and \$490 per month to families.

Nearly half of the Illinois SNAP participants — 747,958 — are younger than 18 years old. Another 238,006 are elderly, while 145,491 SNAP recipients were disabled and younger than 60.

Of SNAP participating families in Illinois, 79% had

income levels at or below poverty. A total of 33% of Illinois SNAP families received incomes from wages or work.

Since April 2020, all Illinois SNAP families received both the regular monthly benefit and the emergency SNAP allotment that ended March 1.

Each SNAP family's benefits are determined by factors including household size, income and deductions. The benefit decreases varied, depending on each household's size and financial circumstances.

"We understand and recognize that many Illinois residents have counted on these additional emergency food benefits," IDHS Secretary Grace Hou said in a statement. Hou said her agency was work-

ing with food pantries to help them meet clients' needs as they adjust to reduced benefits because of federal policy change.

On average, 9.4% of Illinois families lacked access to sufficient food between 2019 and 2021.

Reductions in SNAP benefits will also make an economic impact. Each month in Illinois, an average of \$199 million in SNAP benefits were issued in fiscal year 2020. About 9,257 retailers across the state accept SNAP benefits.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeek Now.com.*

## Support group helping Alzheimer's caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter would like to invite anyone caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia to a monthly Caregiver's Support Group held the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Rt. 113 in Coal City. The church is located one mile west of Coal City on Highway 113.

Alzheimer's caregiver support groups have many benefits for both caregivers and patients. Caregiving takes a heavy toll on the caregivers' mental and physical health and the health of the patient

with dementia is directly related to the health of his or her caregiver: the healthier the caregiver, the healthier the patient, and vice versa.

Support group participants benefit from social and emotional support while learning more factual information about dementia. Increased education about dementia makes caregivers more effective: they are better able to respond to patients' needs when they understand and can anticipate them.

This meeting is for caregivers only. For more information, contact Becky Halderson at 815-791-2658.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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### 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 résumé 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. cc13-18

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

### HELP WANTED

ABM is hiring at the Braidwood Constellation Station. Formerly known as Exelon. We have temporary day and evening positions available for the Spring Refueling Outage. We may also have full time positions as well. You can apply online at Indeed.com. Search for "Outage Cleaner in Braceville, IL." Must pass all required training and testing for Constellation. Starting rate is \$18-\$19 an hour. Benefits and vacation time are included with full time employment. Please contact our Braidwood office with any further questions. (815)417-2293. cc13-16

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

Part Time office help. Saturday's required. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Apply in person at Culligan of Coal City, 75 W. Chestnut St. Coal City. cc12-15

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.coalcityareclub.net or send resumes to info@coalcityareclub.net. ch13-14

NOW HIRING motivated; hard working; honest with a positive attitude; cooks; drivers & bartenders. Apply at Rachetti's Cafe & Pizzeria, 375 S. Broadway, Coal City. cc12-15

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

### LOST & FOUND

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

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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 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered 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/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 SEC-

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### REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 840 N English St, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Residential). On the 27th 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: Fifth Third Bank, National Association Plaintiff V. Thomas J. Derrico; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1015 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 Wed., April 5, 12 & 19, 2023.

### REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 128 N Countryside Ct, Braidwood, IL 60408 (N/A). On the 27th 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: Freedom Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff V. Bryon Baine; Bridgette Huffman; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 0406 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: ROBERTSON, AN-SCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170 DULUTH, GA 30097 P: 708-668-4410 X 52109 F: 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., April 5, 12 & 19, 2023

Real Estates continued on page 11.

Local Newspapers are

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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: \$65,854.39**

**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 - May 1st, 2023 in person between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. You may also download the application online at [www.wilmingtonfire.org](http://www.wilmingtonfire.org) under the Employment tab.

Completed application must be returned to the above address IN PERSON no later than 3:30 pm on May 1st, 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, May 1st, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: Monday, May 8th and Wednesday, May 10th, 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  
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## Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/EMT-B

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

**Starting Salary: \$55,854.39**

**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 an EMT-B in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-B) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates March 31st, 2023 - May 1st, 2023 in person between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. You may also download the application online at [www.wilmingtonfire.org](http://www.wilmingtonfire.org) under the Employment tab.

Completed application shall be returned to the above address IN PERSON no later than 3:30 pm on May 1st, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## 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 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: **THE WIRBICKI LAW GROUP 33 W. Monroe St. Ste. 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.

## REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 390 E. Janet Dr., Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family). On the 27th 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: **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VVRMTG Asset Trust Plaintiff V. Thomas M. Brown Defendant.** Case No. 22 FC 1019 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: **Heavner Beyers and Mihlar LLC 111 E. Main Street, Decatur, Illinois 62523 P: 217-422-1719 F: 217-422-1754** 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 Newspa-

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## Funds being distributed to police agencies to fight carjackings

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
THE CENTER SQUARE

Millions of dollars are going out to police organizations around Illinois in an effort to combat carjackings.

More than 1,600 armed carjackings were reported in Chicago last year, and although the problem is less severe downstate, carjackings have been occurring in cities like Peoria and Champaign. Just last month the Braidwood Police Department reported of a car jacking at a gas station at Interstate 55 and Route 113.

More than half of the \$21 million in funding will be going to Illinois State Police and the Chicago Police Department as the city deals with some of the highest num-

bers of carjackings seen in at least a generation.

"This grant will allow the Illinois State Police to focus additional resources on the prevention and the investigative follow-up for vehicle thefts, hijackings and other related violent crimes," ISP Director Brendan Kelly said.

Other grants are going to the Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Task Force, which is led by Secretary of State police (\$3.4 million); the Metro East Auto Theft Task Force (\$2.5 million); the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Task Force (\$2.1 million); and the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force (\$1.8 million).

The funding is earmarked to supplement police budgets for license plate readers, track-

ing devices, GPS software and other technology to hunt down carjackers.

The grant money comes from a \$1 annual auto insurance policy assessment managed by the secretary of state's office.

Funds will be distributed over the next few weeks. The police agencies can apply to renew the grants for the next three years.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias revealed Thursday that he was a car jacking victim when he was in high school.

"I will tell you this happened a quarter century ago and I still leave at least a car length when I stop at a stop light or a stop sign," Giannoulias said.

## Rivers of color hike offered April 8

A Rivers of Color – Rainbow Science Hike will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Enjoy an afternoon hiking along the beautiful trails around Four Rivers owned by the Forest Preserve of Will County.

Search for the colors of the rainbow and discover how and why we see rainbows in the sky. Along the way, stop for fun rainbow experiments. Free, all ages. Register by April 7.

## Submerged carrots last longer

It's estimated that 40% of the food in U.S. is wasted, and with the cost of many foods rising, it is in our best interest to store food properly.

Carrots submerged in water in the refrigerator will last up to 4 weeks. (varies by type and freshness at time of purchase) Use soft carrots in soups or stews, or make them crisp again by submerging them in ice-water.

## Circle jam on Saturday

There will be a circle jam on second Saturday, April 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy. The free event is open to

everyone including musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more. For more information call Randy Kiefling at 815-237-8139.

## Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who came to Phil Kodat's "Celebration of Life," sent cards, flowers or food. Thank you for the overwhelming support and love you have shown us during the loss of our loved one.

The Philip D. Kodat Family

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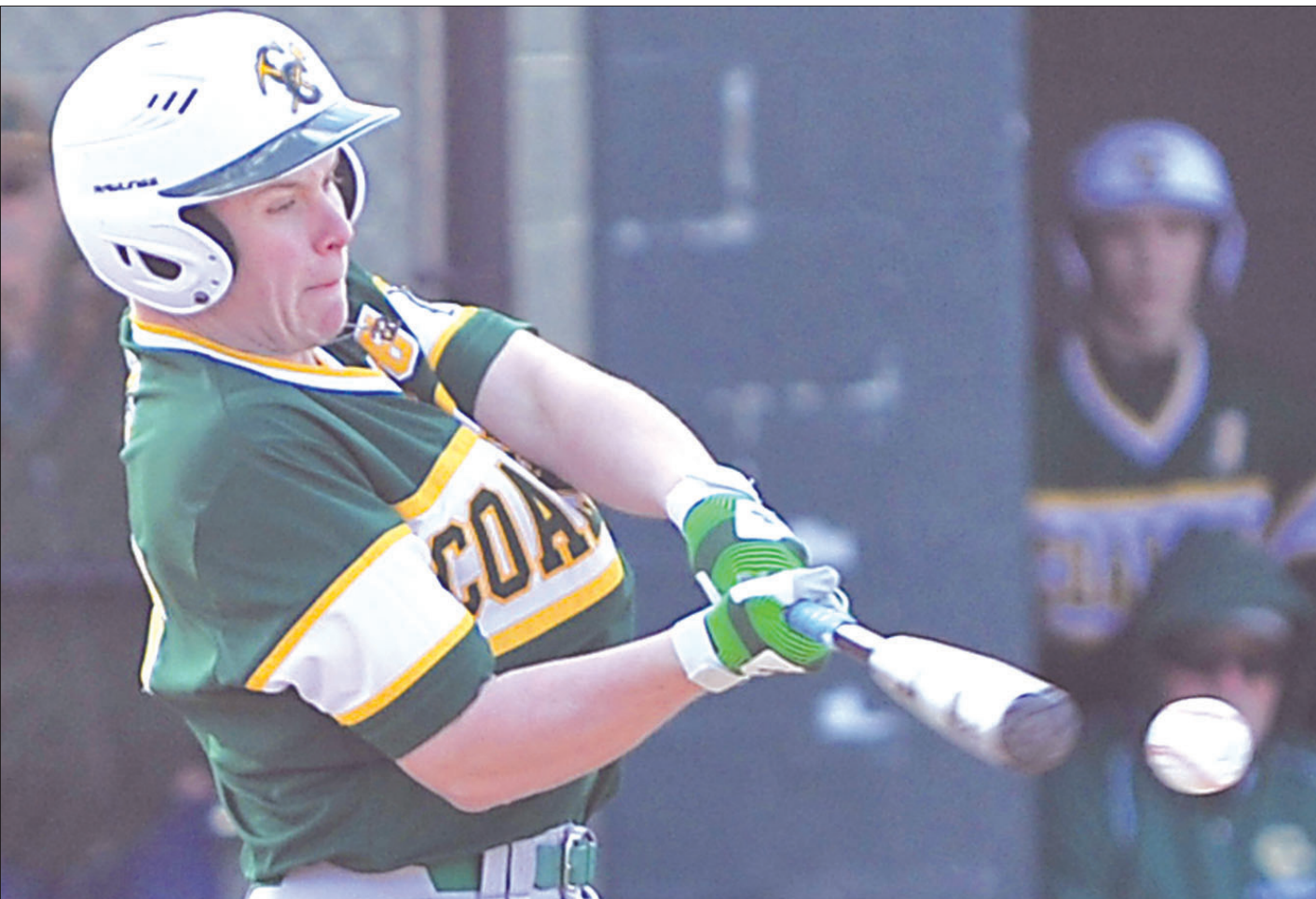
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# COALER SPORTS



**BAT ON BALL**—Coal City senior Braiden Young makes contact with the ball during a recent home victory. The Coalers will be on the road this week, playing at Joliet Catholic Thursday, Plainfield North for a double header Saturday and Manteno on Monday. They host Manteno on Tuesday.

## “Cats clip the Coalers in pitching duel

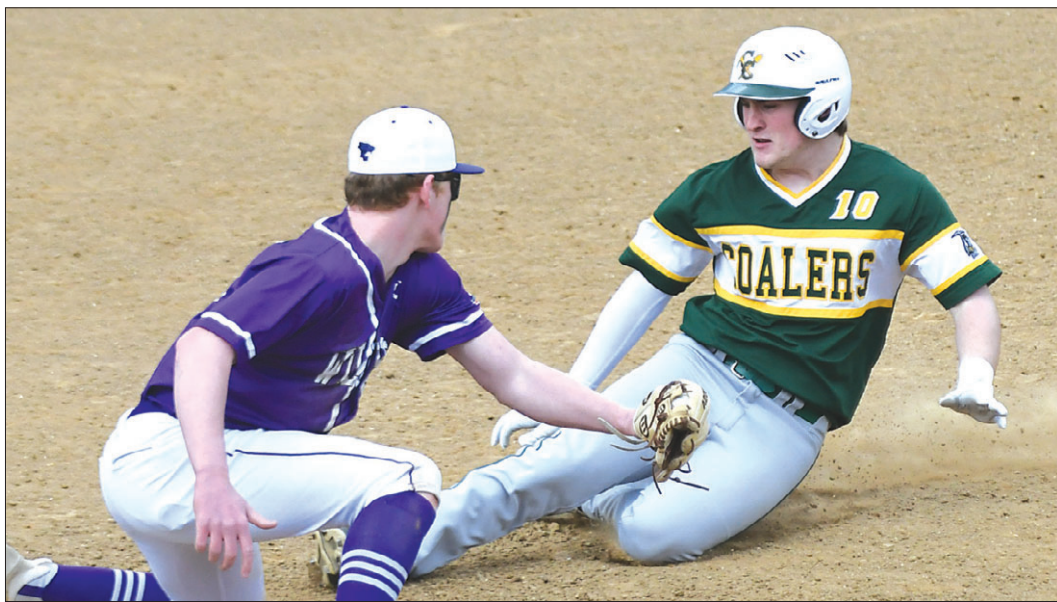
The Coalers loaded the bases in the top of the seventh inning Monday at Wilmington, looking to break a 2-1 deficit. But it wasn't in the cards as a line drive hit back to Wildcat pitcher Lucas Rink was knocked down to get the force out at first.

It was a fitting end for Rink, a sophomore, who had his best outing of the season, giving up six hits over seven innings while striking out 10 and walking two.

The win improved Wilmington's record to 2-4 while the Coalers fall to 3-3.

Wilmington scored the game's first run in the bottom of the second when Reid Juster sped home on a Ryan Kettman single. Kettman finished the game 3-for-3.

But the Coalers answered with a run in the third when Cason Headley hit the left-field fence for a double. He would eventually score when Braiden Young got caught trying to



**BEATING THE TAG** at third base is Coal City's Cason Headley on Monday at Wilmington. The Coalers threatened with bases loaded in the final inning but fell 2-1.

stealing second, scoring before the third out was made.

The Wildcats scored the

game winner in the bottom of the fourth when Cade McCubbin, who was parked on second, scored off a Joey Allgood hard-hit grounder up the middle.

Coal City senior Carter Garrelts was just as impressive on the mound, giving up five hits while striking out five through six innings.

The Coalers hit four doubles hit by Kaelan Natyshok, Young and Headley. Cade Baldauf, Braden Reilly and Jimmy Feeney each had singles.

### Reilly leads hitting

The Coalers played at Plainfield East on Thursday, and lost 9-4. Braden Reilly pitched the first four innings, allowing five runs, three earned, seven strikeouts and three walks. Carter Garrelts took over in the fifth but was tagged for four runs, two earned, while walking one and striking out two. Joe Watson came in the sixth and pitched scoreless baseball the rest of the way.

But the damage was already done when Plainfield scored four runs their first turn at bat. After two innings they were up 5-2 when the Coalers crawled back in the fifth to close within 5-4. Plainfield added four runs in the fifth to put the game out of reach.

Riley led the Coalers with three doubles and a single. Nolan Ness and Kaylan Natyshok each added a single. The Coalers committed a four costly errors in the game.

**Slugfest against Peotone**  
The Coalers garnered 13 hits last Tuesday during an 18-6 win over Peotone.

Coal City brought their big sticks, scoring two runs in the first, three in the second and four in the fourth to take a

commanding 9-2 lead. They kept scoring though, adding two in the fifth, four in the sixth before tallying three more in the seventh.

Cayden Kuder was the winning pitcher, throwing the first two innings and allowing two hits and one run while striking out three. Braden Reilly threw two innings, striking out three while giving up one run and two hits. Kaelan Natyshok took an inning, fanning four and walking four with no hits and three runs. Austin Davy finish the game in relief throwing two innings.

Danny Olson (two doubles), Cason Headley (double, 2-for-2) and Tanner Wallace (2-for-2, three RBIs) all had multiple hits. Hitting doubles for Coal City were Wyatt Wickiser, Austin Davy and Derek Carlson. Creide Skubic had a 6th inning homer to plate 3 runs. The Coalers committed no errors in the game.

The Coalers were to have a rematch against the Wildcats on Tuesday before traveling to Joliet Catholic Academy Thursday, Plainfield North for a double-header Saturday and at Manteno Monday.



**THE COALER FROSH/SOPH** baseball team finally got to take the field last week and recorded back to back wins. Freshman Ethan Olson was first on the mound when the Coalers hosted Joliet West on March 30.

## Soph Coalers stay undefeated

The Coal City sophomore baseball team stayed undefeated Monday with a 10-1 victory over Wilmington.

The JV Coalers improve to 3-0 overall, 2-0 in the ICE conference.

AJ Wills pitched six innings, giving up just one unearned off two hits and two walks while striking out 11. Ben Watson finished off the Wildcats in the last inning with no runs, no hits, no walks while striking out two.

Blaine Doss led the Coalers by going 3-for-3 including two doubles and one RBI. Wills also hit a double for 2 RBIs. Dylan Young knock in a run. Mason Garner add hits in the win.

The soph Coalers enjoyed a six-inning walk off win against Joliet West, beating them 11-1.

Ethan Olson and Mason Hamilton combined for the two-hitter. Olson took the first four innings, giving up no hits and no walks while fanning seven. Hamilton threw two inning with one run, two hits, one strikeout and one walk.

AJ Wills collected two doubles, Donnie Ladas doubled and singled while Griffin Winke had an RBI single.

Last Wednesday the Coalers upended Peotone in five innings, 10-1.

It was a nice way to start the season with AJ Wills and Ben Watson combining for a no hit victory. Wills struck out nine and walked only one in four innings.

Dylan Young went 2-for-2 for two RBIs. Gavin Berger was 2-for-3, for two runs and an RBI. Wills (RBI), Hayden Clark (2bl, RBI), Blaine Doss (RBI) add hits.

The soph Coalers will host Manteno Monday.



Photo by Ann Gill  
**COALER FRESHMAN** Mason Hamilton was on the mound for the Coalers in last week's 11-1 victory over visiting Joliet West.

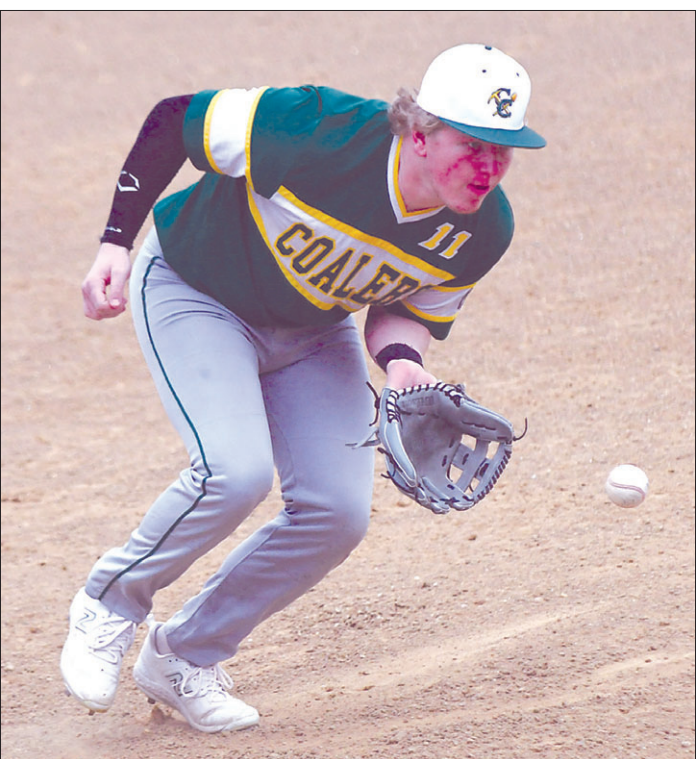


Photo by Eric Fisher  
**COAL CITY SENIOR** Nolan Ness fields the ball hit down the third base line.

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Photo by Amy Walker

**ON THE MOUND** for the Lady Coalers is Masyn Kuder who got the win after five innings, striking out eight.



Photo by Amy Walker

**ON THE MOUNDS** for the Lady Coalers during their won over Peotone is Bri Combes who pitched four innings.



Photo by Amy Walker

**COAL CITY'S** Jadyn Shaw makes a diving catch in the outfield last week when the Lady Coalers defeated Peotone 5-3. Coal City will travel to Ottawa Thursday, Bolingbrook Saturday for a double header and then Manteno on Monday before hosting the Panthers on Tuesday.

## Lady Coalers tame the Wildcats

The Lady Coalers poured it on Monday at Wilmington scoring 12 runs before the hosts got on the board.

"Proud of how our girls battled at the plate tonight against a solid pitcher in Liv Hansen. We had a season-high 15 hits and our pitchers threw the ball well tonight," commented Coal City coach Rodney Monbrum.

Coal City out-hit the Lady Wildcats 15-8 and took advantage of six Wilmington errors to win 16-5. The victory improved their record to 5-2 overall, 3-0 in the conference.

The big inning came in the fourth when the Lady Coalers tallied six runs off the bats of Bri Combes, Makayla Henline, Kerigan Copes, Abby Gagliardo and Jadyn Shaw who all drove in runs.

Makayla Henline and Makenzie had two doubles

each. S. Anderson and Copes both hit doubles while Abby Gagliardo hit a triple and a single for four RBIs while scoring a pair of runs.

Coal City pitcher Masyn Kuder won it in four innings, striking out five while giving up three hits and no runs. Combes took over in the fifth to give up five hits and five runs while fanning two and walking none.

### JCA too tough

The Coal City varsity softball team had a tough loss against Joliet Catholic last Wednesday at their home field.

JCA took an early lead in the first inning with four runs while Lady Coalers only scored 2.

The Lady Coalers never scored again while JCA scored 8 mores runs making the final 12-2.

Kuder pitched 4 innings

with one strikeout, two walks and gave up five runs. B Combes relieved her pitching 3 innings with one strikeout, one walk and gave up seven runs.

K Picard went 1-for-3 and had 2 RBI's. Both Henlines and Copes went 1-for-4.

### Tame the Blue Devils

The Lady Coalers went to Peotone last Tuesday to face the Blue Devils, coming away with a 5-2 win.

Peotone came out with an early lead, scoring one run in the first inning. Neither team scored in the second and the Lady Coalers finally put one run on the board in the third still trailing 3-1.

However the Lady Coalers shut Blue devils down by scoring one in the fourth and sixth and two runs in the seventh to win,

B Combes pitched four innings with one strikeout,

three walks and gave up three runs. Kuder relieved her and came in hot with six strikeouts and didn't give up any runs.

Shaw went 2-for-4 with one RBI. Picard and Anderson went 1-for-3 and each had one RBI.

### Going the distance

The Lady Coalers upended Joliet West 4-1 last Thursday in the WJOL tournament.

Bre Combes pitched well all 7 innings.

Copes hit a couple of singles. Shaw had some clutch hitting, going 2-for-2 for two RBIs.

Coal City 6, Providence 8

On Wednesday they fell to a tough Providence team despite excellent pitching from Kuder who went all 7 Innings, giving up only 3 runs. Jadyn Shaw hit a 3-run home run in the 4th inning.



Photo by Amy Walker

**TAKING CONTROL** of the ball for Coal City during last week's match at home is Kylee Kennel.



Photo by Eric Fisher

**JUNIOR FORWARD** Aubrey Mellen sweeps the ball for Coal City on Thursday before scoring a goal against Wilmington in a 5-0 win.



Photo by Eric Fisher

**SHE SCORES!** Coal City junior Maddie Gomez gets a kick past Wilmington defender Hannah Basinger to score a goal in the first half.

## Lady Coalers shutout Wildcats

The Coal City soccer team improved to 3-1-1 with a shutout victory at Wilmington Thursday.

The Lady Coalers won 5-0 with a balanced scoring attack from four different players.

Coal City went up 3-0 by half-time and finished off the hosts with two more goals in the end.

Goals were scored by Audrey Cooper (two), Maddie Gomez, Kylee Kennel and Aubrey Mellen. Cara Planeta was credited with three assists.

Keeper Chloe Plueger had seven saves as the Lady Coalers earned their first conference win.

Next match is Wednesday (today) when they host Yorkville. They host Herscher on Thursday and Ottawa on Saturday before traveling to Joliet Catholic Academy on Tuesday.



Photo by Amy Walker

**COAL CITY'S** Cara Planeta steps up to kick the ball inbounds during a recent match at home.

# Thank You!

Thank you to all who supported me in the recent election.

Sincerely, Ross Bradley