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A new mayor for Coal City

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

David Spesia has been elected as Coal City's next village president—a role more commonly recognized as mayor. No matter the title used, Spesia is set to lead the community.

"I am eager to serve as mayor and optimistic for the future of Coal City," Spesia said following the April 4 consolidated election.

Of the town's 3,729 registered voters, 748 or about 20% cast a ballot.

In the contest for mayor Spesia received 59.7% of the vote to 40.3% received by his opponent Ross Bradley.

The vote totals are currently at 443 for Spesia and 299 for Bradley. The vote tally will be finalized by the Grundy County Clerk and Recorder following the retabulation and canvass on April 19. The outcome of the race is not expected to change.

Bradley shared on his campaign page that he had spoken to Spesia and wished him and the village, "great success in the future."

The election marks the end of Bradley's current term as village trustee, a position he has held for 12 years.

Both candidates have been colleagues on the Village Board and shared similar thoughts on the state and the future of the village.

Spesia was appointed to the

Board in 2018, selected by Mayor Terry Halliday to serve out a vacated term of one year. Spesia has since been elected to his position twice and there is currently two years remaining on his trustee position.

One of his first duties as mayor will be to appoint, with the advise and consent of the Village Board, someone to fill his position.

The mayor-elect said some of the first tasks before him will be to make appointments and that includes village administrator, police chief, attorney and village engineer. He previously said he did not plan to make any changes in those positions.

Yet, he did point to the possibility of defining some of those roles

and setting goals within those areas. Spesia will also have some additional appointments to various Boards and Committees.

In the next few weeks the community will find out if the mayor-elect takes a page from the current mayor in recruiting citizens to fill various positions.

When approached to take the open trustee seat, Spesia said Halliday told him, "you will serve your community, it's going to be great."

Spesia said those words were true and he has enjoyed serving his community and looks forward to continuing that service as mayor.

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 2

Driver killed after fleeing police during traffic stop

STAFF REPORT

An Aurora man was killed Monday after crashing his vehicle nearly head-on into a ComEd truck while attempting to void routine traffic stop.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office said a deputy attempted a traffic stop in the area of Route 47 and Route 113 at approximately 12:35 p.m. on Monday, April 10.

The offending vehicle, a Dodge Durango being driven by James L. Pheal, 44 of Aurora, turned east on Route 113 and just east of Higgins Road attempted to pass another vehicle when it struck a westbound utility truck owned by ComEd.

Grundy County Coroner John Callahan said after the collision the Durango rolled several times before coming to rest on its side in the south ditch about one quarter mile west of Campbell Road.

Police were immediately on the scene and the Coal City Fire Protection District was dispatched to the crash at 12:38 p.m. A medical helicopter was requested, but was called off and the coroner sent to the scene where they pronounced Pheal deceased.

The driver of the ComEd

SEE CRASH, PAGE 2

Spring is in full swing



SPRING HAS SPRUNG and that means baseball, soccer, bike rides, walks and so much more. This week is full of spring athletic events for the Coalers including baseball games that found Mason Garner taking the mound for the frosh/soph Coalers over the weekend. The weather looks to be a bit more summer like with temperatures in the upper 70s and low 80s. A good time to get out of the house and enjoy all the season has to offer.

Diamond awarded over \$520,000

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

April 7 was indeed a 'Good Friday' for the village of Diamond, as town officials received word that a state grant for more than \$520,000 had been approved to improve sidewalks.

Mayor Terry Kernc said that Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation had approved the village's grant request through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program [ITEP].

The village of Diamond will receive \$520,500 out of \$127.9 million awarded to municipalities throughout the state.

The village submitted the grant request to the state back in November 2022. The town's plan is to remove and replace deteriorating sidewalks along Route 113 [Division Street] from Fifth Avenue east to Curtis Road.

The funding comes from the Governor's Rebuild Illinois program and is the largest amount awarded to assist communities that exhibit the greatest need.

"The Illinois' Transportation Enhancement Program is an important part of Rebuild Illinois designed to support alternate modes of transportation, to preserve visual and cultural resources, and improve quality of life," Pritzker said.

The funding is focused on building better and safer bike routes, walking paths, trails and other local travel options.

Diamond's funding request was one of 72 projects.

The funding awarded to Diamond will support the Village Board's plan to replace the sidewalk that runs between the newly installed ADA [American with Disabilities Act] sidewalk curb ramps.

Those ramps were installed last year and constructed to meet the town's plan of replacing the town's five foot sidewalks with six foot sidewalks.

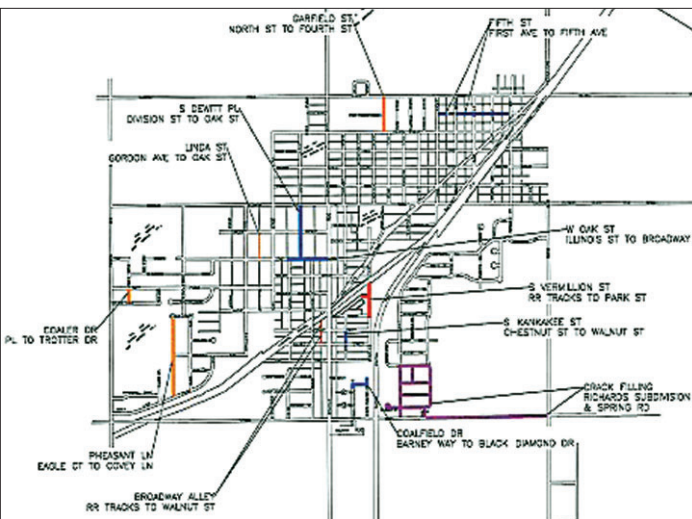
The improvements will not only expand the travel surface, but will raise the sidewalk in certain areas to prevent flooding and icing.

She notes that many residents can be seen walking and biking throughout the village.

"A lot of people walk and I think more will once the sidewalks are in good shape," Kernc said.

Now that the funds have been awarded, the improvements could begin as soon as this year.

SEE SIDEWALKS, PAGE 2



Courtesy image

THE VILLAGE OF Coal City has outlined a list of street and alley improvements for the upcoming construction season.

Coal City prepares for summer street work

STAFF REPORT

The village of Coal City is considering street and alley improvements for the upcoming construction season at a projected cost of \$420,000.

The village's proposed fiscal year 2024 budget includes nearly \$230,000 in spending from the town's Motor Fuel Tax [MFT] fund.

MFT funds are generated from fuel taxes that can then be utilized to maintain streets. But, before the village can tap into its allotment of MFT dollars, it must gain approval from the Illinois Department of

Transportation [IDOT] and the town is preparing to notified the state agency of its projects in the coming months.

A resolution, also slated for adoption at tonight's meeting, serves to notify the state agency of the village's intent to spend MFT dollars on street improvements.

"The resolution this evening allows a total of \$250,000 to be expended from MFT to allow the Board options if the final bids end up being a bit higher than estimated," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said.

A list of street work has

been drafted by the village's Streets and Alley Committee.

The remaining funds to cover the proposed improvements will come from other sources including the town's tax increment financing [TIF] fund.

Streets slated for improvement with general fund dollars are Garfield Street between North and Fourth streets; Coaler Drive from Daisy Place to Trotter Drive, Linda Street between Gordon Avenue and Oak Street and Pheasant Lane from Eagle Court south to Covey Lane.

Improvements to be

funded through the TIF are Vermillion Street between the railroad track and Park Street and the alley on the west side of Broadway between the railroad track and Walnut Street.

MFT funded improvements are slated for Fifth Street between First and Fifth avenues, South DeWitt Place from Division south to Oak Street, West Oak Street from

SEE STREETS, PAGE 2



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Mayor

Although he has experience serving on the Village Board, Spesia said he knows there is a lot to learn about his new role and it's something he's looking forward to.

In running for the position, he believes his background as a business owner will be helpful.

"I understand personnel issues, budgets, reviewing contracts, all these things that fall under the mayor," he said.

However, the biggest reason for seeking the mayoral post is, "I just love this community and I want to continue to serve," Spesia said.

Maintaining essential services—police and utilities, business development, and ensuring the residents have a comfortable place to call home are priorities for the mayor-elect.

Overall, he is pleased with the services provided by the village and its current financial position, but with everything he said there is always room for improvement.

During the campaign, he said a number of residents questioned him on topics such as railroad quiet zones, development of the southeast corner of Broadway and Division Street, his thoughts on rehabilitating the now

vacant pharmacy building on Broadway and the utilization of golf carts and utility vehicles on village streets.

These are all topics he is willing to look at among others that will certainly come along in the next 1,460 days of his term.

As the mayor-elect has said he is here to do what's right for the community, it's residents and businesses.

Spesia is set to be sworn in early next month, it will be the first time in eight years someone new will hold the gavel.

Halliday, who chose not to seek re-election, will depart his term as mayor next month and it will be the first time in 24 years that he is not a part of municipal government.

There will be a slight shift in the Board as long-time Village Clerk Pam Noffsinger moves to a new seat at the table to serve as trustee. Her position will be filled by Alexis Stone who was elected to serve as the new village clerk.

Incumbents Dan Greggain and Dave Togliatti were selected by voters to retain their seats on the Village Board. The top three vote getters were elected.

In the race for trustee, Greggain received 540 votes, Togliatti 446 and Noffsinger 436. Neal Nelson, a former village president and trustee, received 320.

Coalition members hope Narcan availability can save lives

BY MARNEY SIMON
STAFF EDITOR

A life saving drug that can neutralize the effects of an opioid overdose will soon be available without a prescription.

Last month, the FDA approved Narcan (4 mg naloxone hydrochloride) nasal spray for over-the-counter nonprescription use, the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription.

Sprayed into the nose, Narcan rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the standard treatment for opioid poisoning.

The approval means the medication can be sold directly to consumers at pharmacies, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as online.

For those who work in the field of substance use and misuse, having Narcan more readily available means that more lives can be saved.

Danita Morgan is a peer recovery specialist inter who works with the Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition (BAHCC), and has works with the Rapid Response Team through the Will County Substance Use Initiative. As part of the Substance Use Initiative, Morgan helps to distribute Narcan, including during drug takeback days, at food pantries, and during any event where the county or coalition have a booth set up, such as Summerfest in Braidwood. Will County provides that Narcan, as well as Narcan training, free of charge.

But the new FDA approval means folks can get their hands on Narcan a little easier.

"It is helping to get the word out

about Narcan," Morgan told members of the BAHCC this week. "We want to piggy back on that a little bit... I'm hoping it will actually help us get more Narcan out there with the community and to understand how important it is to have it, even if you don't know anybody who has an issue."

Morgan said she suggests that everyone has Narcan on hand, because the opioid crisis affects every small town and major city.

So far in 2023, the Will County Coroner's office has reported 16 cases of death due to heroin/fentanyl poisoning, including one death in Braidwood and one in Elwood. Both of those deaths occurred in February.

In 2022, the coroner's office reported a total of 112 cases of death due to opioid poisoning countywide, including one in Braidwood, one in Elwood, two in Wilmington, and one in rural Wilmington Township.

Last summer, the Coroner's office issued a community safety alert after more than two dozen deaths occurred between June and August due to drug toxicity.

According to the FDA, opioid poisoning continues to be a major public health issue, with more than 101,750 reported fatal overdoses occurring in the 12-month period ending in October 2022, primarily driven by synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

"The FDA remains committed to addressing the evolving complexities of the overdose crisis. As part of this work, the agency has used its regulatory authority to facilitate greater access to naloxone by encouraging the development of and approving an over-the-counter naloxone

product to address the dire public health need," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "[The] approval of OTC naloxone nasal spray will help improve access to naloxone, increase the number of locations where it's available and help reduce opioid overdose deaths throughout the country. We encourage the manufacturer to make accessibility to the product a priority by making it available as soon as possible and at an affordable price."

Narcan nasal spray was first approved by the FDA in 2015 as a prescription drug. In accordance with a process to change the status of a drug from prescription to nonprescription, the manufacturer provided data demonstrating that the drug is safe and effective for use as directed in its proposed labeling. The manufacturer also showed that consumers can understand how to use the drug safely and effectively without the supervision of a healthcare professional. The application to approve Narcan nasal spray for OTC use was granted priority review status and was the subject of an advisory committee meeting in February 2023, where committee members voted unanimously to recommend it be approved for marketing without a prescription.

The timeline for availability and expected cost for over the counter Narcan will be determined by the manufacturer, and switching from prescription to over the county status is expected to take several months. In the meantime, information on Will County's Narcan Distribution Program can be found online at www.will-countyillinois.com, under the "County Offices" tab in Special Services.

Sidewalks

"The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program gives our local partners the resources they need to improve quality of life for their communities and strengthen the state's overall transportation system," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman.

Crash

truck was transported to the hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

A power line was taken down as a result of the crash and the utility was called in as well.

Route 113 between Higgins and Campbell roads was shut down for several hours for investigation and cleanup

The crash remains under investigation by the Illinois State Police and Grundy County Coroner's Office.

Streets

Illinois Street east to Broadway, South Kankakee Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets and Coaler Drive from Barney Way to Black Diamond Drive.

The street improvements also include crack filling in the Richards Crossing Subdivision and along Spring Road from Richards Crossing to Berta Road.

Fritz added that due to some additional funding approved for the TIF portion of the work, the village has identified two additional areas—South Kankakee Street from Park to Chestnut and Pheasant Lane from Hunters Run to Eagle Court—for improvement this summer.

Bids for the work are slated to be presented to the Village Board for approval in late May.

Grundy County E-waste and 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 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.

Coal City United Methodist to host drive-up pork dinner

The Coal City United Methodist Church invites the community to their Drive-Up Pork Chop Dinner on Saturday, May 6, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Each dinner will include: a pork chop, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw and dinner roll. All meals will be packed in carry-out containers to take home and enjoy. The cost is \$15 per meal.

All proceeds will go to the Coal City United Methodist Church Building Fund. Only 125 meals will be available, so stop by early.

Blessing the baskets an Easter tradition



IT'S A TRADITION among those in the Catholic faith to prepare their Easter baskets and have them blessed during a short service on the afternoon of Holy Saturday. In keeping with that tradition, Deacon William Dunn with Assumption of the Blessed Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City joined parishioners on the steps of the church on April 8 to bless the baskets filled with food that were later enjoyed as part of Easter Sunday celebrations.

Grundy Co. energy assistance funding

The Kendall County Health Department, as administrator of the Home Energy Assistance Program in Kendall and Grundy County, is pleased to announce that funds are still available to assist income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane, electric, water, and sewer bills. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides one-time benefits to income eligible homeowners and renters to help with energy bills and for reconnection of energy service.

Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis through May 31, 2023 or until funds are exhausted. Households in need are encouraged to apply. After May 31, 2023 there will be no funds available for gas or electric until after Oct. 1, 2023. Water and Sewer assistance is available until Aug. 3, 2023 and then will no longer be available as a continuing program.

Households must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to receive a benefit from the LIHEAP Program. The 30-day income guidelines for LIHEAP are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, State Median Income and the number of persons living in the household. The income

guidelines are as follows: 1-\$2,265, 2-\$3,052, 3-\$3,838, 4-\$4,625. Go to www.kendall-health.org to know income limits for households with 5 members and more.

Applications will be taken at the Kendall County Health Department, located 811 W. John St. Yorkville and the Grundy office located at 1802 N. Division St. Morris. Kendall County residents must call 630-553-9100 to make an appointment while Grundy County residents can call 815-941-3262.

The documentation required at the time of application:

1. Proof of gross income from all household members for the prior 30-day period beginning with the date of application.
2. Proof of Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. Individuals without an SSN or ITIN can still apply and the Kendall County Health Department will advise accordingly.
3. A copy of current heat

and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.

4. A copy of rental agreement (if renting) showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount, and landlord contact.

5. Other documents may be needed based on your household situation. If you have questions regarding this, please call our office.

Water and sewer cost assistance is available this year in the Low Income Household

Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). You can apply for water and sewer assistance on the same application as LIHEAP.

Bring your water bill(s) with you to your LIHEAP appointment. Help with arrearages is available as well as rate reduction assistance of \$100-\$400, depending upon your income level. Prior year recipients are eligible to re-apply.

Life doesn't stop changing. Let's partner so you can enjoy all of it.



Tammy Johnson, AAMS*
Financial Advisor

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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

Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

ATTENTION

VILLAGE OF DIAMOND RESIDENTS NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING



The Village of Diamond will be flushing hydrants starting **April 17 through April 28, 2023.** (weather permitting)

You may experience low water pressure during this period. Questions, call the Village of Diamond 815-634-8149.

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Voter turnout below 15%

Municipal, school, library leaders elected

STAFF REPORT

There are 34,513 registered voters in Grundy County and less than 15% cast a ballot in last week's consolidated election.

There are 246 registered voters in the village of Carbon Hill where residents were to elect members to its Village Board. A total of 31 ballots were cast with three residents elected to

serves as commissioners for the next four years, and two filling unexpired terms.

Incumbents Tyler Jones and Laura Jones and Laura Johnson were selected to serve four-year terms while Lorna Surman and Eric Johnson will complete the two-year un-expired terms.

The vote totals in the four year race were—Tyler Jones, 23; Laura Jones, 20; Laura Johnson, 18; and Gary Smith, 13.

In the two-year race Surman garnered 23 votes and Eric Johnson 10.

There was just one commissioner position up for election in the village of Diamond and incumbent Addis Dean Johnson was the sole candidate.

There are 1,564 registered voters in the village and 119 votes were cast between election day and mail-in voting. Johnson collected 109 votes.

Local residents were also called on to select representation on the Unit 1 Board of Education. There were four seats available and four candidates on the ballot.

Incumbents Kenneth P. Miller, the current Board president, received 29.41% of the vote and Quintin Harmon captured 22.89% of vote. Joining them are Cynthia 'Cindy' Klein who garnered 25.08% of the vote and Daniel P. Englehardt who collected 22.63%.

Departing the school board are Robert Bianchetta and Chuck Lander who opted not to

seek re-election.

Voters also elected three members to the Coal City Public Library District's Board of Trustees.

Selected to serve six year terms are incumbents Deborah Trotter, the current Board president, who collected 853 votes and Betsy Stahler who received 789 votes. Incumbent Renee McLuckie, the current treasurer, will fill an unexpired term having received 1,010 votes.

The vote totals from the April 4 election are un-official until the retabulation and canvass to be held in the office of the Grundy County Clerk and Recorder on Wednesday, April 19.

Post 1336 honors Marine Corps veteran

St. Juvin Post 1336 Veterans of Foreign Wars regularly honors veterans for their service to the nation.

Last week Commander James 'Hoppy' Phillips, joined junior vice commander Jim Richards, chaplain Bill Bomba and life member Mike Lareau at Park Point Skilled Care facility in Morris. The Thursday, April 6 visit was to present Marine Corps veteran Chuck Eddy with one of its commemorative throw blankets.

The personalized tapestry blankets have been presented to nearly 600 area veterans as an expression of the organizations gratitude for the recipients military service.

The program keeps with the organizations mission statement of, "veterans never forget what they have done for our country...neither will we."

The Blankets for Vets program began in 2013 with a trial for World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans who were members of St. Juvin Post. The program was suggested by then Commander Charlie Brown's wife, Kathy, and spread to honor many local veterans primarily at the Christmas season to those living in skilled and assisted living facilities in Wilmington, Dwight and Morris. However, many of the throws have been offered to veterans outside of the holiday season, as well.

Each personalized throw



ST. JUVIN POST 1336 Veterans of Foreign Wars recently presented Marine Corps veteran Chuck Eddy with a commemorative service logo throw blanket. Junior vice commander Jim Richards [left] and life member Mike Lareau [right] had the honor of presenting the gift.

Photo courtesy of Bill Bomba

has a custom label that reads, "The members of St. Juvin Post 1336 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Coal City IL present this throw to you as

symbol of your service to a grateful nation."

Nearly \$26,000 has been generated to support the program, the funds coming from

Buddy Poppy events, raffles and generous donations from the community and special benefactor Tom Fulton.

CCIS Students of the Week



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for April 12 are (from left): Ryder Schoenwald, Brody Bitner, Maisey Skaggs and Trent Russell.

Hot meal offered in Coal City

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

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

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

The meals will move to the First Baptist Church of Coal City for the months of May and June and New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City will host the dinners in July and August.

Rule changes for officers seeking a higher rank

STAFF REPORT

Members of the police department have to put in an extra year of service before they can be considered for a higher rank.

The recent change to the rules and regulations by Coal City's Board of Fire and Police Commissioners now requires that, "candidates for promotion shall have served a minimum of two years in their current rank to be eligible to test for promotion to the next higher rank."

The change was reviewed and approved by the commissioners at a meeting on March 27.

Prior to the change, the rules simply ruled out officers who were still in their probationary period which is one year from the date they were sworn in.

Coal City's Board of Fire and Police Commissioners—a three-member board appointed by the mayor with the consent of the Village Board—is charged with overseeing the hiring of police officers for the village.

The powers granted to them are outlined by state statute and the town's municipal code.

The change in the rules was one of two taken under consideration and ultimate-

ly passed by all three commissioners—Mike Lareau, Marvin Perino and Ronald Fleming.

The second change to the rules is outlined in Chapter IV and relates to the written test and departmental merit and efficiency components of the examination process.

As part of their duties, the commissioners oversee the examination process that results in an eligibility list of candidates for employment as patrol officers, as well as sergeants.

The approved change amends the weight assigned to the written test for sergeants from 60% to 65% the weight of departmental merit and efficiency was reduced from 10% to 5%.

There was no change in the weight assigned to the oral interview that remains at 30%. And, candidates are granted one half point per year of service with the department up to five points.

The Board will be conducting a sergeants exam as the list of individuals eligible for promotion recently expired.

Due to recent resignations, commissioners will be testing and ultimately hiring new patrol officers from the current eligibility list of five candidates.

GAVC names Director Award recipients for March

Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC] has announced recipients of the Director's Award for March.

Coal City students recognized for their work are Drake Dearth, building trades; Ava Templet, computer graphics and multimedia design; Isabella Hootselle, criminal justice; Liam Ryan, culinary arts, and Taylor Sitar, entrepreneurship.

Every month instructors from each of the center's program areas recognize exceptional students. The honor is based on a student's attendance, leadership skills, citizenship, professional attitude, ability in practical activities and classroom assignments, teamwork and safety.

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
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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.

Veterans services available in Grundy County

The Edward Hines Jr. VA Medical Center Outreach Team, along with the Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission, will visit the South Resource Center of the Community Foundation of Grundy County, 229 Liberty St., Gardner, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, April 17 and during the GAP Resource Day on Wednesday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at WeCare of Grundy County, 530 Bedford Rd., Morris.

The outreach team and the VAC staff will assist veterans with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, along with veteran's agencies. This event is free and open to all veterans.

GCVAC and Hines staff are available to answer questions regarding VA health care, the

PACT Act, Camp Lejeune water and many other federal, state and local veterans benefits and services.

If a veteran is interested in enrollment in the VA Health Care System, bring a copy of their DD214 and a government issued photo ID. One may be eligible for VA health care benefits if they served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

Those who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or entered active

duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months.

Attorney Black files Buttry estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2023 PR 21
In the Matter of the Estate of DEBRA A. BUTTRY, Deceased

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

DAVID W. BUTTRY
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
Donald F. Black
Black & Black
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on March 29, April 5 and 12, 2023.

Contact GCVAC at 815-941-3152 or e-mail vac@grundycountyil.gov.

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 Law
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.

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Golf cart crossing

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.

The pollution solution

COAL CITY—To the caller from Braidwood complaining about all the trash along I-55 between here and I-80. I agree it is a disgrace. IDOT tells us the solution is to not litter in the first place. While that may be true, in this case there is more to the problem. If you look at all that trash, and I do every time I drive to work, the litter is mostly plastic grocery bags and wrapping. They blow out of the semi-trucks hauling trash from Chicago to Pontiac, ending up in the trees, ditches and roads. Illinois needs to ban all plastic bags from stores. Sure it will be inconvenient when we shop but force everyone to use cloth bags. Until then, the trash will continue

Crazy politics

WILMINGTON—Some random political thoughts. 1) Marjorie Taylor Greene said this past week that "Liars are toxic and poisonous to everything they touch." Let's see. She says Jewish space lasers cause fires. And if her quote is true, look what her idol does on a daily basis. 2) Tennessee Republican House members said their decision to expel two black lawmakers for protesting against gun violence was not racist. But the white female lawmaker who protested with the two black lawmakers was not expelled. Racism or sexism? Marjorie? What do you think?

Halloween long over

COAL CITY—Why should neighbors have to put up with seeing Halloween skeletons all year round? Is there not an ordinance to follow up on this eyesore?

Bigger concerns

MORRIS—From day one, the Democrats have been after President Trump. Plain evil politics! We've put up with President Kennedy's women affairs, Nixon's Watergate, Bill Clinton's Paula Jones and Monica Lewinsky affairs. They all lived or are living nicely on presidential pensions. Yet the Democrats seem terrorized about the possibility President Trump could become President again. We're on the verge of World War III, banks are failing, inflation is out of control, half the country works while the other half collects sitting on their duffs. All news casts are about Ex. President Donald Trump, while violence is out of control, illegal immigration is up to .7 million into the U.S.A. Are we becoming a Banana Republic?

\$108 billion

I read deposits at U.S. banks outside the largest 25 fell by \$108 billion in the week ending March 15 following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. That's a sign that Americans are losing confidence in our country's banking system.

Cost of housing migrants

New York City has converted 100 hotels and other facilities into housing 50,000 illegal immigrants whom have been bused from southern borders. Housing migrants could cost \$4 billion over the next two years. Same thing is going on in Chicago. Thanks, Joe Biden.

Arm our teachers

BRAIDWOOD—It's time for Illinois to even the game with school shooters. Do like Indiana and three other states, let teachers be trained to carry a gun into the classroom. Indiana had 60 teachers take the training the first year. Doesn't mean they all are carrying but at least they get the chance to fight back. Don't hear of any Indiana school shootings either.

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

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

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

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

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

Peer hysteria

BRAIDWOOD—Hysteria. Thanks to media we had and have the chance to hear the hysteria as the young entered the school demanding gun control. I realized that peer hysteria could make an influence on peers whose hysteria is to shoot or kill. It could cushion the kill with thought that would change the kill to thought and not kill. I laugh at my thought, but there is a chance the glass is half full, not half empty. Just hysteria is hysteria.

Just obey

DIAMOND—Our president is still refusing to close the border which violates his oath to office to protect the American citizens. While he gives more tax payers funds to people from foreign lands and he wants to remove all weapons from the American citizens while the politicians throughout the U.S.A. are protected with taxpayer funds like babies in a crib. But no protection for the American citizens is the main model of the Democratic leaders and make sure the American citizens lose everything and have no protection to save their lives. It does not matter to the Democratic leaders whose political party you honor as long as you obey.

Missing in Mexico

WILMINGTON—More than 550 Americans are reported missing in Mexico, according to Mexican government records, up from 324 in 2020, almost certainly an undercount. All told 112,150 people have gone missing in Mexico amid an on going plague of drug cartel killings and abductions.

Infringing on others

WILMINGTON—Constitutional rights should never show preference to any individual race, color or creed and they should never infringe on another's.

Parents deserve to know

DIAMOND—House passes Parents Bill of Rights Act, HR5. Which passed the House of Representatives in a 213-208 party line vote. This bill is aimed at insuring that parents know what's going on in their children's classroom. During Covid-19 restrictions that forced the U.S. population be homebound, it also closed schools. The parents got a better glimpse of their children's education and found the far-left ideology being pushed in schools. The bill would require schools to publicly disclose contents of curriculum and library materials to parents. Also it would require schools to show expenditure; ensure parents are not only notified but give consent to any medical procedure performed on their child on school grounds. Parents should also be notified of any violent activity on school grounds. Why would any member of the House or Senate not want parents to know about their children's education? Sharon.

Cut their wages

COAL CITY—It was on the news that the leaders in Washington, D.C. had a congressional bill passed under a Democratic controlled congress that is waiting to be enforced that will cut 24% of funds from Social Security for every American citizen which will cause a lack of funds for all Social Security recipients when there are no cuts to any public servants wages. No cuts in giving money to people in the U.S.A. illegally or the foreign governments. So it seems our leaders in Washington, D.C. should honor their oath to each American. Contact Washington, D.C. and tell them to cut their wages and all the wasteful spending before any more tax increases or cuts, with a strict statement that all elected public servants produce a list of all their assets and every source of their income. But guess what type of answer the American citizens would receive from some members of congress about their income. Chuck Schumer stated that no one is above the law but what he meant was no one except the Democrats.

Favors the rich

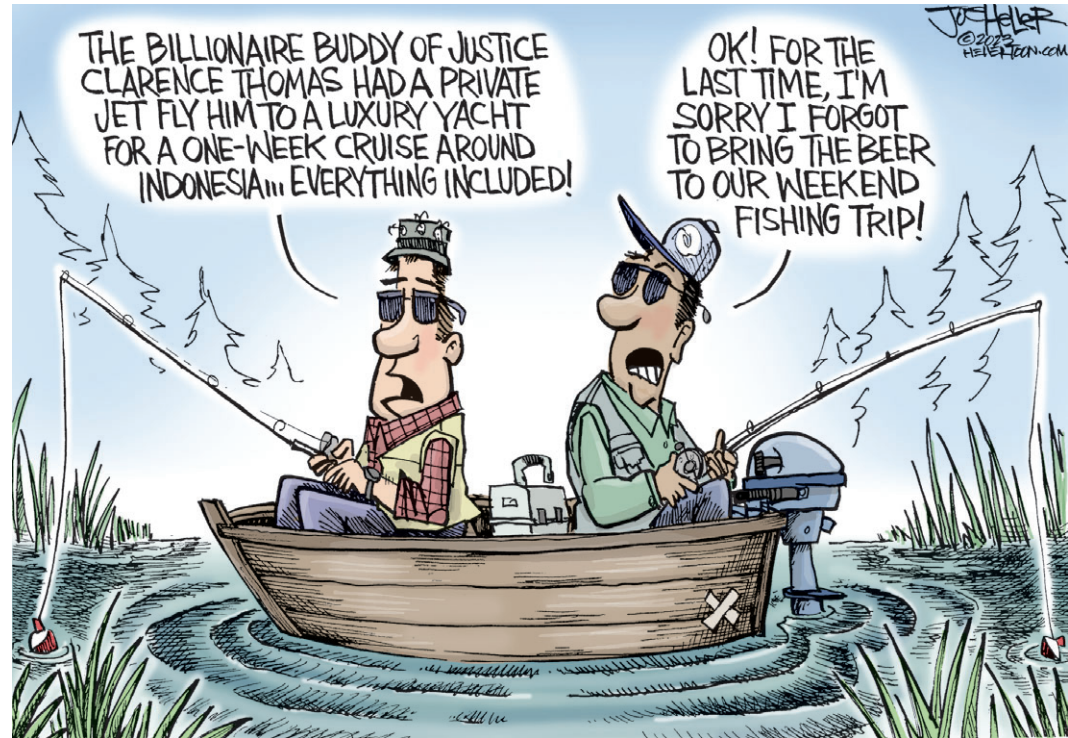
WILMINGTON—The problem with justice in America is that favors the rich and guilty over the poor and innocent.

A good thing

WILMINGTON—I don't know what the caller from Coal City was referring to about WOKE but I recently read in The Sun Times over 60% of Americans think WOKE is a good thing.

Buying protection

MORRIS—According to the Wall Street Journal, Mayor Lightfoot lost her second term as mayor of Chicago. Paul Vallas, the former



CEO of Chicago school had the top vote in the primary. But 40-year-old Brandon Johnson, a former union organizer, won the two-man election April 4. Mr. Johnson received \$931,308 from the Chicago Teachers Union as well as \$1,557,846 from the Illinois Federation of Teachers and American Federation of Teachers. The Chicago teachers union has become a political colossus focused on wielding progressive power instead of improving educational outcomes in city schools. Four fifths of high school students in Chicago Public Schools are not performing at grade level yet the system keeps graduating them. Some can't read at grade level for the grade schools. Our future!

The last attack

WILMINGTON—Hey Margo, that was a Christian school that was attacked. Where was your God then

Hardship for us

BRAIDWOOD—My family lives in Braidwood and we just got done paying our state, federal income tax and Will County tax. We would like to know why the Braidwood Police don't pay state income tax. It's a hardship for us but we pay the state income tax. Why don't they have to pay it? I know this is true. Just go onto the Illinois Municipal Retirement fund and ask the question. The Braidwood Police needs to pay state income tax like everyone else.

Lives of children

WILMINGTON—I was glad to see the Tennessee General Assembly expel those two members who said that the lives of children are more important than guns.

Until proven guilty

DIAMOND—This is in response to the Wilmington article "Sealed charges." I can say Trump is innocent whatever is in the indictment because the Constitution tells us all citizens of America are innocent until proven guilty. Even Trump - yes, even you.

It was good advice

DIAMOND—Whatever town or village you enter search for some worthy person there and stay at his home until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it. If it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. I am sending you out like sheep among wolves, therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard against men, they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their council rooms. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witness to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you do not worry about what to say or how you say it for it will not be you speaking but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Matthew 10:11-21. The Gospel of the Apostle Matthew as part of the Bible is called The Living Word for good reason. It is still as profound and applies today as the day it was written over 2,000 years ago. Sharon

Honored for years

WILMINGTON—Even though I am a member, from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank every member of the Wilmington Area Historical Society who voted to give a scholarship in memory of my partner and my beloved Roger Mayne. I was not at the meeting when the subject was brought up. It was brought to a vote and it was a unanimous decision. When I received the phone call that this was happening, for the first time in 2 1/2 years

I finally cried tears of happiness, not tears of sadness. There are no words to describe how much this means to me and I know Roger would be very honored and in a way embarrassed. Roger was a very humble man. He would do anything for anybody. He would give the shirt off his back to help anybody. It means so much that his legacy and what he gave to the museum will be honored for years and years and I hope whoever the student is who received this scholarship will embrace and be grateful for this gift. Once again thanks to the Historical Society. You don't know how much this means to me and I am honored and blessed to be a member of the museum. I pray all the negative comments and criticisms that have been said in Sound-off have finally come to an end. It has been a very long and difficult year for me and I was about at the point to having a nervous breakdown because of being judged and criticized by certain members of the museum, but it's over and done with and now it's time to move forward. May God bless you all and this amazing town of Wilmington. Roger loved this town and the 21 years I have lived here I love it as well. Sherri Michaels

The government's job

SHADOW LAKES—Why is it we need all these Veterans organizations that support disabled Veterans when the government calls the war? Should not the government and the VA be taking care of everybody? After all, they did call the war. Dan Hill

It's only April

WILMINGTON—It's only April and there have been 140 mass killings in the United States so the score stands guns 140, thoughts and prayers 0.

Who's to blame?

SHADOW LAKES—Now \$4.10 a gallon for gas. Who will Biden blame this time? Trump? Putin? White supremacists? Let me help you out it's the people that voted for you. Eddie

America first

SHADOW LAKES—Gas will be \$4 a gallon by the end of April. Why? Because OPEC controls our energy. The drug cartels control the southern border and China controls our economy. Biden answer is MAGA Republicans, white supremacists and gay rights. If we had any leadership we would produce oil at record amounts that would bankrupt Putin and the Ukraine war and lower our energy prices. I don't care who the next president is as long as they put America first. Eddie

Unnaturally winning.

SHADOW LAKES—Answer this question: According to all the transgender people, you can be what you like, male or female. We see in the news males changing their sex to female. These people then, participate in women's sports. Unnaturally winning. If this is true, then, why females who are trans to males, enter all male sports?

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

More harm than good

BRAIDWOOD—Now that the election is over, the ones who did not win need to take a hard look at just what pushed voters away from them. There were a few supporters of certain candidates who were extremely vocal and nasty on social media by bullying others and becoming very confrontational when others spoke their mind or didn't agree with their views, opinions or self-proclaimed facts. Perhaps this type of rhetoric actually did more harm than good to the candidates they were supporting. To those who fit the bill, think about your actions and how you treated or replied to people. Maybe you are part of the reason your backed candidate lost.

Study shows Illinois with one of the highest tax burdens in the country

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

A study reveals that Illinois is in the top 10 in the country for the highest tax burden on its residents.

The personal finance website WalletHub reports Illinois has the 9th highest overall tax burden at a 9.3% share of personal income.

"We are not only looking at the actual tax rate by state, property, individual income and excise taxes, but we're comparing that to the personal income in the state," analyst Jill Gonzalez said.

Illinois is 10th in the country for the highest property tax burden, and in the top half of states for individual income tax and total sales and excise tax burden.

Republican lawmakers recently introduced measures to ease the tax burden on Illinoisans. State Sen. Don DeWitte, R-St. Charles, would like to permanently get rid of the state sales tax on groceries, prescription drugs and medical devices.

"We are letting struggling Illinois families know that we hear them, we understand them and we are attempting to

respond to their pleas for help," DeWitte said.

In the Midwest, Wisconsin is at number 17 followed by Indiana at 18th, according to the study. Missouri has the 42nd highest tax burden with just over a 7% share of personal income.

The states with the highest tax burdens on their citizens included New York, Hawaii and Maine. The three states with the lowest burden are Alaska, Delaware and New Hampshire.

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KABOBS ARE BACK! See Pg. 2

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Whole White Mushrooms- 8 oz

Censea Jumbo Raw Peeled Shrimp 16-20 ct - Sold in 1 lb bag **\$8.99** LB

Berkot's Famous Country Bacon (7 lbs or more) **\$4.99** LB

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\$4.99 EACH WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 2*

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\$6.99 PER LB

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Brownberry Wide Pan Breads 24 oz

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Yoplait Yogurt 4-6 oz

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\$1.99 EACH

Brownberry Country Buttermilk Bread

\$2.29 EACH WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 1*

99¢ PER LB

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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 Sandy 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.

The Sunday Cocktail runs dry

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

If you turned to this page expecting to read the next recipe for the "Sunday Cocktail," you'll be disappointed to know that the column written by Brian Rung will no longer be published. Seven years ago I got an email from Brian who is a nephew to my wife Janet. I was skeptical in his interest in writing a column about cocktails. As a successful pharmaceutical rep., Brian impressed me as a young man with entrepreneurial spirit who was always doing something constructive with his spare time. He taught himself guitar, played in bands, wrote his own music, even cut his own album and was part of the music scene in Austin, Tx. What did he know about journalism? At the time the internet was exploding with food recipe videos with little fanfare given to cocktails. He explained that his column would be more about the history behind the cocktail and simple enough to be made

behind the home bar. He wanted people to know the background behind the drink so that if and when they did order one when dining out, they'd have a better appreciation for the cultural and regional influence of a drink. My response was he could send at least two samples and I would share them with my editors. By the next day there were three submissions in my inbox. I liked what I read, we had space, so I reasoned that a trial run would be made over one month to gauge reader response. Few comments came in that first month although on our website the visitors to his column grew. Rung did a good job of taking readers to far-away places to order Mai Tai's in Florida, margaritas in Mexico, mint juleps during the Kentucky Derby or a good old-fashion at a supper club in Wisconsin. He explained well the simplicity of a good martini and with variations if you wanted it sweet or dry. One reader recently suggested we discontinue the column because we were encouraging people to drink. I doubted that as every day and average person is

exposed to around 10,000 advertisements and we've become immune to all those influences. I recall a phone conversation with an elderly reader who was renewing her subscription when she offered that she doesn't drink but she sure enjoyed reading The Sunday Cocktail. "That young man writes so well and you can tell he really does his research," she said. "Tell him I like his column." I agreed. But after seven years and 360 or so cocktails later, the Sunday Cocktail has ended. Brian has taken a new job with little free time. I hope one day my wife and I can visit him to thank him in person. He contributed to this newspaper something few newspapers had. It was personable, light hearted news that brought a better appreciation for drink and food. I know I will miss reading it. Cheers! *Subscribers to our digital editions can read past Sunday Cocktail columns at www.freepressnewspapers.com*

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Gas hits \$4 and climbing

If there is any consolation with last week's jump in prices at the pump, a year ago we were paying \$4.34/g. Area prices topped \$4/g on Monday morning as average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 11.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.94/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. "The national average price of gasoline has continued its relatively slow climb, with 44 states seeing average gasoline prices climb over the last week. Prices are being pulled up not only due to continued increases in demand as temperatures warm, but also pressure from oil prices, which have risen over 20% in the last month, primarily driven by OPEC's surprise decision a week ago to cut oil production," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. Prices in Illinois are 31.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 39.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.15 per gallon. The cheapest station in the area Monday was Mohsen at Lorenzo Road, Wilmington at \$3.58/g. The most expensive was one Braidwood station priced at \$4.08/g. Coal City stations were averaging \$3.90/g; while in Wilmington it was \$3.95/g average. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.29/g. in Champaign while the most expensive was \$4.97/g. "Expect the upward trend to continue through much of the rest of spring, but once the transition to summer gasoline and refinery maintenance are behind us, April and May jumps could bring June slumps. However, for diesel, the news continues to be good, with the national average price of diesel continuing to drop, now at its narrowest difference to gasoline in over 13 months."

IDENTITY THEFT TIP
Carefully and regularly review credit card and bank statements, whether you get them in the mail or online. Check for unauthorized transactions and dispute them with your bank immediately. Sign up for free fraud alerts fro

WHS Class of '80 planning reunion

Save the date as the Wilmington High School Class of '80 Reunion will take place June 24, at the Holiday Inn & Suites at 1471 Rock Creek Blvd., Joliet. It will start at 4:30 p.m. and end at 11 p.m. Admissions will be \$65 for single and \$125 for couple.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and there will be a DJ and cash bar. If you have any questions call Lyn Reese-Allot at (815) 999-2121 or email LREESE1962@yahoo.com or contact Dawn Hansen-Norris at dawnnorris@comcast.net.

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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 brenniej@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

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List of what will be sold: _____

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

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New battery could offer 1,000 miles driving

BY JOSEPH E. HARMON
ARGONNE NATIONAL LAB

New safer battery, tested for a thousand cycles in a test cell, can store far more energy than today's common lithium-ion batteries.

Many owners of electric cars have wished for a battery pack that could power their vehicle for more than 1,000 miles on a single charge. Researchers at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory have developed a lithium-air battery that could make that dream a reality.

The team's new battery design could also one day power domestic airplanes and long-haul trucks.

The main new component in this lithium-air battery is a solid electrolyte instead of the

usual liquid variety. Batteries with solid electrolytes are not subject to the safety issue with the liquid electrolytes used in lithium-ion and other battery types, which can overheat and catch fire.

"The lithium-air battery has the highest projected energy density of any battery technology being considered for the next generation of batteries beyond lithium ion." — Larry Curtiss, Argonne Distinguished Fellow

More importantly, the team's battery chemistry with the solid electrolyte can potentially boost the energy density by as much as four times above lithium-ion batteries, which translates into longer driving range.

"For over a decade, scientists at Argonne and elsewhere have been working overtime to develop a lithium battery that makes use of the oxygen in air,"

said Larry Curtiss, an Argonne Distinguished Fellow. "The lithium-air battery has the highest projected energy density of any battery technology being considered for the next generation of batteries beyond lithium-ion."

The team's new solid electrolyte is composed of a ceramic polymer made from relatively inexpensive elements. This new solid enables chemical reactions that produce lithium oxide (Li₂O) on discharge.

"The chemical reaction for lithium superoxide or peroxide only involves one or two electrons stored per oxygen molecule, whereas that for lithium oxide involves four electrons," said Argonne chemist Rachid Amine. More electrons stored means higher energy density.

The team's lithium-air design is the first lithium-air

battery that has achieved a four-electron reaction at room temperature. It also operates with oxygen supplied by air from the surrounding environment. The capability to run with air avoids the need for oxygen tanks to operate, a problem with earlier designs.

Another plus is this new battery could potentially use sodium in place of lithium, which is in limited supply and costly to mine. Sodium can be found just about everywhere on planet earth.

Past lithium-air test cells suffered from very short cycle lives. The team established that this shortcoming is not the case for their new battery design by building and operating a test cell for 1000 cycles, demonstrating its stability over repeated charge and discharge.

"With further development, we expect our new design for the lithium-air battery to also reach a record energy density of 1200 watt-hours per kilogram," said Curtiss. "That is nearly four times better than lithium-ion batteries."

This research was published in a recent issue of Science.

Spaghetti dinner planned for April 15

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

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

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

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KRISTI SEITZ

St. Rose names CCW woman of the year

THE ST. ROSE Council of Catholic Women in Wilmington is pleased to announce that Kristi Seitz was unanimously chosen as their 2023 Woman of the Year. Kristi is a newer member and parishioner and has brought her talents, fresh ideas, enthusiasm and contagious energy not only to the CCW but to the

parish as well. She and her husband Dean regularly attend the 7:00 a.m. Sunday Mass where Kristi also serves as lector. Kristi will join other CCW honorees at a special Mass at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet on Saturday, April 22. The theme for this celebration is "Touched by the Spirit".

Morris Hospital and local rheumatologist earn awards for Excellence in Healthcare

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has been recognized by Professional Research Consultants with 11, 5-Star Excellence in Healthcare Awards. The awards are based on the percentage of patients who rate their overall quality of care "excellent" on the patient surveys.

In addition, Dr. Hadi Hedayati, a rheumatologist with Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, received a Top Performer award in the Provider-Rheumatology Services "Doctor's Quality of Care" category based on the percentage of patients who rated Dr. Hedayati as "excellent" for overall quality of doctor care. The score that Dr. Hedayati received placed him at or above the 100th percentile when compared to other rheumatologists across the country who use the same patient survey tool.

Dr. Hedayati has served on the Morris Hospital Medical Staff since 1997 and sees patients at the Morris Healthcare Center on Edwards Street, located on the east side of the hospital campus.

The majority of Morris Hospital's 5-Star Excellence awards were in the Outpatient Clinic - Primary Care Services category, with recipients including the Gardner Healthcare Center, Marseilles Healthcare Center, Mazon Healthcare Center, Minooka Healthcare Center-Ridge Road, Morris Healthcare Center-Lakewood Drive, Morris Healthcare Center - Pediatrics, and Newark Healthcare Center. Morris Hospital Allergy Specialists



Courtesy photo

DR. HADI HEDAYATI, a rheumatologist at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, was recognized with a Top Performer award for doctor's quality of care by Professional Research Consultants, the firm that conducts Morris Hospital's patient surveys.

received a 5-Star Excellence Award in the Outpatient Clinic-Specialty Care Services category.

In the Inpatient Medical/Surgical Services category, Morris Hospital received a 5-Star Excellence Award for 2 East Medical/Surgical. 5-Star awards also went to Morris Hospital's Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Therapy Services in the Outpatient Therapy Services category and to Endoscopy-Outpatient in

the Outpatient Surgery category.

"It is an honor to recognize Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers for their deserving work," said Joe M. Inguanzo, Ph.D., President and CEO of Professional Research Consultants. "It takes true dedication and determination to achieve this level of excellence in healthcare, and Morris Hospital has shown their commitment to making their hospital a better place for patients to be treated."

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OBITUARIES

Jacob Countryman

MORRIS—Jacob William Countryman "J.C.," 28, of Morris, and formerly of Braidwood passed away Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at his home. He was born on July 6, 1994 in Joliet to Jason and Beth (nee Countryman) Fields. J.C. had a long-time girlfriend, Megan, who he loved very much. A gifted free-style rapper, he enjoyed all music. He enjoyed gaming with his life-long best friends. More than anything he loved his kids dearly and loved spending time with them and all of his family.

Surviving are his sons, Keegan Paul Countryman and Kaycee Rae Countryman; step-son, Karter Brown; parents, Jason and Beth Fields, of Morris; sister, Ashley Fields, of Braidwood; grandparents, Paul and Georgia Countryman and JoAnne Fields, all of Braidwood; long-time girlfriend, Megan; aunts, Kellie Prindiville, of Braidwood; Amanda



Countryman, of Custer Park and Julie (Donald) Rhodes, of Braidwood; uncle, Jeremy Fields, of Braidwood; honorary big brother, Charlie Prindiville as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding him in death was his grandfather, Bob Fields and uncle, Jody Fields.

Funeral services were held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Cremation rites were accorded following services.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Harold T. Hibler



BRAIDWOOD—Harold T. Hibler, 94, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully Friday, April 7, 2023.

He was born in Greenfield Township, Grundy County, on June 9, 1928 to George and Cenka Hibler. Harold was a 1946 graduate of Reddick High School. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood and was a past Grand Knight of the Braidwood Council Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the Braidwood American Legion Koca Post #39 and the Joliet Moose Lodge. He also served as former Commissioner of Public Buildings and Property for the city of Braidwood. Harold was a 50 year member and retiree of the Laborers' Local #75. He enjoyed dancing, card playing, fishing and hunting.

Harold married Elena (Bergman) Hibler on Jan. 11, 1958. He is the father of two children, Dr. Starla Hibler Raley (Michael), of Madison, IN and Kevin M. Hibler (Julie), of Myakka City, FL. He is also survived by a sister, Emma Schultz (James) and brother, James Hibler (Diane).

He was predeceased by his parents, George and Cenka Hibler and brothers: George Hibler



(Josephine), John Hibler (Marcella) and Frank Hibler (Mildred) and sisters: Mame Hibler; Loretta Sukley (Roman), Julia Halpin (William) and Dorothy Slejko (Leon).

Visitation for Harold will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Wednesday, April 12, 2023 from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services will be from the funeral home on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. to go in procession to the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Interment with military honors will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the Braidwood Area Historical Society, Immaculate Conception Church, or the Braidwood Fire Department.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Mary Passafiume

BRAIDWOOD— Mary Kathryn Passafiume (nee Pearson), 80, of Braidwood, passed away on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

She was born on May 4, 1942 in Joliet, to Margaret (nee Perino) and William Pearson. She married the love of her life and best friend, James Leo Passafiume Jr. on May 12, 1967 in Joliet. Together they made their home and raised their six children and many beloved dogs in Braidwood, where she was a lifelong resident. In September of 1970, Mary Kay became the mother of the first surviving triplets to be born at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Joliet. This was not only a major blessing for their family, but also brought a tremendous outreach of support from the members of their parish, Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Braidwood, as well as the surrounding communities to help Mary Kay and James welcome these three babies into their home.

She grew up playing cards, making homemade ravioli and baking with her many cousins who also lived in the area. Mary Kay was an avid reader and loved doing word searches. In her favorite season, summer, she could be found at the Braidwood Recreation Club enjoying the sun and sand. She was a wonderful mother, but she was born to be a grandmother. The "late into the night" games of Yatzee and Rummy will be fondly remembered by all her grandchildren. She was the best, most caring, spoiling, and loving grandmother anyone could be blessed to have. Anything that enabled her to be with her family is what she loved most. In her later years, she enjoyed playing the slot machines with her husband. All who knew her



will remember her with a smile the next time they have a strawberry milkshake, a McDonald's Diet Coke or a seasonal Little Debbie's snowball and when they hear an Elvis song. She will be greatly missed and always loved beyond words.

Surviving is her husband, James; three daughters: Jill (Michael) Panko, of Cary, IL and their children: Michael Jr., Matthew (Maxine), Sarah (Matt) Neumann, Rachel and Francis; Mary (Craig) Farrell, of Washington and their children, Anthony (Natasha) and Charles; Sylvia Johnson, of Braidwood and son, Blake; three sons: John, of Channahon and children, Jessica (Patrick) and Hope; James (Amanda), of Channahon and children, Brayden (Marie) and Joshua and Paul (Nicole Medina), of Plainfield. Also surviving are six great-grandchildren, sister-in-law, Anna Pearson; special niece, Lisa Novy and her daughter, Madison.

Preceding her in death were her parents, mother-in-law, Mary Berta; brother, William Pearson; sister, Betty Ann Majesky; daughter-in-law, Lois Passafiume and brother-in-law, Jasper Thompson.

The visitation will be at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Thursday, April 13, 2023 from 3-7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood. Interment will follow at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery in Braceville.

Memorial donations may be directed to The Giving Door or Uplifted Care.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Donna W. Ward

WILMINGTON—Donna W. Ward, 75, of Wilmington and formerly of Braidwood, passed away April 9, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Nov. 15, 1947 in Effingham, IL, Donna was a daughter of Donald and Virginia (Taylor) Evans. She was raised in Braidwood and graduated from Reed-Custer High School with the class of 1965. On Dec. 20, 1967, Donna married Charles E. Ward in the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington and together they made a home in Braidwood before settling in Wilmington to raise their family.

Donna attended Beauty School in Kankakee and worked as a hairdresser locally, as well as out of her home prior to gaining employment with McDonald's in Wilmington. She later went to work for Tom and Sandy Welsh at the Wilmington Cleaners until her retirement. She was a member of Braidwood Recreation Club, and took pleasure in embroidery. Donna was an amazing cook, loved flowers, particularly yellow tulips, and took great pleasure working inside her home, cleaning and maintaining the family residence. She will be remembered for her love of family and spending holidays with those near and dear to her. One who was strong willed, Donna leaves behind a truly caring and loving legacy which includes her children, grandchildren and great-grandson.

Survivors include her three daughters: Anita Ward, of Wilmington; Jill Zacha, of Braidwood and Dawna Ward, of Wilmington; grandchildren: Ashlee (Alex) Clubb, of Morris and Jace Zacha, of Braidwood; one great-grandson, Parker Clubb; one sister, Brenda (Paul)



Bumpous, of Braidwood; her sister-in-law, Susie Evans, of Wilmington; nephews and nieces: William "Bopper" (Shawn) Welsh III, of Wilmington; Jake (Alyssa) Evans, of Shorewood and John Harvey, of Braidwood; great-nieces and great-nephews: D.J., Whitney, Marcus, Zach and Isla and great-great-nephews: Bentley, Bryson and Beckham, as well as her uncle, Wallace Taylor, of Mattoon, IL.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Virginia Evans; husband, Charles Ward (2021); brother, Wally Evans and niece, Melissa (Welsh) Harvey.

Per Donna's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Monday, April 17, 2023 at 1 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington. A procession will depart at 1:30 p.m. to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood for 2 p.m. committal services. Donna will be laid to rest with her late husband, Charles in the columbarium.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Donna's memory to a Veteran's organization of the donor's choosing or to Lightways Hospice of Joliet.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Donna'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. Wavel 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 St. Paul 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 loved feeding the birds and squirrels. 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 Buchanan, GA; eight grandchildren; Sarah (Steve) Myers, of Mystic, CT; Karen (Andy) Luzbetak, of Bremerton, WA; Jennifer



(Brian) Nesselroad, of Vancouver, BC, Canada; Timothy (Tracy) Bernico Jr., of Braidwood; Alex Bernico, of San Francisco, CA; Secilanne (Mark) Amlotte, of Wilmington, NC; Erin (Neal) Humphreys, of Lawrenceville, GA and Gail (Bill) Brewer, of Rockmart, GA; 16 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at the United Lutheran Church in Gardner. Pastor Greg Olson officiated. Interment followed in Gardner Prairie Cemetery.

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 or find them on Facebook.

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

Bill "Earl" Roge



SOUTH WILMINGTON— Bill "Earl" Roge, 75, of South Wilmington, formerly of Montgomery, IL, passed away Thursday, April 6, 2023 at his home.

Born Dec. 5, 1947 in Hinsdale, IL, William Wayne was a son of William and Oceana (Smith) Roge. He was raised and educated in Lisle, and graduated from Lisle High School with the class of 1965. Bill attended junior college until he was drafted into the United States Army, with whom he would serve in the airborne infantry as a paratrooper in the Vietnam War, until his honorable discharge in 1970. After his military service, he met the love of his life on a first date, Suzanne Irene Haggis, who he married on Aug. 7, 1970. Together, they would live together and raise their family in Montgomery, until relocating to South Wilmington for the past 16 years.

Bill worked as a lineman for Commonwealth Edison for 37 years, and was a member of the Montgomery VFW Post 7452. He was an avid fisherman and found great peace in being outdoors. Bill's home away from home was the Ceco Recreational Club in Coal City, where he served on the board and worked diligently on maintaining the roadways and installing electric hookups for recreational vehicles. He was a kindhearted man, with a great



sense of humor, who loved spending time with his friends having a drink and going fishing.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Sue Roge, of South Wilmington; three children: Timothy Roge, of Aurora; Andrew Roge, of Crown Point, IN and Kelly (Kiley) Goodman, of Ottawa; six grandchildren: Alexander, Ayden, Audrey, Evan, Elias, and Eleanor; one brother, Stephen Roge; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Judy Roge, Will Haggis and Lisa (Steve) Wroblewski; several nieces and nephews, and his best friend, Terrance Zdeb, of South Wilmington.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother, Ralph Roge; two aunts, Dell and Etola; and his good friend, Earl Young.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City. Burial with full military honors followed the funeral service at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Memorials may be made as gifts in Bill's memory to the Shriners Children's Hospital.

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

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

Rosella Votta

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

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 High 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, one sister: Elvira (Bob) Smith.

Per her wishes, cremation rites were accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington from 5 to 7 p.m.

A private memorial service will be held, and Rosella will be laid to rest 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 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.

Distraction driving deadly

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 32,000 people died in distraction-affected crashes from 2011 to 2020.

In 2020, there were 3,142 deaths linked to driver distraction, or 8% of all traffic fatalities. Illinois law prohibits the use of hand-held electronic communication devices while driving unless using hands-free mode.

"Last year, the Illinois State Police issued more than

7,200 citations and almost 10,500 warnings for distracting driving. We've already issued more than 1,300 citations and 1,900 warnings this year," said ISP Division of Patrol Deputy Director Col. Margert McGreal.

"The most common distracted driving offenses include talking or texting on the phone. Don't put yourself and others in danger while driving. Buckle up and put the phone down."

To keep your attention on

the road, remember these tips:

- If you are expecting a text or need to send one, pull over and park your car in a safe location.
- Ask your passenger to be your "designated texter."
- Do not engage in social media scrolling or messaging while driving.
- Cell phone use is habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Activate your phone's "Do Not Disturb" feature.

Mayor-elect won with soft-on-crime approach

A couple of Chicago mayoral race polling results from last month have been stuck in my head ever since they were released.

The BSP Research poll taken March 15-23 for Northwestern University's Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy found the two mayoral runoff candidates were running neck and neck. The poll was almost universally ignored by the city's news media, yet it might've possibly contained an important nugget which could help explain at least part of Brandon Johnson's win and Paul Vallas' loss.

The poll found that 82 percent of Chicagoans supported the idea of increasing the number of police on the force. OK, no surprise there.

Immediately after answering that question, however, 63 percent said they supported the idea of decreasing police funding and investing in addressing root causes of crime. According to the poll, 68 percent of Black people, 66 percent of Latinos and 59 percent of Whites supported that idea.

"If that second result is even close to accurate, it upends everything we're supposed to believe about this contest," I wrote at the time.

Vallas heavily outspent Johnson on television ads, warning voters for weeks that Johnson wanted to "defund the police." According to Vallas, Chicago crime was "out of control" and Johnson would only make things worse.

Almost Vallas' entire platform centered around both hiring more police officers, which is something that Chicago voters of all persuasions clearly said they wanted, and ridiculing Johnson for his



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

past remarks on the topic of policed funding. Johnson soft-pedaled his past remarks, but insisted that crime prevention and solving crimes should be at the top of the priority list.

I've often declared that voters "don't do nuance," but it's been clear that pundits and many political reporters are the ones who've been far less nuanced about crime than voters over the past year in this state, and particularly in the Chicago metro area.

As we saw in 2022, polls showed that suburban and Downstate voters simply did not view the crime problem as the over-arching issue portrayed by the news media and Republican political operatives.

Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin spent tens of millions of Ken Griffin's dollars to use the crime issue in a spectacularly failed effort to capture the Republican gubernatorial nomination and prove his questionable Republican bona fides.

The Chicago Fraternal Order of Police aggressively attacked Sen. Rob Martwick (D-Chicago) over his support for the SAFE-T Act in an attempt to nominate a candidate with Republican affiliations in a Democratic primary. That also failed miserably.

And then, of course, there were the endless TV ads from Dan Proft's People Who Play by the Rules PAC last year designed to depress the Democrats' Chicago base and hurt Gov. JB Pritzker and wound Democrats in the suburbs. Nope.

A GQR poll released the day after Chicago's mayoral election found similar results.

Likely Chicago voters were asked if they preferred 1) "Doing more to get tough

on crime, like having stricter sentences for people convicted of violent crimes, maintaining strong bail laws to keep potentially dangerous people in jail, and giving police more support and resources"; or

2) "Fully fund things that are proven to create safe communities and improve people's quality of life, like good schools, a living wage, and affordable housing, and do more to prevent crime by increasing treatment for mental health and drug addiction and cracking down on illegal gun sales."

By a 58-39 margin, respondents chose the prevention angle over the tough on crime angle.

At least in this state, the Bill Clinton era sure appears to be over. Ginning up fears about crime and promising to throw more money at the police just aren't enough by themselves any longer to win races.

In that bygone time, Vallas would've likely easily defeated Johnson with the message he used this spring, despite his affiliations with the far right in the recent past (including the ultra-radical Awake Illinois and Dan Proft). Today's voters here want far more than just "lock 'em up" rhetoric.

Not all of Clinton's lessons are now passe, however. Vallas, who will turn 70 in June, constantly surrounded himself with older Democrats like former Secretary of State Jesse White, former Senate President Emil Jones, former US Rep. Bobby Rush and US Sen. Dick Durbin.

But that ignored one of Clinton's most valuable and enduring political lessons: Don't offer to be a bridge to the past; promise instead that you will build a bridge to the future. Brandon Johnson did that, Vallas did not.

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

I-55 bridge work starts

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that work is underway on the Interstate 55 bridges crossing Rooks Creek in Livingston County. The work zone is located 3 miles southwest of Pontiac.

Work includes expansion joint replacement, deck repairs and the installation of a latex overlay on the structures. One lane will be closed in each direction during the \$1.9 million project, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Work includes expansion joint replacement, deck repairs and the installation of a latex overlay on the structures. One lane will be closed in each direction during the \$1.9 million project, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

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Pritzker: 'Devil's in the details' when considering lifting ban on new nuclear

BY JERRY NOWICKI & NIKA SCHOONOVER
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - Lawmakers went on a two-week spring break last week with more than 700 bills already passed in at least one chamber of the General Assembly.

They will return to Springfield on April 18 for a final one-month stretch in which the measures can be amended, defeated or sent to the governor.

Among the bills to successfully move to the other chamber are a measure to lift the state's 1987 moratorium on nuclear power plant construction, a bill that would create statewide building codes and another requiring retail establishments to accept cash payments within certain hours.

Gov. JB Pritzker noted last week that he's generally supportive of the concept of lifting the nuclear construction ban, although he didn't commit to signing the proposal contained in Senate Bill 76, which passed on a 39-13 bipartisan roll call.

Pritzker said he is supportive of allowing for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors, which are small-scale generators that could be used to power indi-

vidual factories or for other uses.

He said he didn't think doing so would be contradictory to the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that he signed in 2021. Some environmentalists have opposed lifting the nuclear ban due to the dangers associated with nuclear waste.

"These are smaller, less prone to an accident, more likely for us to be able to maintain them for a long period of time, that's something that's worthy of consideration," Pritzker said. "Now the devil's in the details and we want to make sure that we're not just opening this up to nuclear everywhere or any type of nuclear."

SB 76, as written, would allow any type of nuclear construction, including the large-scale projects.

"I don't know where that bill will go this session, but I'm not opposed to it as if I'm, you know, just dead set against any nuclear," he said. "I just want, if we're going to consider it, it's got to be safe."

Statewide building codes

Beginning in 2025, Illinois could have statewide building codes for new or substantially renovated commercial and residential construction under a

bill that passed the Senate before break.

Sponsored by Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, Senate Bill 2368 allows the state's Capital Development Board to prohibit occupation of such a facility until it is inspected. The building would have to be compliant with several state or federal building codes for electricity, energy efficiency, accessibility, and plumbing, as well as the Fire Investigation Act.

"Basically, what this does is establishes a statewide building code as a minimum standard," Koehler said during floor debate. "Now most communities are going to have well above the minimum standard. But the reason that this is important is because Illinois is one of only six states in the union that does not have a statewide building code."

Koehler said when Illinois has a natural disaster and applies for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state has to check a box noting it doesn't currently have such a code.

The bill would require municipalities with existing building codes to adopt at least the newly created statewide minimum standard and submit their plans to the state. A homeowner renovating a resi-

dential property in a jurisdiction without a building code would have to adopt the code of any jurisdiction within 100 miles of the construction in the contract with their builder.

Otherwise, it would have to comply with the new statewide standards, which apply to new construction and any renovations that increase the property's value by 50 percent or more.

Republicans questioned whether a statewide code would be enforceable in smaller towns.

"It's up to a municipality as to how they want to enforce it," Koehler said.

Senator Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, used a small town in his district as an example to speak against the bill.

"In Metcalf, Illinois, they don't have anybody to mow the lawn, okay, let alone inspect a house," Rose said. "But more importantly, you're telling an awful lot of people who couldn't afford to repair and maintain their home in the first place that we just doubled or tripled the bill. And there may or may not be some guy from the (Capital Development Board) knocking on their door."

The measure passed 34-18 with one present vote and it awaits action in the House.

Coming soon... Our Graduation Pages
A Salute to 2023 Seniors
Coal City High School
Wilmington High School
Reed-Custer High
May 10 Edition!
Make sure your business is included on our **Class of 2023** pages. Show parents and nearly 400 seniors your business is a supporter. It's a great way to build your brand!
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RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY
RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY	RYAN BRADY

These friends congratulate the Wilmington High School Class of 2021

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington - 2 bedroom, new carpet, freshly painted, upgraded appliances. 815-274-6065. ck13-15

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BUSINESS PROPERTIES FOR RENT

Wilmington - Commercial space. 101 E. Chicago St., Unit 2. Call 815-693-6030. Available May 1. ca15-18

GARAGE SALE

Braidwood - 878 W. Kennedy Rd. Saturday, April 15 & Sunday, April 16 from 9am-5pm. Antique gas pumps, fishing equipment, tools, Budweiser beer steins, other misc items. ca15

ONE DAY SALE!!
Braidwood - 279 North Division Street. Saturday, April 22 from 9am-3pm. Tools, full size 10 inch table saw, bikes, furniture, Zenith console radio circa 1948, scooter, speakers, rods & reels, misc. cc15-16

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

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 chrhistensen@swil74.org. Questions can be directed to Superintendent Cindy Christensen at 815-237-2281.

HELP WANTED

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 resumé along with a copy of certification and endorsements if applicable to Mrs. Cynthia Christensen, Superintendent, P.O. Box 459, South Wilmington, IL 60474 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

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

Full-time Painter needed. 2-3 years experience preferred. Must have valid driver's license, own transportation and trade tools. Email resume to: quardtopaint@aol.com or call 815-458-1005. cc15-16

HELP WANTED

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

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

Part-time Seasonal Lawn Maintenance Worker. The Village of Diamond is seeking a part-time summer lawn maintenance worker. Duties include but not limited to mowing and weed trimming. 20-25 hour work week. Rate of pay: \$17.00 per hour. Must be min. 18 yrs. of age and possess a valid driver's license. Mandatory drug screen, physical and background check required. Applications can be obtained online or in person. Application deadline date is May 5, 2023. Submit applications to: Village of Diamond 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL www.villageofdiamond.org ch15-16

HOMES FOR RENT

Braidwood area - 3BR, 2 bath, stove; refrigerator; C/A; W/D hookup; storage shed. Large lot & deck, 169 N Vernon Dr., Godley. \$1,250/mo. 1st, last, security, credit check. 815-476-6462. cc15-18

Braidwood area - 3BR, 2BA, stove; refrigerator; C/A; washer/dryer; storage shed. Large lot. 1st, last & security. Credit check required. 745 E. Mary Ln., Godley. \$1,250/month. 815-476-6462. cc15-18

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

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Godley - 1BR, small trailer. Recently remodeled. \$700/month, 1 yr lease & 1st, last & security required. Gas & electric not included. No smoking, no pets. 815-263-8597. cc14-17

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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 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 VRMTG 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 Millar 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 Newspapers on Wed., April 5, 12 & 19, 2023.

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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

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2BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large corner lot, 24x24 det. grg, 12x12 shed, 27 ft. above ground pool. Crawl. Della 258-6467. HL411

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GARDNER \$225,000
Truly exceptional 3 BR, 2 BA home w/2 big garages 20x30 and 24x24 on a double lot. MS211

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Adorable & cozy 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home which has been completely remodeled! Call Kelly 815-823-6147. HRI113

SOLD
S.WILMINGTON \$198,000
3 BR, 2 BA brick ranch home with two car garage is located on a large corner lot. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. LC75

BRAIDWOOD \$164,900
Look no further! Affordable 2BR, 1 BA, 1 car garage on crawl. Be your own landlord. Call Tami 815-325-0550. NC318

MAZON \$119,000
2BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large corner lot, 24x24 det. grg, 12x12 shed, 27 ft. above ground pool. Crawl. Della 258-6467. HL411

VERONA \$108,000
2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. Lg. rooms/yrd. Call Della 815-258-6467. AO432

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6	8	9	7	5	4	3	1	2
3	2	4	9	8	1	6	5	7
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T Y N O I T A C I L P P A N G A O T C E Y
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Electronics dropoff event Thursday in 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.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

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.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Because it's your right to know

Butler Mobile Notary & Fingerprint files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Certificate 34791 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on March 23, 2023 wherein the business firm of Butler Mobile Notary & Fingerprint, located at 240 Oakridge Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning, conducting or transacting the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Shelonda Lynn Butler
Owner Address: 240 Oakridge Ct., Bolingbrook, IL 60440

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal on this 23rd day of March, 2023.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 29, April 5 and 12, 2023.

Triangle Mini Storage gives notice of possible sale and disposal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Triangle Mini Storage NOTICE OF POSSIBLE SALE AND DISPOSAL
To: Alexis Smith
Notice is hereby given that a possible sale or disposal of personal property will take place as allowed by the IL Self Storage Facility Act 770 ILCS 95.

This property includes household goods. It is in space 323 at Triangle Mini Storage, 24700 W Stripmine Rd, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Potential sale will take place online.
Listing Date: April 14, 2023 12:00 p.m.
Ending Date: April 28, 2023 12:00 p.m.
Location: selfstorageauction.com Auction ID 316451
This notice is being given by Anthony Miceli of Triangle Mini Storage.
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 12 and 19, 2023.

Dodson petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name of KRISTEN MARIE DODSON, CASE NO.: 2023MR0000113

LEGAL NOTICE
On May 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held on the Request of KRISTEN MARIE DODSON to change her name to KRISTEN MARIE KLOVER CHEEK. This hearing will be held before The Honorable Judge Anderson, Room 905, of the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, via Zoom ID: 930 2919 0133; PIN: 236236.

Frank J. Meents
Attorney for Petitioner
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney No: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Nasra petitions to change name of minor child

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name(s) of BROCK MATTHEW BEVER to the new name of BROCK MATTHEW NASRA, Case No. 2023 MR000108

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the request of: Joanne Adel Nasra to change the name of minor Brock Matthew Bever, who shall appear in the Will County Court, Room 905, 100 W. Jefferson, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of June, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Brock Matthew Bever be changed to Brock Matthew Nasra.

/s/ Joanne Adel Nasra
Petitioner
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 5, 12, and 19, 2023.

Illinois reallocates \$30 million for classroom air purifiers

BY ZETA CROSS
THE CENTER SQUARE

Around \$30 million has been designated to distribute 60,000 HEPA air purifiers in more than 3,000 Illinois schools across the state.

Mike Claffey, of the Illinois Department of Public Health, said the agency and the governor have designated taxpayer resources from the federal Inflation Reduction Act that had been set aside for COVID-19 testing to fund the distribution of air purifiers instead. The pandemic taught the importance of good ventilation in classrooms, Claffey said.

"Cleaner air in classrooms can reduce absentee rates by preventing the circulation of respiratory viruses—including COVID," Claffey told The Center Square. "Studies have shown that better air quality improves students' ability to think, to learn, to read and to solve problems."

Now that it has been three years since the COVID-19 lockdowns, the demand for COVID-19 testing in schools has dropped dramatically. IDPH decided that using the testing funds for classroom air purifiers was a more effective

use of the money.

"With the [U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's] approval, we have allocated the money toward air purifiers," Claffey said.

IDPH is working with the Illinois State Board of Education to identify schools with lower income populations and schools in areas where air quality is a problem.

"Any school in an area that has relatively high air pollution levels is also eligible," Claffey said.

Air purifiers will be delivered to 68% of the state's schools, including schools in Cook County — but not in Chicago, he said. Chicago schools will get air purifiers under a separate federal program.

"We've had a lot of positive feedback from the schools," Claffey said. "Hundreds of applications have already been submitted."

The air purifiers could also help prevent asthma attacks.

"Asthma is the most common chronic disease found in children today. Air purification reduces the presence of asthma triggers in schools," Claffey said.

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How many solar panels would your house need?

Dear EarthTalk: How do I figure out how many solar panels I would need on my two-story, 2,500 square foot house in Seattle to meet my electricity consumption needs?
 -- Paul O., Seattle, WA

While everyone's situation is different, a typical 2,500 square foot American home would require a solar panel array that can output 6-10 kilowatts (kW) of power. Assuming that the panels have a wattage of 320 watts (W) each, a 6-kW system would require around 19 solar panels while a 10-kW system would need as many as 31 panels up top to supply 100 percent of the typical electricity

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment



A TYPICAL AMERICAN home would need 19-31 solar panels to meet 100% of its electricity needs.

needs for a home this size. However, the exact number of panels you'll need varies depending on factors including where you live, your roof's orientation and shading, the type of solar panels you choose, and your average monthly electricity usage. To get a more accurate estimate tailored to your exact situation, check out Google's Project Sunroof, a free website that takes your address and analyzes your roof shape and local weather patterns to create a personalized solar plan. You can adjust your electric bill to fine-tune your savings estimate and the recommended number of solar panels for your home, and then even compare loan, lease and purchase options for your solar panels based on your results.

(In some cases, based on electrical costs in your region and the amount of sunlight your house will get, Project Sunroof's algorithm might suggest not going solar.) Once you have an estimate of the number of panels you need, you can start shopping for solar panels. There are a number of different types of solar panels on the market, so it's important to do your research and compare prices before making a purchase. You should also make sure

that the solar panels you choose are compatible with your roof and that they have a warranty. Also, traditional photovoltaic panels aren't the only option anymore. Thin-film solar cells are a newer technology that can be incorporated into roofing materials or other surfaces, blending into the roofline unobtrusively. They are made of lightweight, flexible materials and can be easier to install than traditional photovoltaic panels. And if you need to replace an old roof or are building a new house, consider using

solar roof shingles, which not only protect your home from the elements but generate electricity in the process without the need for bulky panels on top of them. These newer technologies tend to be 15-20 percent more expensive than traditional photovoltaic panels but may be right for you depending on your situation. And remember that the federal government offers a tax credit on 30 percent of the cost of your new solar system as long as it's installed by the end of 2032. You can also look for additional local and/or state incentives for going solar via the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online resource that lists all kinds of renewable energy incentives coast-to-coast. Installing solar panels is a big decision, but it can be a great way to save money on your electricity bills and reduce your environmental impact. If you're thinking about going solar, be sure to do your research and get multiple estimates before making a purchase. EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

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Thank you note from the **Scott Allison Family:**

We would like to thank everyone for their support at this most difficult time, for kind words, flowers, a card, a donation of money, food or whatever your contribution might have been, it was very generous of you. Thanks to Lightways (Hospice) of Joliet for all their help. And a special thank you to Patterson's Funeral Home and all their employees. Please accept our gratitude.

The Family of **Elaine Testa**

	8		7					1	
3		4							
	5						9		
			4		2				5
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				1	6				4
	1		8	3					6
		5	6				8		1
		6					5		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Atomic mass unit
 - Criticize mightily
 - Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - Stand in for
 - Everyone has one
 - Brew
 - Rectify
 - Popular Dodge truck model
 - Beef or chicken intestine
 - Satisfy
 - Of a particular people or localized region
 - Movements in quick tempos
 - Able to pay one's debts
 - Fleshy bird beak covering
 - Dueling sword
 - Helps
 - Court is in it
 - Touch lightly
- CLUES DOWN**
- Sharp mountain ridge
 - Thin, fibrous cartilages
 - Provides new details
 - Muscular weaknesses
 - Ottoman military title
 - Banes
 - Horse-riding seats
 - Arms of a shirt
 - Narrow path along a road edge
 - Viper
 - Disfigure
 - Variety of Chinese language
 - Portray in a show
 - Wrongful act
 - No (slang)
 - State of agitation
 - Diego
 - One point east of due south
 - 007's creator
 - Airborne (abbr.)
 - Of one
 - Baked good
 - Jai __, sport
 - About aviation
 - Low oval mound
 - Rugged mountain ranges
 - Compel to do something
 - A way to carve
 - Sao __, city in Brazil
 - Mustachioed actor Elliott
 - American Idol runner-up Clay
 - A way to soak
 - Car mechanics group
 - Born of
 - Time zone
 - Sea eagle
 - Even's opposite
 - The NBA's Toppin
 - Midway between north and northeast
 - Examples
 - __ Gould, actor
 - The habitat of wild animals
 - Artful subtlety
 - Infielders
 - Keep under control
 - Herb
 - Distressed
 - A way to go down
 - Type of acid
 - Take by force
 - Collected fallen leaves
 - Shout of welcome or farewell
 - Monetary unit
 - Swiss river

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to financial literacy. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = E)

A. 18 5 23 12 21
 Clue: Currency

B. 4 6 6 5 2 23 13
 Clue: Banking relationship

C. 14 4 22 4 23 6 12
 Clue: Make even

D. 20 12 14 16 13
 Clue: Payment made or owed

Answers: A. money B. account C. balance D. debit

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to finance.

CDTIRE

Answer: Credit

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New York on April 12, 1979. I made my film debut in 1994 in an adaptation of a book about women. My popular TV series about teenage angst only lasted one season, but I've had a successful career nonetheless.

Answer: Claire Danes

MONEY & FINANCE WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

B V K O W F V U L N Y B E K I D Q B B I
 C S S O L C I B N W N A P P V T O G F D
 R H C W P V B N P A P E R W O R K F S U
 E Y D E B I T I A Y M I U F N I N M H S
 D R G Y C L A Y C N C C N R R T V L Y S
 I Q B M U P N U N N C T O Q W H A R O C
 T U B M H U I F R E I E P C U W V L P S
 Y C B T S E R E T N I F F U A I V G Y A
 C I N V E S T M E N T A A R R E R E D S
 Q B A N V W M T H N G A D C N K K Y A T
 E B L A V B C A B T T H R T Y G N V S N
 D A T A W S B H I E T E I T F W I A T E
 E N H K O T E F E I D Q L D S N W E B M
 P K K U C N O I W C Y Q S I G I Q E N E
 O E S T E R B W I R K R N S C M F E H T
 S S M I P U P E A W R I A G F N O T N A
 I Q T S E T A R F V G K N L G K O N G T
 T Y N O I T A C I L P P A G A Q T C E S
 W H U P R C E U L A D K P P M S U U E Y
 S U A C C O U N T I N G P S S B W E L R

- WORDS**
- ACCOUNTING
 - APPLICATION
 - BANK
 - BANKRUPTCY
 - CHECKING
 - CREDIT
 - DEBIT
 - DEBT
 - DEPOSIT
 - FINANCE
 - INQUIRY
 - INTEREST
 - INVESTMENT
 - LOSS
 - MONEY
 - PAPERWORK
 - PROFIT
 - RATES
 - RECONCILE
 - SALARY
 - SAVINGS
 - SOLUTION
 - STATEMENT
 - WITHDRAWAL

COALER SPORTS

Coalers get back to winning with 5-4 victory

After losing three straight, the Coal City baseball team got back on track Monday with a 5-4 victory over Manteno.

The Coalers grabbed a 1-0 lead in the opening inning but watched it slip away in the second when the host moved in front 3-1. Coal City tied it 3-3 in the fourth with when Braden Reilly smacked an RBI single.

In the top of the fifth Creide Skubic tripled on a 0-2 count to score one run. The Coalers scored another insurance run before the inning was through to move in front 5-3.

Manteno scored one in the seventh but the Coalers held on to get win and improve to 5-6 overall.

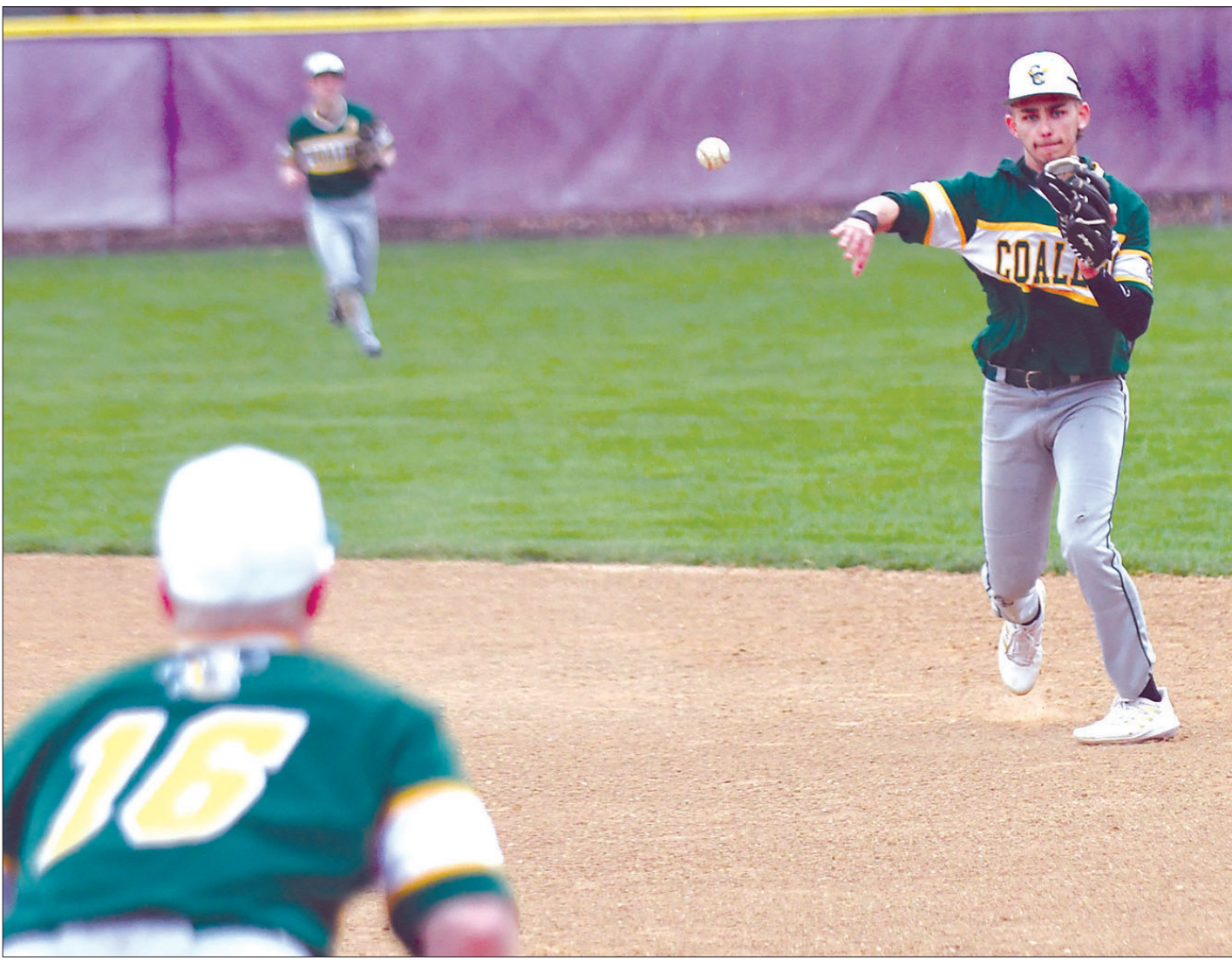
The Coalers tallied nine hits with two hits each for Cade Baldauf, Jim Feeney and Skubic. Nolan Ness, Nolan Eddy and Reilly contributed the other hits.

Senior righty Carter Garrelts got the win on the mound, allowing only two hits over 5.2 innings while striking out 13 and walking four. Joe Watson and Reilly came on in relief in the final innings.

Playing the best
How do you get better? You play the best teams you can.

Coal City learned that Thursday and Saturday, playing three games against top competitors, losing all three. But they walked away with lessons learned, something invaluable when the playoffs arrive.

The Coalers had a tough time generating runs on Saturday, dropping a doubleheader with Plainfield North, 14-8, 13-3



SCOOP AND THROW—Coal City second baseman Nolan Eddy makes the play at second as he scoops up a grounder and throws it to first baseman Braiden Young.

Photo by Eric Fisher

Coal City was right in step with the Tigers, tying the game 1-1 in the top of the third. But

the hosts sent fours across the plate in the bottom of the frame and eight more in the fifth to end it by mercy rule.

Tanner Wallace took the loss for Coal City, surrendering five runs on four hits over three innings, striking out four. Danny Olson and Feeney got time on the mound the final two innings.

Ness went 2-for-3 while

Coal City's other hits were by Layne Cuddy and Wallace.

Coal City 8, Plainfield 14

Both teams came out swinging in the first game. The Coalers scored one right away but the Tigers answered with one to tie it 1-1. Coal City took a 5-1 lead in the top of the second but again, Plainfield matched them in the bottom of the frame to make it 5-5.

Plainfield North took the lead for good with four runs in the third inning. The Coalers tried to rally with three runs in the sixth but the deficit was too great to overcome.

Kaelan Natyshok took the loss for Coal City, surrendering nine runs on five hits over two and two-thirds innings, striking out six.

The Coalers tallied 12 hits

in the game. Baldauf, Nolan Eddy, Braiden Young, Wyatt Wickiser, and Jim Feeney all had two hits.

High caliber hitting
On Thursday, Joliet Catholic Academy pounded the ball and ran the bases in a 17-2 loss for the Coalers.

JCA took the lead on an error in the first inning before scoring five runs in the second, five in the third and six in the fourth to end it after four innings.

Caden Kuder was on the hill for Coal City. The left-hander surrendered six runs on four hits over two innings, striking out two. Joe Watson and Austin Davy entered the game as relief, throwing one inning and two-thirds of an inning, respectively.

Nolan Eddy and Creide Skubic had the two hits for Coal City.

Avenging the 'Cats
The first time the Coalers and Wilmington met the Wildcats won it 2-1. But Coal City flipped things around Tuesday when they avenged the 'Cats 3-1.

Wilmington got on the board in the second inning when Jake Castle singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Coal City pulled away for good with three runs in the fourth inning thanks to RBI singles by Baldauf and Natyshok. Nolan Eddy grounded out but scored one run.

Reilly earned the victory on the mound, surrendering one run on five hits over seven innings, striking out seven and walking none.

Kyle Farrell started the game for the Wildcats, allowing six hits and three runs over six innings, striking out 10.

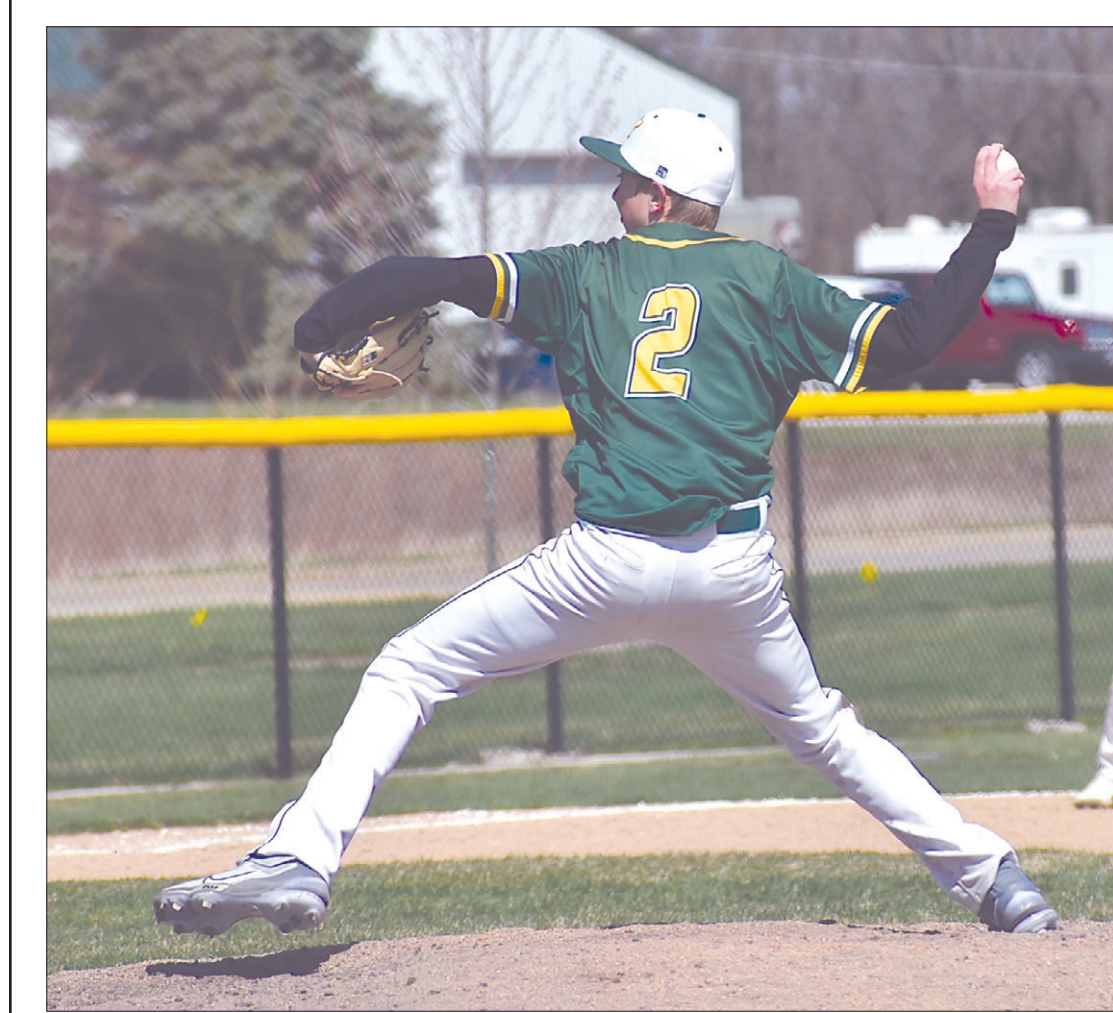
Coal City Varsity Coalers scattered six hits in the game. Natyshok and Braiden Young each managed multiple hits.

The Coalers host Morris Saturday and Streator Monday.



Photo by Eric Fisher

CATCHING A POP-UP for Coal City is senior shortstop Braden Reilly.



JV squad drops three

THE FROSH/SOPH
Coalers came up short falling to Plainfield North and Manteno. Sophomore Blaine Doss was on the mound for the Coalers when they hosted a double header with Plainfield North. The team will be in Morris on Saturday for another double header and will travel to Streator on Monday and host Streator on Tuesday.

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Free concert
April 22 in
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The First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington will hold a free concert on Saturday, April 22, starting at 6 p.m.

The public is invited for a special evening of classic, Christian music under the direction of Minister Larry Crawford.

The church is located at 301 N. Kankakee St., Wilmington and again this concert is open to everyone in the community. A free-will offering will be taken.

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Lady Coalers continue their streak

The Coal City girls softball team is on a roll, winning its ninth game in a row on Monday beating Manteno 12-1 in five innings.

The Lady Coalers collected 13 hits and took advantage of four Manteno errors when they scored eight runs in the top of the third inning to silence the Panthers.

Having two hits each for Coal City were Makenzie Henline, K Picard (including a double) and S. Anderson. Kerigan Copes, Jadyn Shaw, A. Harvey and Mia Ferrias also hit singles.

Masyn Kuder pitched the victory, giving up only one run off six hits while striking out one and walking none.

A busy week

The Lady Coalers played seven games in six days winning them all.

On Saturday they were impressive at Bolingbrook, outscoring the hosts 27-1 over two games.

"I'm very proud of how our girls finished spring break going 7-0 this week! We improved to 11-2 (4-0 in conference) on the season and have put together a fun and productive nine-game winning streak," said coach Rodney Monbrum.

Jadyn Shaw and Bre Combes hit homers for the lady Coalers who scored four runs in the first inning and 11 in the second and never looked back. They beat Bolingbrook 17-1 and 10-0.

Masyn Kuder gave up only one run and one hit in the 17-1 win while Combes pitched the shutout win, striking out four,

walking none and giving up two hits in the 10-0 win.

Makayla Henline had a four-hit day while Kerigan Copes and Shaw had three hits each.

Rally at Ottawa

On Thursday, Coal City scored first with two runs in the second before Ottawa tied it 3-3 in the third and took a 4-3 lead in the fourth. The two teams went blow-for-blow in the fifth and sixth and were tied again at 4-4.

That's when the Lady Coalers rampaged, scoring seven runs to put the host away for good.

"Tonight was an incredible victory and a total team effort," praised Monbrum. "Bre Combes started and went 3 innings giving up 3 runs, 1 earned. Combes did a fantastic job keeping a solid Ottawa team off balanced."

Combes was complemented with Masyn Kuder earning the win going 4 innings.

"As a freshmen pitching varsity games Kuder is off to a solid varsity career," Monbrum commented.

Copes, Shaw and Makayla Henline all had three hits. Mia Ferrias had a clutch triple in the 7th inning to secure the victory.

Edge the Indians

The Lady Coalers clipped Pontiac 4-3 on Wednesday thanks to a stellar effort by Kuder who was phenomenal on the mound.

"Pontiac had a few really good scoring opportunities and Kuder got us out of the inning with no runs scored,"



SAFE AT FIRST - Lady Coaler Mia Ferrias dives for first base after hitting the ball.

Photo by Amy Walker

Monbrum said. "Abby Gagliardo had a big fourth inning double for us, knocking in 2 runs."

Pontiac took a 2-0 lead after one and held it for three innings. Coal City scored all four of their runs in the fourth and held on for the win.

Kuder struck out five and walked four as Pontiac put

together three runs off eight hits.

The Lady Coalers simply made the best of their four hits while doubles from Gagliardo and Shaw and three stolen bases.

Home of the Bandits

Tuesday was a great experience when the Lady Coalers

played two games at the Rosemont Stadium, home of the professional softball Bandits.

Coal City played Wilmington, winning 15-0 and then beat Plainfield South 7-0.

"Our bats came alive with 24 hits today and our pitchers threw the ball well. Kuder and Combes combined giving up

only 3 hits in two games. I'm very proud of how our girls played today," Monbrum said.

Against Plainfield Makayla Henline went 3-for-4 with one RBI. MaKenzie Henline had a single and two RBIs. Copes and Gagliardo hit the ball hard while Combes finished with and RBI single. S. Anderson had a pair of hits.

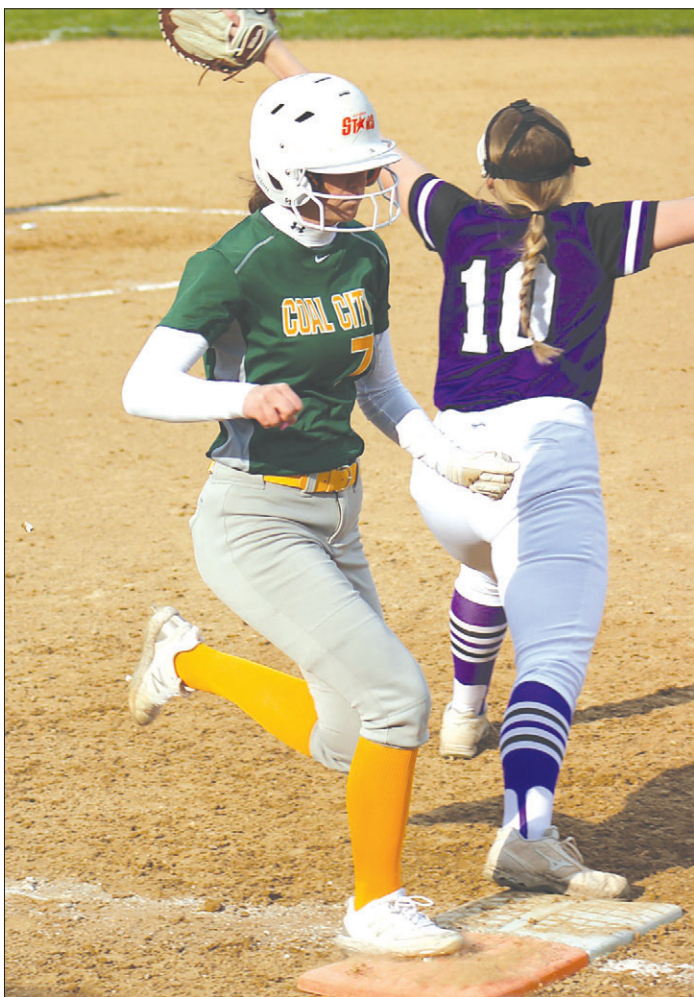


Photo by Amy Walker

BEATING THE THROW to first base is Lady Coaler Makenzie Henline.



Photo by Amy Walker

CELEBRATING ANOTHER run scored against Wilmington are Coal City teammates Kerigan Copes and Jadyn Shaw. The Lady Coalers host Streator on Monday.

Lady Coaler shutout

The Coal City soccer team defeated Ottawa, 3-0 on Saturday to improve to 4-1-1. At half-time the score was 2-0.

Goals scored by Lady Coalers Aubrey Mellen, Peyton Benson, and Cara Planeta.

Keeper Chloe Plueger had 4 saves. Next match Wednesday against Herscher.



Photo by Eric Fisher

TAKING CONTROL of the ball for the Lady Coalers is Corina Barkley. Coal City's next home match will be April 18 against Manteno.



Photo by Eric Fisher

DRIBBLING THE BALL down the field for Coal City is Ana Flores.

THANK YOU!



Thank You for your support!

David Spesia